

Dynamic Semantics for Dynamic Syntax?

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In this brief talk, we will pass on the challenge that Bickard has posed for linguists and psychologists that their deterministic individual-based methodology should be abandoned in favour of a process-oriented perspective, with concepts of process, interaction, change and nondeterminism taking centre stage. With Dynamic Syntax being in a very strong position to meet this challenge, we address the issue of systemic ambiguity of natural language words, so far remaining a problem for all. By way of explanation, we propose that a functional distributional semantics in combination with Dynamic Syntax can provide an appropriately nondeterministic account of word meaning, thus explaining its pervasiveness; and we set out the current Distributional Semantics methods we are developing to test this hypothesis.