1 What is this Course about?

· *extensional meaning*: how the world is right-here, right-now:
  
  (1) We’re linguists.

· *intensional / modal meaning*: other ways the worlds could be or could have been:
  
  (2) We could be heroes.

· we look at expressions that talk about these non-actual situations

2 Carriers of Modal and Conditional Meaning

2.1 Modal Expressions

(3) Auxiliaries:
  
  John *must / has to / may / should / ought to / could / might* be a semanticist.

(4) Adverbs:
  
  John is *possibly / perhaps / certainly / surely / by all means / impossibly* a semanticist.

(5) Nouns:
  
  It is a *possibility / certainty* that John is a semanticist.

(6) Adjectives:
  
  a. It is *possible / necessary / conceivable / certain / sure / compatible* with the facts that John is a semanticist.
  
  b. It is *unlikely / improbable / impossible* that John is a semanticist.
  
  c. Death is *certain*, life is not.
  
  d. The *potential* new president opened his speech thanking those who invited him.

(7) Expressions for propositional attitudes:

  a. Bill *believes / knows / hopes / suspects / fears* that John is a semanticist.
  
  b. According the widespread but mistaken belief that John is a semanticist . . .

(8) Verbal mood (especially, subjunctive and imperative):

  a. John *wouldn’t* mind being a semanticist.
  
  b. Oh Johnny-boy, *would you* be a semanticist.
c. Johnny, be a good boy! Eat your beans!

(9) “Covert modality”:
   a. John knows how to be a good semanticist.
   b. This vase is fragile.
   c. Chicago tap water isn’t drinkable.
   d. Berlin is the place to be.

(10) Evidentials (often treated as a separate category from modality):
   a. ame ga furu you da.
      rain subj-mark fall seem copula
      Judging from my evidence, it seems that it’s going to rain.
   b. ame ga furo sou da.
      rain subj-mark fall seem copula
      According to hearsay opinion, it’s going to rain.

2.2 Conditional Constructions
(See Bhatt and Pancheva (2006) for overview.)

(11) Adjuncts:
   a. If you push button “Wassersparen”, then the washing machine will use less water.
   b. Whenever the sun is shining, John is working in his garden.
   c. Unless you object, I suggest we resume the meeting tomorrow.
   d. As long as there are enough puzzles to solve, I’ll stay in academia.
   e. Wenn / Falls Du Zeit hast, kannst Du Dich ja mal melden.

(12) Modifier phrases embedding a clause:
   a. On the condition that you push that button, the machine will run efficiently.
   b. Supposing / Given that the button is pushed in, the machine will run efficiently.
   c. In the event that I get a promotion, I’ll throw a big party.

(13) Modifier phrases not embedding a clause:
   a. With a pushed-in button, the machine will run efficiently.
   b. Given a pushed-in button, the machine will run efficiently.
   c. Smash window in case of emergency.

(14) NPs:
   a. An increase in allowance would only lead to less efficient spending.
   b. A nomination would spoil his character.

(15) Stuff:
   a. Pushing that button, the machine will run more efficiently.
   b. For you to push that button, that would make the machine run more efficiently.

(16) Conditional “and” and “or”:
   a. Simply push that button and the machine will use less water.
b. It only requires pushing that button and the machine will use less water.
c. The relevant Minister for Finance and the Budget says, ‘Put the brakes on or we will lose our European Union aid!’
   (Corpus: Europarl (en) (EU-EN), 2049840)
d. You’d better be on time, or you’ll lose your job.

(17) V-1 clause juxtaposition:
   a. Ask anyone, they’ll tell you the same.
   b. Had I not taken “Temporal Semantics”, I’d probably be a neuroscientist now.
   c. Kommt der Typ noch einmal zu spät, dann fliegt der raus.

(18) Implicit conditionality:
   a. Dogs must be carried. (London subway sign.)
      \[ \sim \] It is obligatory to carry your dogs if you have any.
      \[ \nrightarrow \] It is obligatory to carry dogs.
   b. Zelt bitte ohne Schuhe betreten. (Sign in a Tübingen outdoor sports shop.)
      \[ \sim \] If you enter a tent, it is obligatory to do so without shoes.
      \[ \nrightarrow \] It is obligatory to enter a tent without shoes.

3 Kinds of Modal and Conditional Meaning

3.1 Kinds of Modals
   (after von Fintel (2006))
   (19) Metaphysical (alethic) modality: (whether something is possibly or necessarily true)
      a. Nine is necessarily a prime number.
      b. Aristotle could not have not been the teacher of Alexander the Great. (Kripke 1972)

   (20) Epistemic modality: (whether something is believed or considered possible)
      a. It may have been the butler after all.
      b. The butler must be the murderer.

   (21) Deontic modality: (whether something is permitted, forbidden or obligatory by laws, norms or standards)
      a. Visitors allowed between 10 am and 1 pm.
      b. Thou shalt not kill.

   (22) Bouletic modality: (whether possible or necessary given a person’s desires)
      a. I wouldn’t mind a pay-raise.
      b. You really need to leave now.

   (23) Teleological modality: (whether possible or necessary given a person’s goals)
      a. In order to go to Harlem, you could take the A-train. (comp. anankastic conditionals (32))
      b. In order to go to Harlem, you have to take the A-train.

   (24) Future modality: (whether possible or necessary in the future; controversial)
      a. We might have a barbecue tomorrow.
      b. This course will be fun.
3.2 Kinds of Conditionals

(25) Predictive conditionals:
If you strike this match, it will light.

(26) Epistemic conditionals:
If the gardener hasn’t killed the baroness, then it must have been the butler.

(27) Subjunctive conditionals (alt.: “counterfactuals”):
  a. If you struck this match, it would light.
  b. If you had struck this match, it would have lighted.

(28) Commisive conditionals: (“social contract making”)
  a. I’ll scratch your back, if you scratch mine.
  b. If you don’t stay off my girl, I’ll burn your record collection.

(29) Monkey’s uncle conditionals:
If John’s a semanticist, I’m a monkey’s uncle.

(30) “Even-if” conditionals:
  a. This match is wet. If you strike it, it won’t light.
  b. Bij gladheid wordt niet gestrooid. (from a road sign in Amsterdam’s Westerpark)
    In case of slipperiness be-Passive not spread.
    ‘When icy, this road will not be salted.’

(31) Concessive Conditionals:
James offered a plausible, if elaborate, theory. (Geis and Lycan 1993, ex.60b)

(32) Anankastic Conditionals: (comp. teleological modals (23))
  a. If you want to go to Harlem, you can take the A-train.
  b. If you want to go to Harlem, you have to take the A-train.

(33) Scalar conditionals:
  a. This is the best book of the month, if not the year.
  b. Some if not all of my friends are metalheads.

(34) Qualified denial (Thomason conditionals):
  a. If Ronald Reagan stole money, I’ve never heard of it. (Geis and Lycan 1993, ex.61)
  b. If my wife was cheating on me, I would not know it. (van Fraassen ???)

  a. If she is so pretty, you should have her do your laundry, not me.
  b. If you are so smart, it is curious why you are unable to get a job.
  c. If the wine bottle is half-empty, you are a pessimist. (Noh 1998)
  d. Wenn das deinem Vater sein Auto ist, gibt es kaum noch Hoffnung für den Gentitiv.
  e. A: I eat TOMEIDOUZ.
     B: If you eat TOMEIDOUZ, you must be from America. (Noh 1998, ex.35)
   a. There are biscuits on the shelf, if you want some. (Austin 1956)
   b. Sollten Sie Schmerzen haben, ich schreibe ihnen diese Tabletten auf. (Pittner 2000, ex.6)
   c. If he dies without a will, I am his son, though not from his first marriage. (Noh 1998, ex.64)
   d. I’m very interested in foreign stamps, if you get any letters from abroad. (Davies 1979)

(37) Speech act felicity conditionals:
   a. If I may say so, the wine is delicious.
   b. What is your profession, if I may ask?

(38) Speaker-attitude commenting conditionals:
   a. I don’t actually enjoy reading Heidegger, if I’m honest.
   b. She wore a green hat, if I remember correctly.

(39) Formulation commenting conditionals (alt.: intelligibility conditionals)
   a. He trapped two mongeese, if that’s how you make the plural of “mongoose”. (Noh 1998)
   b. Grandma is feeling lousy, if I may put it that way. (Noh 1998)
   c. He is a boony-booh, if you know what I mean.
   d. Die Euro-Skepsis der Parteiführung, falls der Euphemismus noch erlaubt ist, bedient sich der mildernenden Camouflage. (Pittner 2000)

(40) Attention-directing / discourse-structuring conditionals:
   a. If we now turn to the last point of order, the fund cuts have been tremendous.
   b. If you look at the graph in figure 1, the increase in tax revenues had no effect on carbon emissions.

References
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