Quantificational States

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Under Davidsonian proposals, the semantics of relational Vs goes from (1a) to (1b)/(1c). Similarly (in principle) for relational As (2a-c), Ps (3a-c) and Ns (4a-c). where we extend the relevant notions to states (*s*).

(1) Shem **kicked** Shaun.
- a. **kick**(x, y)
- b. **kick**(x, y, **e**)
- c. **kicking**(**e**) & θ_1(**e**, x) & θ_2(**e**, y)

(2) Shem is **envious** of Shaun.
- a. **envious-of**(x, y)
- b. **envious-of**(x, y, **s**)
- c. **envy**(**s**) & θ_1(**s**, x) & θ_2(**s**, y)

(3) Shem is **near** Shaun.
- a. **near**(x, y)
- b. **near** (x, y, **s**)
- c. **proximity**(**s**) & θ_1(**s**, x) & θ_2(**s**, y)

(4) Shem is a **relative** of Shaun.
- a. **relative-of**(x, y)
- b. **relative-of**(x, y, **s**)
- c. **kinship**(**s**) & θ_1(**s**, x) & θ_2(**s**, y)

Consider now quantifiers, widely taken to express relations between properties (5a)/(6a). Are state variables (5b)/(6b) motivated here too? Is argument separation (5c)/(6b) desirable or even possible?

(5) **All** men complain.
- a. **ALL**(X , Y)
- b. **ALL**(X , Y, **s**)
- c. **P**(**s**) & θ_1(**s**, X) & θ_2(**s**, Y)

(6) Men **always** complain.
- a. **ALWAYS**(X , Y)
- b. **ALWAYS**(X , Y, **s**)
- c. **P**(**s**) & θ_1(**s**, X) & θ_2(**s**, Y)

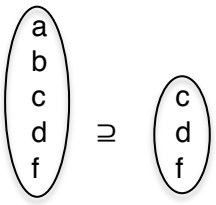
The answers are far from clear.

- With V, A, P and N we have some intuitive grasp on the eventualities involved, and on plausible relations to them (Agent, Theme, Experiencer, Location, Locatum, etc.). With quantification the corresponding notions are at best obscure.
- Surely if anything would seem to embody a pure relation between individuals, it's a Q-relation, which simply evaluates cardinalities, proportions, etc. of sets of individuals (6a,b). What happens to this relation with a state parameter interposed (6c,d)?

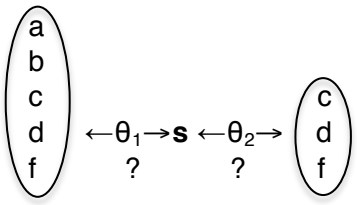
(6) a. **EVERY**(X , Y)

c. **EVERY**(**s**) & θ_1(**s**, X) & θ_2(**s**, Y)

b.



d.



We seem to be trying to "Davidsonianize" set theory.

Nonetheless, in this talk, I will suggest that under certain assumptions:

- Quantificational state variables do seem to be motivated.
- Argument separation with quantifiers do seem to be both desirable conceptually and possible technically.