

Semantics 1 – Lexical semantics (part 1) wrap-up

Kyle Rawlins

5 October, 2009

Lexical semantics wrap-up

What have we learned?

- ▶ Tool for understanding and describing lexical meaning (entailments).
 - ▶ Extremely general in applicability.
- ▶ Three ways of understanding verbal thematic roles (specific, general, proto-).
- ▶ Two central problems in thematic roles – assignment, linking.
 - ▶ Assignment via compositional semantics.
 - ▶ A (partial) solution to the linking problem (Dowty's Argument Selection Principle).

Lexical semantics part 2

Coming later in the semester.

- ▶ Alternations and lexical aspect:
 - (1) Alfonso swept.
 - (2) Alfonso swept the floor.
 - (3) Alfonso swept the floor clean.
- ▶ Event structure.