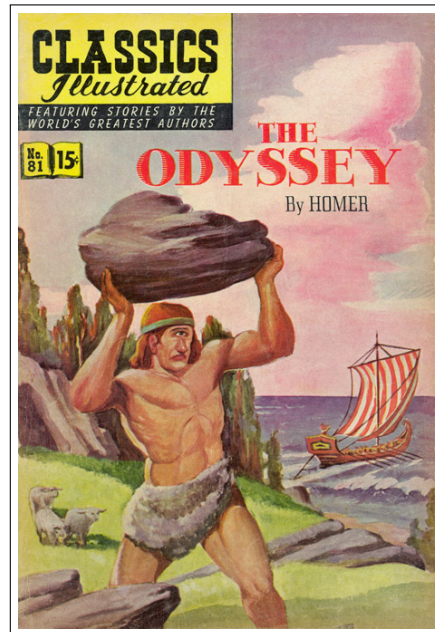# Zimmermann and Sternefeld (2013) *IntoSem*
Chapter 4: Introducing Extensions

Exercises

Exercise 1: (Ir)Referential Noun Phrases

In Book 9 of the *Odyssey*, Odysseus tells the Cyclops Polyphemos that his name is *Nobody*. When Polyphemus is blinded, he screams out in pain, and the other Cyclopes ask him who is hurting him.[1] His reply:

(1)   Nobody is hurting me!

On page 62, Zimmermann and Sternefeld write that *nobody*

"does not seem to refer to anything at all."

Assess the relevance of the tale to the notion of a **referential expression**.

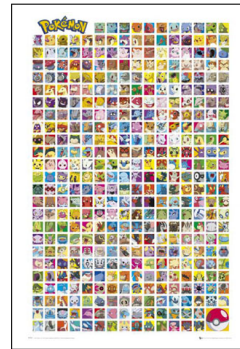
[1] http://www.pantheon.org/articles/p/polyphemus.html

Exercise 2: Enumerable Extensions

Common count nouns denote sets of individuals, and some such extensions can be defined by listing the members (relative to a given time and world). Try to think of some (single!) nouns where lists have in fact been compiled.

Then try to determine nouns that have the sets enumerated in the following directories as their extensions – and comment on problems:

(1) Who's Who

(2) The National Pokédex

(3) Library of Congress Catalog

(4) The class roster for the course

(5) The Oxford English Dictionary

(6) Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of the World

Exercise 3: Relational Nouns and Transitive Verbs

What is the type of extension for a relational noun?

What is the type of extension for a transitive verb?

There is a formative that derives so-called **nomina agentis** from verbs – in Germanic, it is the suffix *-er*. Some of these nouns are clearly relational:

- *buyer* · *lover* (French: *amant*) · *maker* · *sender*

Discuss in what regard these nouns mean the same as the underlying verbs, and in what regards they might differ in meaning.

Exercise 4: Relational Adjectives?

Like most nouns, most adjectives (in the positive) denote sets of individuals. But are there relational adjectives too?

What strings "…*…" (where the dummy * stands for the adjective) would you use to search the web for examples? (Tip: most adjectives are gradable and can be modified by intensifying adverbs.)

Do there seem to be any functional adjectives?