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Abstract	I wish to explore the lin that the mechanisms a sense modulation. Both false.	k between interpretation ofmetaphors and generics in natural language, in support of a claim ind processes of interpretation for metaphors and generics are closely related through word in tropes have curious truth conditions. In a strict literal sense (4.1), (4.2), (4.3), and (4.4) are	

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### **Chapter 4** 01 02 **Genericity and Metaphoricity Both Involve** 03 Sense Modulation 04 05

# Carl Vogel

4.1 Background

I wish to explore the link between interpretation of metaphors and generics in natural 15 language, in support of a claim that the mechanisms and processes of interpretation 16 for metaphors and generics are closely related through word sense modulation. Both 17 tropes have curious truth conditions. In a strict literal sense (4.1), (4.2), (4.3), and 18 19 (4.4) are false. 20 Sumo wrestlers are elephants. (4.1)21 Sumo wrestlers are bean-poles. (4.2)22 (4.3)

(4.4)

Sumo wrestlers are Japanese. 23

Sumo wrestlers are Dutch. 24

Strict literal senses depend upon universal applicability to individuals of the kinds 25 about which the predications are made. No sumo wrestler really is an elephant, and 26 there are many counterexamples to any claim that all sumo wrestlers are Japanese, 27 such as the reading of (4.3) with implicit universal quantification suggests. Loose lit-28 29 eral senses depend on existential assertions about the applicability to some individual or other as a member of a "witness set" in support of the claim.<sup>1</sup> A loose literal 30 sense may be regarded as non-literal. It is reasonable to assert, in a non-literal sense 31 for each, that both (4.1) and (4.3) are true (or to deny them).<sup>2</sup> The example (4.3), 32 with a bare-plural subject, can be used to express either that all sumo wrestlers are 33 34 Japanese ("strict", but false) or that some are ("loose", and true). In the strict literal sense, non-negated metaphors and generics are false; however, it is loose evaluation 35 that appears to underpin common use of both. I argue that both metaphors like (4.1)36

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Witness sets, as invoked in generalized quantifier theory, explain how the cognitive load required 39 to evaluate predications of noun phrases depends on the determiners' monotonicity properties [2]. 40 <sup>2</sup> For an example of (4.3) used as a generic, see: http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index? 41 qid=20080320042727AALZv3Z - last verified January 2011.

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and generics like (4.3) can be understood in terms of belief revision in first order
languages augmented with sense distinctions. In this framework, both metaphors
and generics are contingent (e.g. (4.2) and (4.4) are false in their respective special
senses).

Negations highlight the contingency of metaphors and generics further. The 50 canonical example of negated metaphor, Donne's (4.5), can be used to show that the 51 negation of a metaphor is "patently" true [7]. Less aphoristic examples clarify that 52 the truth of negated expressions, like non-negated ones, depends on the situations 53 described. Examples (4.6) and (4.7) contain sentential negation. These are strictly 54 true. They can also be seen as metaphorically false (if evaluated in situations that 55 contain individuals who are extremely massive in relation to normal body mass for 56 sumo wrestlers). Moreover, the form of negation interacts: (4.8), which involves a 57 negative determiner in the subject noun phrase, is also strictly true. However, (4.7) 58 can be metaphorically true in situations where (4.8) is metaphorically false, such as 59 those where some sumo wrestlers are aptly characterized as elephants and some are 60 not. 61

62 No man is an island. (4.5)63 It is not the case that sumo wrestlers are elephants. (4.6)64 Sumo wrestlers are not elephants. (4.7)65 No sumo wrestler is an elephant. (4.8)66 It is not the case that sumo wrestlers are Japanese. (4.9)67 Sumo wrestlers are not Japanese. (4.10)68 No sumo wrestler is Japanese. (4.11)

Where metaphoricity of the predication is not at stake, but rather the genericity of the 70 utterance, under a strict literal interpretation as above, the sentential negation makes 71 (4.9) and (4.10) true, since it is not the case that all sumo wrestlers are Japanese. In 72 fact, this strict reading of the bare plural subject as involving universal quantification 73 within the scope of the negation seems strongly dis-preferred. Allowing a loose, 74 generic reading makes the truth depend on regularities in the world (in which case, 75 it is false if focus is restricted to the Japanese wrestlers, and true if focus includes the 76 sumo wrestlers born outside Japan). Interestingly, the negative determiner blocks a 77 generic reading for (4.11), but in any case the truth of falsity of the sentence depends 78 on facts about the world and with which sense one wishes to evaluate the sentences. I 79 am concerned here with both the contingency of metaphorical and generic assertions 80 and the constraints on interpretation introduced by negation. 81

Influenced by work in dynamic semantics that formalized accounts of anaphora 82 in discourse as eliminating possible models of sentences with pronouns, on the basis 83 of restricting assignment functions that map variables into the domain, as pronouns 84 are resolved to potential antecedents [13, 16], as well as research in belief revision 85 [1, 22] proposed a framework for first-order logical languages which admitted both 86 information increase and retraction ("updates" and "downdates", respectively). Carl 87 Vogel [27] proposed a comparable system for information increase only, but with 88 the additional dimension of intensionality in that indices for interpretation were 89 provided to account for the multiplicity of senses that a predicate name or name 90

of individuals might have. That system provided for classical static interpretation 91 (but relativized to senses) and dynamic interpretation, which in all but certain well-02 defined syntactic and semantic contexts may allow the update and downdate of char-93 acteristic functions of sets that provide denotations of relation names and constants. 94 Metaphoricity is captured as a partial order that classifies indices, thus accommodat-95 ing the intuition that today's novel metaphor is tomorrow's conventionalized non-96 literal expression, and the next day's dead metaphor, literal language. The system 07 exploits the fact that natural languages supply mechanisms to indicate that non-98 literal interpretation is intended. For example, it has been noted that the appearance 99 of "literally" in a sentence is a fairly reliable indicator that the sentence it appear in 100 is not to be interpreted literally [12]. It also exploits languages' internal means of 101 disambiguating the intended sense of an expression (even if these are periphrastic, 102 for example, "I mean 'bank' in the sense of 'a financial institution'"). The frame-103 work offers a proof-of-concept response to Davidson's claim that metaphor is not 104 within the remit of semantics, but of pragmatics [7]. Carl Vogel [27] provided a 105 truth-functional compositional semantics that could accommodate metaphor and 106 sense extension (expansion of predicates to new entities, and multiple senses for 107 names of entities and relations), but rejected Davidson's claim that "special senses" 108 are not involved in metaphoricity. 109

In contrast, it has been argued that natural language generics, phenomena well 110 studied in the formal semantics of natural language [3-5, 15, 19], are not in the remit 111 of semantics but of mathematical formulation of a cognitive theory of concepts [29]. 112 One claim made to support this argument is that unlike the case of metaphor, there 113 are no overt markers of genericity. While there is ample treatment of the ability 114 of definite NPs, bare plurals, mass nouns and even indefinite singulars to sustain 115 generic readings, they do not demand them. This ignores the possibility that the 116 unmarked case is generic reference, such as in *determinerless* classifier languages 117 where the specific reading is optionally marked as such if context does not clarify. 118

119 Hurricanes happen in the Atlantic and Caribbean. (4.12)120 (4.13)

(4.14)

- Leslie smoked cigarettes. 121
- Leslie smoked three cigarettes. 122

Habituals (4.12) with unbounded subjects, and comparable constructions with ter-123 minative aspect (see [29]) make this more clear: without a specific bound or clear 124 definite marking on the object NP in (4.13), the preference is to understand the sen-125 tence as a past tense habitual, a form of generic. On the other hand, (4.14) exhibits 126 terminative aspect. The test between the two potential readings is in whether the 127 sentence tolerates modification by "for a day" or "in a day" -(4.13) can be continued 128 with "for a day" but not "in a day", and (4.14) has the reverse pattern. To obtain the 129 specific episodic reading, explicit marking is necessary on the object NP.<sup>3</sup> 130

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of idiomatic expressions. 135

<sup>134</sup> <sup>3</sup> Sheila Glasbey [9] notes that aspectual class can diverge between literal and non-literal readings

(4.16)

This article argues sense modulation processes are shared by metaphoricity and 136 genericity. The theory invokes first-order languages which include sense-selection. 137 traditional static interpretation and dynamic interpretation [28, 29].<sup>4</sup> The theory 138 discriminates between the interpretation requirements of novel and established 139 metaphors. The same framework is used to model aspects of both metaphoric-140 ity and genericity (the former is expansive, and the latter is restrictive in subse-141 quent interpretation potential). This analysis resonates with one dominant theory 142 of metaphor understanding that holds metaphors to be class inclusion statements 143 [9, 10, (Chapter 1 by Sam Glucksberg, 2011, this volume)]. Thus, the paper also 144 argues that the semantic analysis advocated here is compatible with and extends 145 important aspects of Glucksberg's theory for nominal metaphors. 146

Section 4.2 characterizes a formal system for update and downdate [29] which 147 is slightly richer than the starting point provided by [22] (it does not require that 148 every element in the domain have a name; it admits multiplicity of sense; it admits 149 sense designation into the language) and is conceptually more complete than the 150 framework provided by [28] in forcing a clear separation between information asser-151 tion and retraction and the role of metaphoricity (Section 4.3). Section 4.4 demon-152 strates how the resulting system provides the restricted quantification of genericity 153 (generics are also analyzed with special non-literal senses). Finally, the paper shows 154 how some of the desiderata of Glucksberg's theory are met. The main explanatory 155 mechanism of Glucksberg's theory is allowance of dual reference in the vehicle of 156 a metaphor in its predication of the topic, ambiguous in predication of the topic 157 between literal reference and an abstraction over that reference that retains salient 158 attributable properties. Asymmetries of metaphors (in contrast to the symmetry of 159 similes) are anchored in the distinction between given and new information, with 160 respect to qualifiable dimensions in the given information and potential attribu-161 tions supplied by the new information. Other desiderata (for example, conflation 162 of subject-object asymmetry in metaphors with topic-comment information pack-163 aging) are disputed. 164

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# 4.2 Dynamics of First-Order Information

# 4.2.1 Some Intuitions About Revision

<sup>171</sup> To a child learning about the world from documentaries, it may be news that (4.15) <sup>172</sup> is true. The literal truth of the statement is about NPs at the same level of abstraction.

174	A whale is a mammal.		(4.15)

A whale is like a mammal.

Even if the sentence is provided as a voice accompanying a picture of two whales,
 such that the child anchors the subject NP to one of the two whales arbitrarily, (4.15)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Formal details of this system are available in an earlier version of this paper [29].

remains a literally true statement. As an accepted piece of news, the child extends 181 whatever meaning of "mammal" was in place before, with the new information that 182 one or more whales is also in that set. If the child knows that whales are not fish, 183 the child may retract the prior creative hypothesis that the swimming fish-like thing 184 is not a fish. Note that (4.16) is also true because whales are mammals, and things 185 are generally like themselves.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, (4.16) is reversible: a mammal is like a 186 whale for, among others, all the reasons that make the kind, whale, a sub-kind of 187 mammals. This is the same as squares being like rectangles and rectangles being 188 like squares. Of course, the simile isn't particularly felicitous given the truth of the 189 stronger class inclusion statement of (4.15). Glucksberg notes that metaphors are not 190 only asymmetric, they are also sometimes only reversible with a change of meaning 191 into a different metaphor. [10, p. 45] notes the difference between (4.17) and (4.18). 192

<sup>193</sup> Some surgeons are butchers.

<sup>194</sup> Some butchers are surgeons.

The former presumably has negative connotations, and the latter, positive. Later the issue of reversibility returns with emphasis on the fact that the constraint is not simply on the linear presentation of topic and vehicle (see (4.34)).

Reversing (4.15), (4.19) is also felicitous – if it expresses that a specific kind of mammal is the kind "whale"; or if it means that a particular individual mammal is of the whale sort; or (least likely) if a specific indefinite is both a mammal and a whale.

<sup>203</sup> A mammal is a whale.

These properties of generics indicate that plurality of reference, the possibility of words being used in strict or loose senses with graduated literalness, with access to individuals and their kinds, is not unique to metaphorical expressions.

The point of the example (4.15) is to emphasize that there are needs for asserting and retracting information about entities and relationships that hold among entities in the world, independently of whether the utterance accepted as effecting the change fits criteria for some figure of speech or other. A mechanism for assertion and retraction is a necessary part of information processing.

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# 4.2.2 A Formal Model of First-Order Belief Revision

Oliver Lemon [22] provided a framework for modeling first-order belief revision of
incomplete theories. A theory in this framework is a set of agent beliefs about the
world and the individuals and first-order relations within it. An agent can obtain new
beliefs or retract old ones. Beliefs may be about the truth of propositions or of properties holding of named individuals. A common simplifying assumption is made
that every individual in the domain has a name [8]. Additional beliefs may include

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(4.17) (4.18)

(4.19)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> It is felicitous for someone to say, "He is not like himself today."

quantificational statements, and in fact may be about any well formed sentence in
 a standard first order language. Beliefs, quantificational or not, may be added or
 subtracted. Rationality postulates ensure consistent belief states under deductive
 closure.

In retracting a belief from a theory, in general there will not be a unique sub-230 theory of T that fails to entail the retracted formula (e.g.  $\phi$ ). Lemon refers to max-231 imal sub-theories of T with that status as,  $T \perp \phi$ , and defines a choice function  $\alpha$ 232 to pick out members of that set, and an intersection over all possible choices yields 233 a total retraction of the formula  $\phi$  from the theory T. To retract a universally quan-234 tified formula involves total retraction of a single formula in which the quantifier 235 is removed and free instances of the erstwhile bound variable are substituted with 236 a constant, the name of the individual which causes the universal to be retracted. 237 Total retraction of an existentially quantified formula similarly requires retraction 238 of all formulas obtained by substitution of each constant for now free instances 239 of the formerly bound variable. This method adopts a substitutional approach to 240 quantification. Names are taken as rigid designators and the naming of individuals 241 in the domain is only ever monotonically increasing - it is not possible to un-name 242 an individual, although individuals may have more than one name. 243

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# 4.2.3 First-Order Belief Revision Adapted to Sense Extension

248 In general, dynamic semantics supposes that there is an input to interpretation and that the output of interpretation can be a truth value, but also a change in the model 249 of the world that is input to interpretation of subsequent utterances. In classical 250 logic, one thinks of a meaning function defined for arbitrary sentences relativized 251 to a model which consists of a domain and interpretation function. In an exten-252 sional semantic analysis, the interpretation of a predicate is the set of tuples each 253 254 of which the predicate is true of; the interpretation of a constant is some element of the domain. Updating or downdating means adding tuples to or subtracting tuples 255 from the interpretation function. Additional parameters are needed for interpretation 256 to accommodate multiple senses. Two additional aspects of context also anchor the 257 interpretation - the default sense of an expression and the default "world" in which 258 259 interpretation is happening.<sup>6</sup> Assuming a fixed domain, with dynamic interpretation, relativization is to the input and output interpretation function. Thus, a basic mean-260 ing function is annotated with the input and output interpretation functions (as well 261 as assignment functions for free variables - these function like contexts that provide 262 the reference of pronouns), accordingly. With static interpretation, the inputs and 263 264 outputs are identical. For dynamic interpretation, the interpretation function may expanded and contract. The construction stipulates what arbitrary sentences of the 265 language should mean; this is spelled out recursively with cases for each connective. 266

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values on one side of the Seine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>269</sup> <sup>6</sup> An article in *The Economist* may use without penalty "bank" in an article reviewing property

#### 4.2.3.1 Sense-Relative Interpretation 271

272 Interpretation is relative to models consisting of a domain of entities and an inter-273 pretation function for basic expressions in the language, which is presented in terms 274 of the tuples comprising it. An important parameter of interpretation function is the 275 index at which a basic expression is to be interpreted. The language supplements 276 first-order systems as standardly presented by including expressions that designate 277 the indices at which predications and constants are to be interpreted. While this 278 not the way first-order systems are typically presented, it entails no more than first 279 order expressivity: it is tantamount to having bank GEOLOGY and bank FINANCE 280 as well-formed predicate names, where a predicate name is disambiguated with a 281 designation of sense. Constants may similarly be accompanied by designations of 282 sense (as a model of deixis accompanying natural language, for example). In both 283 cases, a default sense may be assumed, and interpreting a sequence of expressions 284 may involve changing the index at which constituent expressions are evaluated. 285

The system also includes the possibility of choosing between static and dynamic 286 interpretation of expressions. Static interpretation involves inspecting what a con-287 stant refers to or testing the truth of a predication at an index. Dynamic interpreta-288 tion involves either contraction or expansion: either a predication has its meaning 289 reduced at an index so that it applies to fewer entities (or sequences of entities, 200 depending on the arity of the predicate), or a predication has its meaning expanded 291 at an index to apply to more entities. 292 K

#### 294 4.2.3.2 Sense-Relative Assertion 295

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In an initial proposal for analyzing metaphor with dynamic semantics, static inter-296 pretation was reserved for senses classified as literal and dynamic interpretation for 297 senses classified as non-literal [27]. What is correct about this distinction is that the 298 difference between a literal sense and a non-literal sense is convention in classifying 299 it as such. Here, a partial ordering in that dimension is assumed (this emerges more 300 below, particularly in how this relates to genericity). Evidently, people are able to 301 perceive degrees of metaphoricity [24]. I argue that this approach is incorrect in 302 providing belief revision only for non-literal expressions; the independent need for 303 sense extension and contraction was motivated in Section 4.2.1 304

"Constants" can be supplied with new senses and references within those senses. 305 The interpretation of a tuple of such terms requires passing the output of the inter-306 pretation of one argument into the input of interpretation of the following one. This 307 idealization is too strong, in general, because it works on canonical argument struc-308 ture, without taking into account non-canonical orderings of argument realization, 309 through topicalization, for example. The assertional interpretation of a predication 310 (or proposition) always succeeds relative to either a designated or default sense. It 311 has the effect of adding a tuple (possibly empty for a proposition) to the character-312 istic function for the n-ary predicate for the relevant sense. 313

By construction, the assertional interpretation, if repeated for sufficient designa-314 tions of elements of the domain, can come to make the static interpretation of the 315

universal quantifier work out to be true, and it can make existential generalizations 316 true in a single application for the relevant sense. In the case of static interpretation 317 (Section 4.2.3.1) implication and disjunction require no mention because they are 318 defined from negation and implication. In the case of dynamic interpretation, those 319 connectives are constrained to be static. Conjunction is given a dynamic interpre-320 tation: giving an assertional interpretation to an initial conjunct changes yields a 321 change in the background model that serves as interpretation input to a subsequent 322 conjunct. Thus, conjunction is not certain to be commutative in the dynamic frag-323 ment. The dynamic fragment is non-monotonic. 324

Further, in the underlying formal system there is no direct clause for extending 325 the sense of a predicate within the scope of a quantifier, but doing so with indi-326 vidual constant terms will have the effect of making static interpretation relative 327 to the selected sense work out to be true. Similarly, senses of predicate names and 328 constants cannot, by this construction, be augmented under the scope of negation. 329 However, because extension of a predicate at an index for a sense provides grounds 330 for static interpretation of an existential generalization to be true, it equally supplies 331 grounds for a formerly true negated existential generalization to be false. Even just 332 addition of truths inside the model yields non-monotonicity. 333

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## 4.2.3.3 Sense-Relative Retraction

I assume that names of individuals cannot be retracted.<sup>7</sup> Thus, names and tuples of 337 names will be interpreted as what they mean according to a static designated sense. 338 The output of retracting information about a particular tuple of individuals from the 339 denotation of a predicate for some sense of the predicate is an interpretation function 340 which is smaller (if that tuple was in the background model for the predicate at 341 that sense in the first place), and the formula will evaluate to be false. Subsequent 342 static interpretation of the negated formula, picking out exactly that same tuple, will 343 evaluate as true because the non-negated form is now false. 344

Universally quantified formulas (possibly complex) may be retracted by deleting a tuple from the interpretation function that creates an exception. Existentially quantified formulas may be retracted by deleting all tuples that support the existential generalization. The only generalization over Lemon's work assumed in this section is that retraction of information is relativized to the sense of the predicate at stake. It uses an extensional unpacking of intensions.

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# **4.3 Ramifications for Metaphoricity**

The discussion which precedes has not provided the logic which fits the constraints on updating and downdating models as specified. Ensuring the correspondence between alterations to models and closure of the set of sentences true in those

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>360</sup> <sup>7</sup> This is not an assumption without precedent [22].

models is a separate exercise. However, it can be seen from what is discussed what 361 sentences will gain or lose support and that the entire system is non-monotonic. 362 because the underlying models are non-monotonic: relations can expand and con-363 tract. The location of dynamic semantics for the language is in the non-logical 364 expressions - proposition and predicate names as well as names of individuals (all 365 relative to senses of them). It is possible to imagine varying the interpretation of the 366 logical operators ( $\wedge$ ,  $\neg$ , etc.) so that they do not behave in classical ways orthogo-367 nally to dynamism [20]; however, that is not of focus here. The language is set up 368 such that in NPs, head noun restrictor sets; in VPs, verbal heads; in APs, adjectives 369 and adverbs; in PPs, prepositions may expand and contract the sets that they are true 370 of as individuals or tuples of individuals corresponding to relations. 371

It is assumed that these sets are the input to generalized quantifier constructions 372 [2] to, for example, construct an NP as a set of sets which "lives on" its head noun 373 set, and such that a positive polarity sentence involving an NP and an intransitive 374 VP or copula-linked predication is true just if the set given by the predicate is an 375 element of the set of sets provided by the NP. If metaphorical statements are taken 376 to be class inclusion statements, this analysis in terms of generalized quantifiers will 377 demand modification to achieve the same effect. In fact, the inclusion statement is 378 that the "lives on" property holds: whether the characteristic set  $\chi$  corresponding to 379 any predicate is an element of the quantifier depends only on the intersection of the 380 head noun set (N) from the quantifier with  $\chi$ . For any  $\chi$  that is in the GQ denotation 381 supersets or subsets will either have to also be elements of the GO denotation as well 382 (or must not be) depending on the determiner that combines with the head noun set 383 to form the GO. Thus, the "lives on" property takes care of class inclusion, but also 384 exclusions where necessary. The reason to accept generalized quantifier theory is 385 its robust account of evidently syntactic puzzles (e.g. the "definiteness effect" in 386 partitive constructions), semantic puzzles (e.g. licensing of negative polarity items 387 by downwards monotone determiners), as well as predicting processing facts about 388 natural language determiners (e.g. monotonic increasing determiners (e.g. "some" 389 and "all") are easier to evaluate than monotone decreasing determiners (e.g. "no" 390 and "few"), which are in turn easier than non-monotonic determiners (e.g. "exactly 391 three")) that are supported by empirical evidence [23]. Ample reason to move 392 to a generalize quantifier account are provided by [2]; primary is that first-order 393 logic does not have the expressive capacity to represent the meaning of "counting" 394 as is required by relatively mundane natural language determiners like "most" or 395 "many".<sup>8</sup> Finally, in presenting the invariants associated with generalized quanti-396 fiers, [2] assumed a fixed-model constraint to address the variance in determiner 397 meaning that depends on contextual factors like expectations. For example, a differ-398 ent number of people, even a different proportion of a relevant head noun set being 399 quantified over, might count as "many" depending on the expectations. The fact, that 400

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>402</sup> <sup>8</sup> Note that [10, p. 22] recalls experiments from 1982 to 1989 which revealed significant differences
 <sup>403</sup> in responses to metaphorical statements with quantified subjects depending on the determiner of
 <sup>404</sup> quantification ("some" vs. "all"); one might anticipate that a wide range of variability is indexed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>405</sup> by exactly the monotonicity properties of the determiner.

the cardinality or ratio involved in "many" is to be interpreted with varying models in generalized quantifier theory is a background support for the kind of variation in interpretation depending on signaled sense to account for aspects of metaphoricity in this paper. Consider the highlighted portion of (4.20).<sup>9</sup>

There was never a solicitation for money at these events, but of course, the President hoped that people in this category of friends and prior supporters would give money afterwards. *And, in fact, many did, and many did not.* (4.20)

It is clear that metaphoricity is handled here by classification of senses of predicates 414 as metaphorical or not, and degrees of metaphoricity can be represented. It remains 415 to discuss more about the nature of the distinct senses of predicates and what makes 416 them stand in special relationships to their base forms. The basic idea is that by 417 addressing predicates and their related senses, one has access to a larger charac-418 teristic function for the set than is relevant to any literal sense of the predicate. 419 Each possible sense is the characteristic function corresponding to an abstraction 420 over salient properties associated with the characteristic function for the predicate. 421 "Duality of reference" in Glucksberg's terms is a species of polysemy in which a 422 predicate name can pick out its literal sense, or be used as a metaphor, picking out 423 an otherwise un-named superordinate concept or category at a level of abstraction 424 determined by the context of use (Chapter 1 by Sam Gluchsberg, 2011, this volume). 425 There can be any number of such abstractions, and one does not expect each of them 426 to have a unique name [10]. As constructed here, each additional sense of a predicate 427 has its own characteristic function, and as has been seen, the set determined by each 428 such function can be expanded or contracted using the dynamic interpretation mech-429 anisms specified above. Equivalence classes of senses of a predicate form the space 430 of polysemy for a predicate (as distinguished from its having unrelated homonymic 431 senses), and all of the tuples in the entire equivalence class form a larger set than 432 those in the basic literal sense. 433

The framework is outlined as above with extensional treatment of types. As such, the system can also be compared with the work of [21], who presents a framework in which linguistic tokens paired with situations appropriate for use (relativized to speakers) can be seen as individuating senses of the tokens that modulate through dialogue, addressing the kinds of circumstances that shape meaning changes.

# 4.4 Metaphoricity and Genericity

As constructed, predicates cannot be extended to cover new tuples under the scope of negation, but negations can be made true by retracting tuples from the characteristic functions of particular senses of predicate names. It is tempting to say that novel use of metaphor involves the generation and population of new senses of predicates;

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 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>448</sup> <sup>9</sup> Attributed to Lanny Davis, special White House counsel, February 25, 1997. OnLine Focus
 <sup>449</sup> interview with Elizabeth Farnsworth (http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/white\_house/february97/
 <sup>450</sup> davis\_2-25.html) — last verified January 2011.

conventionalized metaphor is about the re-use of old senses, and dead metaphor does
not even involve extending the predicate to a fresh set of tuples. However, it is key
that information assertion and retraction about individuals and tuples of individuals
is independent of metaphoricity. It happens with literal information also.

Discriminating sense makes it possible to consider subsets of the interpretation 455 function as bundling predicates together by senses that are shared. For example, 456 there is a financial institution sense of "bank" that is in common with a particular 457 sense of "bond". The two words do not mean the same thing: even relative to that 458 shared sense the words participate in different networks of implications and are true 459 of different tuples. A partial order relation names paired with their senses provides 460 a cline of metaphoricity. The different senses of predicates will generally be true of 461 differing sets of tuples, and metaphorical denotations tend to be disjoint from literal 462 counterparts. The total union of sense denotations for a predicate, a single "loosely 463 speaking" version, has more than a constituent literal denotation univocally. 464

Genericity provides an alternative sense to predicates that has nearly identical 465 properties to metaphorical sentences, but on the analysis provide here, they are 466 explained by appeal to construction of related contracted senses of predicates. Like 467 metaphors, generics can be predications over nominals (4.21), (4.22), and (4.23)468 or can involve the verbs directly as well (4.24). Generics certainly cannot be under-469 stood as universally quantified statements in a classical framework, as their nature is 470 to have exceptions. Thus, if generics are taken to be category inclusion statements, 471 they turn out to be false in their strict literal senses. However, generics cannot be 472 truthfully understood as asserting even that *most* of the entities in the subject NPs 473 head noun set have the predicated property, because (4.21), (4.22), and (4.23) would 474 remain true if there tend to be more male platypuses than female ones, or even if 475 most platypuses die before reaching the age of being able to reproduce. Similarly, 476 (4.24) might be uttered to mean that the only time Leslie smokes, it's after dinner, 477 or among the times that Leslie smokes, after dinner times are included. The safest 478 "strong" reading of a generic in first-order languages is that the sentences make an 479 existential claim that, for example, there is at least one platypus that has produced 480 an egg. Equivalently, one can appeal to a universal claim over a set that has only 481 one element, essentially evaluating the predicate at an index where the denotation 482 is small enough to have no counter-examples. The simple existential readings are a 483 challenge for sentences like (4.25) in which there is no real entity in the domain that 484 satisfies the existential generalization, but universal quantification at an index where 485 the domain is empty appears satisfactory.<sup>10</sup> 486

487	The platypus is an egg laying mammal.	(4.21)
488	A platypus is an egg laying mammal.	(4.22)
489	Platypuses are egg laying mammals.	(4.23)
490	Leslie smokes after dinner.	(4.24)
491	Unicorns are white.	(4.25)
492	An egg laying mammal is the platypus.	(4.26)
493		
494		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>495</sup> <sup>10</sup> However, at those indices, "unicorns are not white" is also true.

The truth conditions of generics are as troubled as those of metaphors. Reversing the predications is possible, but changes the meaning slightly, admitting a Gricean implicature in (4.26) that there are other egg laying mammals as well. This reversibility is comparable to that mentioned above for metaphors (recall (4.17) and (4.18)).

Returning to negation, (4.27) was discussed above (4.10) as containing sentential 501 negation. It may also be understood as expressing a more local negation synonymous 502 with (4.28). In this case it retains interpretation as a generic. In the account proposed, 503 the evaluation of both sentences involves recourse to designated senses of the predi-504 cations "not Japanese" and "sumo wrestlers" such that the instances of the latter are 505 all among the former. Deep analysis of the predicates establishes the synonymy of 506 "not Japanese" and "Gaijin" using meaning postulates (see e.g. (Chapter 3 by Jerry 507 R. Hobbs and Andrew Gordon, 2011, this volume)). 508

509	Sumo wrestlers are not Japanese.	(4.27)
510	Sumo wrestlers are Gaijin.	(4.28)
511	Dodos are extinct.	(4.29)
512	Dodos are no longer living.	(4.30)
513	0 0	· · ·

Similarly, purely kind-level predications such as (4.29) can can be addressed in 514 extensional terms as in other approaches to generics [14].<sup>11</sup> Predications of kinds 515 may be seen as equivalent to related predications of instances of the kinds. Kinds can 516 be constructed from classes of available extensions of the corresponding predicates 517 expanded at some indices of evaluation and contracted at others. The effects asso-518 ciated with "duality" of reference between kinds and their instances are attributed 519 to picking some index or other for evaluation on one hand, or on the other hand, 520 considering a collection of indices versus a particular index within the same sense: 521 a plurality of reference is available. However, reification of kinds (or any other 522 abstract notion) as the potential referents is not antithetical to the programmatic 523 analysis argued here. 524

As mentioned above, indices for the evaluation of senses of predicates can be 525 grouped according to semantic fields (so that, for example, instrument FINANCE 526 may be preferred over *instrument*<sup>MUSIC</sup> when evaluating a sentence that has a prior 527 mention of *bank*<sup>FINANCE</sup>). This incorporates insights from the field of cognitive 528 529 linguistics in which conceptual metaphors deliver families of predicates interpreted 530 according to the same designated indices for evaluation (Chapter 2 by Andrew 531 Goatly, 2011, this volume). Simultaneous ordering of indices according to cate-532 gories orthogonal to semantic field, such as partial orderings by degrees and kinds 533 of affect are also possible – this is in the spirit of the analysis of modality pro-534 vided by [18] with a double-ordering of "possible worlds" according a modal base 535 (that determines which sort of modality) and an ordering source which provides 536

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 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>538</sup>
 <sup>11</sup> That work is mainly concerned with an analysis of bare plurals as not specifying explicitly their
 <sup>539</sup> intended quantificational force over a domain named by a predicate; by comparison, the present
 <sup>540</sup> work can be seen as advocating universal quantification for bare plurals always, but with variation in the size of reference set depending on the sense selected for the head noun predication.

accessibility relations. Rather than encoding affect associated with predications as 541 other object-level predications, such as proposed elsewhere (Chapter 3 by Jerry R. 542 Hobbs and Andrew Gordon, 2011, this volume), affect here is encoded in meta-level 543 classification of senses. 544

It is common to understand generics as involving a restricted domain of quantifi-545 cation over salient individuals. This is the converse of what happens with metaphor 546 understanding. Thus, the proposal to unify the treatment of metaphoricity and gener-547 icity in this dynamic framework is to allow for alternative senses of literal predi-548 cates which are reduced by individuals or tuples<sup>12</sup> that challenge the literal truth of 549 universal quantification over the full domain. Metaphors are class inclusion state-550 ments that involve expanding hitherto un-named categories, and generics are class 551 inclusion statements that involve shrinking categories with prior names. Among the 552 alternative senses for predicates are those which stand systematically in this way via 553 relevant restriction over the characteristic set of the predicate at some sense. 554

#### 4.5 Particulars of the Class-Inclusion Framework 557

One aspect of the system that merits discussion is its relationship to the theory devel-559 560 oped by Glucksberg and his colleagues. There is some divergence with respect to the question of asymmetry of metaphor, which I argued above extends somewhat 561 to genericity. The divergence is in that the system doesn't place great emphasis on 562 the asymmetry beyond the order of arguments in a tuple, which is in each case 563 an ordered sequence. The system, through multiplicity of senses for predicates and 564 terms, admits duality of reference, but it is not prejudiced to require that the dual 565 argument must be in a non-subject position. Interestingly, [10] comments in a num-566 ber of places less on the asymmetry of subject and object, as with respect to new 567 and given. This is also called the topic-comment distinction, and it often in English 568 569 coincides with the grammatical subject, but it is not analytically identical [20].

Einstein [my brother points at a clever companion] can work out how the remote 571 control works. (4.31)572

It is sharks that lawyers are. (4.32)573 (4.33)

Sharks, Lawyers are. 574

First of all, (4.31) shows that the Demianiuk examples of [10, p. 40] involving 575 abstract categories can occur in subject position. The cleft (4.32) and topicalization 576 (4.33) are both constructions that move canonical objects into a topic position for 577 information packaging purposes, and in these cases it turns out to be the abstract 578 579 category that form topic, and the finite sentence with an object gap that forms a predication for the comment. Perhaps one would want to argue that the subject 580 remains given in these and related constructions, but it is clear that it is not the 581 linear order of presentation that matters as much as the information packaging into 582 topic and comment. 583

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Individuals are singleton tuples, anyway.

However, a more robust class of examples of non-literal expressions best under-586 stood as class inclusion statements, but with the class in the initial position, has 587 an exemplar in (4.34).<sup>13</sup> This construction relates directly to predication metaphor 588 (4.35). A counterpart construction for simile is perhaps anomalous (4.37). 589

- 590 "Anyone who has lived in the ethnic shouting match that is New York City knows 591 exactly what I mean" (4.34)
- 592 New York City is an ethnic shouting match. 593
- Anyone who has lived in the New York City that is an ethnic shouting match knows 594 (4.36)
- exactly what I mean. 595
- the jail that is like Sandy's job 596

In (4.34) both terms of the predication can be understood via literal referent or 597 as concepts, but there is evidently a preference for "the ethnic shouting match" 598 to be understood as a name for category which is asserted to have the literal 599 New York City within it. The relevant non-literal constituent of (4.34) can be equally 600 understood via (4.35). An adapted formulation is provided in (4.36) to show that 601 reversibility does obtain and "New York City" does not appear to be forced into 602 a sub-kind level expression, although it has to be at least a category here for the 603 definite reference to work. The point is that there is more to explore about the asym-604 metry facts associated with metaphor. They appear to be not simply about the order 605 of presentation of topic and vehicle and their reversibility. The facts seem to depend 606 upon the construction which is used to package the relevant information. 607

In the underlying formal system here, a sequence of arguments to a predicate is 608 assumed to be interpreted in the order given. Where interpretation is dynamic, the 609 interpretation function that results as the output of processing the first argument is 610 the input to the second, and so on. The tuples are ordered by the argument struc-611 ture of the predicate, rather than the information packaging of the construction it 612 appears in. There may well be empirical consequences that depend on alternative 613 information packaging associated with argument terms, but it is not clear that they 614 have much significance. That is, while a tendency to restrict reversibility of argu-615 ments and correlation with topic-comment structures may be useful diagnostics of 616 metaphoricity, the dual reference theory seems to be able to stand up independently 617 in cases where the data seems slightly at odds with the asymmetry claims. 618

In particular, the dual reference theory provides an intuitive explanation for 619 the fact that similes can be restated in stronger term as metaphors, and for the 620 (non-universal) potential for metaphor to be paraphrased with simile, evidently 621 shifting between non-literal and literal senses of a predicates. (Chapter 1 by Sam 622 Glucksberg, 2011, this volume). 623

021	Sumo wrestlers are like elephants.	(4.38)
625	Sumo wrestlers are like Japanese people.	(4.39)
626	Squares are four sided equiangular polygons.	(4.40)
627	Squares are like four sided equiangular polygons.	(4.41)
628		

629

624

(4.35)

(4.37)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Attributed to Andrew Sullivan by [25]. 630

On Glucksberg's theory, sentences involving nominal metaphors are class inclusion 631 statements that refer to a category superordinate to the literal sense of a named pred-632 icate, where the superordinate level is determined as appropriate in the context of 633 use. A simile can be re-expressed as a metaphor that makes use of the superordinate 634 category as the sense of the predication. Only those sentences which are interpreted 635 using the sense provided by the dual reference can be felicitously paraphrased with a 636 simile. Contrast the capacity of (4.1) from the outset of the paper to be paraphrased 637 with (4.38) and the inappropriateness of (4.41) as a paraphrase for (4.40): literal 638 class inclusion statements do not involve dual reference in Glucksberg's sense. How-639 ever, consider (4.3) in relation to (4.39) – even changing the predicate adjective in 640 the generic to a predicative nominal for parallelism in (4.39) doesn't improve the for-641 mulation with explicit comparison. Generics function as class inclusion statements 642 also. However, above in Section 4.4 it was argued that generics make dual reference 643 to categories as well, but, to subordinate categories. This clarifies part of the force of 644 Glucksberg's sense of dual reference: it is not just polysemy between a category and 645 a hierarchically related one; rather, it crucially involves a category superordinate to 646 the literal sense. Subordinate categories lacking prior names, universal quantifica-647 tion over which supports the truth of their generics, in contrast to the superordinate 648 categories in the case of metaphors, do not participate in the all the same effects. 649 Whereas the superordinate categories can lead to more emergent associations in 650 the comparative constructions constituted by similes, the subordinate categories of 651 generics necessarily yield tautologies in combination with the predication. These 652 resist emergent associations, and are thus extremely odd. 653

It is important that the formal framework outlined in Section 4.2.3 addresses 654 more than nominal metaphors linked by copular verbs which comprise the primary 655 focus of (Chapter 1 by Sam Glucksberg, 2011, this volume). An example like (4.42) 656 does not evidently make recourse to superordinate categories for either the subject 657 or object nominal, nor does it obviously convey a class-inclusion statement, but it 658 does involve dual reference with a (metaphorical) superordinate sense of "eats". As 659 before, static interpretation can be used to evaluate the the statement as a contingent 660 declarative, or dynamic interpretation can be used to assert its truth, updating the 661 interpretation function. Of course, the formal details require elaboration to capture 662 even an extensional interpretation of the verbal noun subject and the mass noun 663 object in this example. A richer type-theoretic system such as that described by [6] 664 will ultimately be necessary. 665

666	Covering news in the field eats money. <sup>14</sup>	(4.42)
667	Sal smokes a Cuban cigar.	(4.43)

Sal smokes a Cuban cigar. 668

Similarly, the habitual in (4.43) is interpreted via selection of a sense of "smokes" 669 that refers to a category subordinate to the literal sense in terms of the quantification 670 involving Sal and cigars - it has a smaller extension where universal quantification 671 holds. Moreover, there are a number of such subordinate senses corresponding to 672

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Attributed to George F. Will by the American Heritage Dictionary. 675

the ways in which the habitual is to be understood (e.g. Sal prefers Cuban cigars; when Sal smokes a cigar, it is a Cuban one; there is only one type of Cuban cigar that Sal smokes; etc.). Interpretation of both is mediated by hierarchically related senses. Perhaps because neither is constructed as a class inclusion statement that could yield a tautology, both the metaphor and the habitual support reformulation as explicit comparison statements as in (4.44) and (4.45).

<sup>682</sup> Covering news in the field consumes money like termites eat wood. (4.44)
 <sup>683</sup> Sal consumes a Cuban cigar like Bond drinks a shaken martini. (4.45)

In any case, the dual reference constraint between nominal metaphors in class inclusion statements and paraphrase with similes is not available for metaphorical verbs.

# <sup>689</sup> **4.6 Final Remarks**

691 This paper has argued that metaphoricity and genericity are best handled within the 692 same semantic framework, one that admits information update, names of individuals 693 and predications paired with senses. The formal machinery has been sketched in an 694 extensional unpacking of the main ideas. Pairs of predicate names and senses can 695 be partially ordered to achieve a continuum of metaphoricity. They may also be 696 classified according to other meta-linguistic categories, affect among them. Sam 697 Glucksberg (Chapter 1 by Sam Glucksberg, 2011, this volume) has argued that 698 metaphors are best analyzed as class inclusion statements involving dual reference. 699 Generics and habituals certainly look like class inclusion statements and show many 700 of the same properties of non-literal interpretation that metaphors do. It has been 701 shown exactly how metaphors relate to each other within a non-monotonic system 702 for information change.

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