

80-285

Natural Language Syntax

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At Carnegie Mellon University

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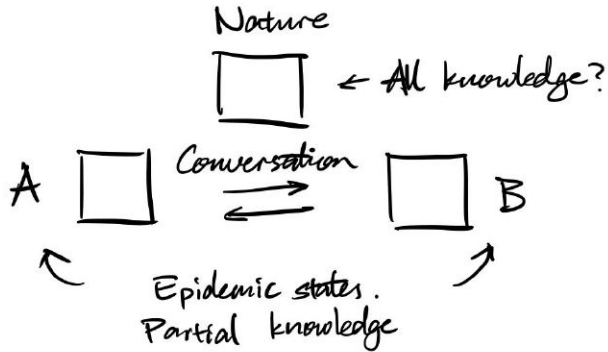
Lec 1

- Syllabus

Defining a sentence

- Semantics
- Truth value?
- Formal?
- Syntax + semantic? ← At least they seem to make us believe sentences exist.

Dialogue game



Consider:

[Two sets of cylindrical prisms on top of a square prism lay horizontally behind each rectangular block.] v?

↑ Arguing this is a sentence

Why is lay a verb?

→ Inflections?

- tense
- person agreement
- singular & plural

→ Replacement?

- sit
- exist
- run ← (human)
- lie

↑ Then what if we call them verbs? At least they seem to form a class?