

# *Binding, Relativized* *(to point of view)\**

Dominique Sportiche<sup>†</sup>  
UCLA

November 2023

## **Abstract**

The central idea proposed here, to address a set of binding problems noted in Heim (1994), is that the binding conditions must be relativized: it suffices that they hold for someone, e.g. the speaker only or some other sentence internal, attitude holder only.

I first show that appealing to intermediate *de se* read binders to address these problems as in Heim (1994) or Sharvit (2011) is neither necessary nor sufficient. Instead, I capitalize on the proposal that the Binding Conditions A and B should be relativized: the semantic covaluation they require (or prohibit) must (resp. can't) hold in the same world, that is for (a) particular thinker(s) /attitude holder(s) whose point of view is adopted. Thus, by using a reflexive or a pronoun, a speaker encodes that in their local binding domains, reflexives whether plain or exempt must be locally covalued for some (sentence internally represented) thinkers (in their modal worlds), and pronouns can't be locally covalued for any such thinker. This yields unexpected cases of satisfaction or violation of Condition A and B. Such a thinker can be the speaker of the utterance, or a logophoric center whose point of view is adopted to convey attitude content. In effect, this proposal generalizes the treatment of Free Indirect Discourse given in Sharvit (2011), taking Free Indirect Discourse as a special case of Logophoric contexts.

---

\*Thanks to Andrew Simpson, Audrey Li, Barry Schein, Carlo Geracci, Danny Fox, David Adger, Dylan Bumford, Edward Keenan, Ethan Poole, Isabelle Charnavel, Ken Safir, Kyle Johnson, Noam Chomsky, Pranav Anand, Rajesh Bhatt, Roger Schwarzschild, Richard Stockwell, Roumyana Pancheva, Simon Charlow, Tim Hunter, Tim Stowell, Vincent Homer, Viola Schmitt, Yael Sharvit, the Institut Jean Nicod, USC, and MIT audiences, the participants in the Harvard Ana-Log Workshop, and the UCLA audiences in Tim Stowell's and my UCLA Spring 2018 seminar and in the Syntax and Semantics seminar as well as the workshop at the University of Greenwich in Fall 2019. This work was supported in part by the NSF under grants 1424054 and 1424336.

<sup>†</sup>Email contact: dominique.sportiche@ucla.edu

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Heim's 1994 puzzling reflexive pronouns in <i>de se</i> reports</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	The Heim/Sharvit proposal . . . . .	4
2.2	Intermediate <i>de se</i> not necessary: Generalizing Heim (1994), Sharvit (2011) . . . . .	5
2.2.1	Inanimate Cases . . . . .	5
2.2.2	<i>De re</i> cases . . . . .	7
2.3	Intermediate <i>de se</i> binders not sufficient: <i>de se non de re</i> cases . . . . .	8
2.4	Conclusion . . . . .	8
<b>3</b>	<b>Binding Theory</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1	How to satisfy Conditions A and B . . . . .	9
3.2	Formulating the binding conditions . . . . .	12
3.3	Detecting logophoric contexts . . . . .	16
<b>4</b>	<b>Back to the initial puzzles</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Free Indirect Discourse Cases</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Some other cases of Heim's</b>	<b>27</b>

## 1 Introduction

Let us place ourselves in the following scenario.

- (1) Oedipus Scenario: Oedipus kills someone he does not know, Laius his real father. Later, to end a god sent plague on Thebes, Laius’s killer must be punished and Oedipus searches for Laius ’s killer, expecting to find him and to punish him. I, the speaker of sentences, as well as my hearers, know the truth and that we all know it.

Heim (1994) notes a set of problems regarding the binding of reflexives and pronouns. These problems are illustrated by the following examples I utter in this context:<sup>1</sup>

- (2) a. Oedipus<sub>k</sub> wants [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO<sub>k</sub> to find himself<sub>k</sub>]  
 b. \*Oedipus<sub>k</sub> wants [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO<sub>k</sub> to find him<sub>k</sub>]

The reported problem here is that in the local binding domain shown, PRO and *himself/him* pick out different individuals: PRO refers to who Oedipus takes himself to be in his *modal* alternatives, the imaginary cases in which this want of his would be satisfied, namely himself (thus a *de se* reading of PRO), but in these contexts, for Oedipus, *himself/him* refers to the killer who he takes to be somebody else ( $\neq$  Oedipus). The reflexive *himself* is read as referring to Oedipus *de re*, that is for the speaker, but not *de dicto* that is for Oedipus (so it is not read *de se*).<sup>2</sup> How then are Condition A or B of the Binding theory satisfied, given that PRO and the reflexive or the pronoun do not corefer in this local domain?

This problem led to a series of proposals, Heim’s own, those found in Charlow (2010) and Sharvit (2011). I will first discuss this problem and show why Heim’s suggestion, namely that an intermediate *de se* read pronoun PRO is crucial, fundamentally adopted in Sharvit (2011), is not the right generalization. Instead, *de re* local binding (covaluation for the speaker, that is in the speaker’s world(s)) as in Charlow (2010)<sup>3</sup> But covaluation for **the speaker only** is insufficient as Sharvit (2011) shows in discussing F(ree) I(ndirect) D(iscourse). The challenge, which the proposal presented here tries to meet, is to have a formulation defaulting to Charlow’s proposal in Heim’s cases but handling Sharvit FID cases. I will argue that the right generalization is that the binding conditions A and B must be met for thinkers (= in some thinker’s modal alternatives) whose thoughts about the binding relation are reported *de dicto*, in effect generalizing Sharvit, 2011’s approach. This will include logophoric contexts (which I will take include FID) which - cf. Charnavel (2020) and Charnavel (2019b) - impose specific *de dicto* requirements. But since *de re* is *de*

<sup>1</sup> The problems raised by examples (2) and all the examples discussed in this article are not problems about coreference vs binding. To convince oneself, it suffices to imagine multiple universes in addition to the actual one, each with its own Oedipus and relevant scenarios. Sentences such as *Every Oedipus<sub>k</sub>/Only the actual Oedipus<sub>k</sub> wants [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO<sub>k</sub> to find himself<sub>k</sub>]* behave relevantly in the same way as the sentences of the text.

<sup>2</sup> Note that throughout, the star does not indicate syntactic ill-formedness, it means that this form cannot have the relevant interpretaion. I am until section 4 reporting these examples of apparent condition B effect as starred (Heim notates them ?\*), assuming that the pronoun and its overt antecedent, here *Oedipus* are presupposed to be covalued by the speaker (either because they corefer for the speaker, or because the speaker assumes that they corefer for someone. In section 4, I will return to these cases, qualifying these judgments.

<sup>3</sup> Surprisingly, currently fairly standard treatments such as Pearson, 2012 of *de se* requirement in Obligatory Control with attitudinal control verbs entail that there is no *de re* relation between PRO and its controller. I assume here that this is a flaw in these treatments, see Sportiche (2023) for discussion and an alternative.

*dicto* for the speaker, this will yield Charlow’s treatment for Heim’s basic cases.

Throughout, both French examples and their English translations are provided and unless otherwise noted, the French and the English behave identically from the point of view of what is discussed.

## 2 Heim’s 1994 puzzling reflexive pronouns in *de se* reports

Beginning with Heim’s cases.<sup>4</sup> I will first show why the account of these cases in Heim (1994) or Sharvit (2011) should be modified.

### 2.1 The Heim/Sharvit proposal

As Heim (1994) notes, the following problematic cases arise.<sup>5</sup>

- (3) Oedipus expressed his hope as: ‘I will punish the killer’. I report:
- a. Oedipe<sub>k</sub> espère qu’ [*localdomain* il<sub>k</sub> se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>\*k</sub> punira ]  
     Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes that [*localdomain* he will punish himself<sub>k</sub>/him<sub>\*k</sub>]
  - b. Oedipe espère [*localdomain* PRO<sub>k</sub> se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>\*k</sub> punir ]  
     Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [*localdomain* PRO to punish himself<sub>k</sub>/him<sub>\*k</sub>]

In this scenario, with object pronouns, coreference with Oedipus is (reportedly) degraded. With reflexives, the reading of interest, namely Oedipus hoping ‘I will punish the killer’ is both available and true in this scenario.<sup>6</sup>

We could frame Heim (1994) report of a problem as the intuition that a priori, these sentences should function like the direct discourse counterpart (4) which exhibits judgments opposite of what is observed in (3).

- (4) Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes: ‘I will punish myself<sub>\*k</sub>/him<sub>k</sub>’

On the basis of (4), we might have expected local binding of the reflexive to be excluded and local binding of the pronoun to be fine. Since the opposite is the case in (3), Heim concludes that the reflexive or the pronoun in (3) must somehow count as locally bound by the main clause subject (hence satisfying condition A and and violating condition B respectively).

As we will see, this intuition is precisely what we give up. That the sentences involve indirect discourse (or as we will see Free Indirect Discourse) is crucial. But let’s first continue with Heim’s proposal.

Heim next asks why if the reflexive and the pronoun are allowed to count as locally bound, they can’t do the same in other examples as e.g.:

<sup>4</sup> Many thanks to Pranav Anand who generously provided a handout of a talk he gave in April 2018 at UCSC from which I very liberally borrow.

<sup>5</sup> Heim actually discusses dream scenario cases but her discussion carries over to hope scenarios in both finite and infinitival cases. Note that in the tensed case, the pronoun is meant to refer to Oedipus *de se*.

<sup>6</sup> Speakers informally consulted or audiences at presentations of this work report that accent on the reflexive makes the *de re* reading of the reflexive more easily accessible (a remark also made in unpublished notes by Simon Charlow in 2009). However, lack of focus does not seem to exclude the *de re* reading. Why accent plays this role is discussed in Charnavel and Sportiche (2021).

- (5) Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes that his<sub>k</sub> daughter will find himself<sub>\*k</sub>/him<sub>k</sub>

Heim’s suggestion is that the non local antecedent is licit if it antecedes the intermediate, locally c-commanding pronoun if this pronoun is read *de se*, a suggestion fundamentally adopted in Sharvit (2011). Heim (1994) tentatively suggests the following (reformulated) generalization:<sup>7</sup>

- (6) A pronominal subject P read *de se* extends the local binding domain of an anaphor or a pronoun to include the antecedent of P.

This generalization or rather its effect is shared with Sharvit (2011) which proposes that Binding Theory is sensitive to two types of covaluation of arguments. Type I covaluation is the usual kind: two expressions are covalued just in case they have the same semantic value for the speaker. Type II covaluation takes (6) as primitive: Type II covaluation holds between two DPs if ‘one of them denotes an attitude holder and the other corresponds to the self of the attitude holder’ (Sharvit, 2011, p. 64). Local binding within the embedded clauses in (3) is thus posited to be allowed; the *de se* read subject locally binds the object in the examples under discussion under type II covaluation.

However, I will now show that:

The Heim/Sharvit suggestion is not necessary because there are well formed cases similar in structure to Heim’s 1994 examples but not involving any *de se* pronoun. I will document two kind of licit cases of apparent long distance binding as in (3) where the intervening subject is not read *de se*.<sup>8</sup>

The Heim/Sharvit suggestion is not sufficient because there are ill formed cases similar in structure to Heim’s 1994 examples which do involve a *de se* read expression. I will provide cases in which there is an intermediate *de se* expression as potential local binder for a reflexive which is insufficient to license the reflexive.

## 2.2 Intermediate *de se* not necessary: Generalizing Heim (1994), Sharvit (2011)

### 2.2.1 Inanimate Cases

To show that (6) is insufficiently general, it suffices to consider cases of inanimates. Consider the following scenario, a counterpart of the scenario with Oedipus, but involving mindless entities:

- (7) Radiating Bodies: In its system, this sun heats up other celestial bodies as well as itself, thanks to its atomic reactions. In turn, a celestial body heated by the sun radiates heat back to the sun, heating it up too. Lydia, pointing at a bright celestial body, says/thinks: ‘Without the sun heating it (this celestial body), the sun would cool down faster.’ Lydia is not realizing that the celestial body she is pointing at is the sun itself. But I am realizing it.  
I can report:

<sup>7</sup> Heim (1994) considers the possibility that the reflexive moves to its antecedent clause. Heim also suggest that the generalization in (6) could derive from *de se* subject deletion (which is semantically neutral, as semantically, [he<sub>l</sub> λ<sub>k</sub> [ he/PRO<sub>k</sub> γ]] = [ he<sub>l</sub> γ]). Both of these options are adequately criticized in Sharvit, 2011, section 2 p. 63 and section 5.2, respectively, so I will ignore them here.

<sup>8</sup> Such cases also pose problem for the proposal as formulated in Sauerland (2013).

- a. ✓ Lydia pense que sans PRO<sub>k</sub> se fournir de la chaleur, le soleil  
 ✓ Lydia thinks that without PRO<sub>k</sub> heating itself<sub>k</sub>, the sun<sub>k</sub>  
 refroidirait plus vite  
 would cool down faster
- b. \* Lydia pense que sans PRO<sub>k</sub> lui<sub>k</sub> fournir de la chaleur, le soleil  
 \* Lydia thinks that without PRO<sub>k</sub> heating it<sub>k</sub>, the sun<sub>k</sub>  
 refroidirait plus vite  
 would cool down faster

Sentence (7a) is well formed and true in this context: Condition A is satisfied. Its structure is similar to that of example (3a) but without any *de se* thought: *itself* is viewed by Lydia as not referring to the sun, while PRO does. Similarly, (7b) exhibits a condition B effect (but cf. footnote 2) without any *de se* thought.<sup>9</sup>

Given the control relation in (7), PRO and its controller *the sun* must be coreferential for Lydia. (3b) is the special case in which PRO and its controller must end up being coreferential for who the controller itself denotes.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Besides showing that *de se* in itself is not necessary, these examples remove a possible confound in English. French *se* cannot be an exempt reflexive but one could have envisioned that the animate reflexive in (3b) is exempt from condition A and anteceded long distance directly. If it were, it would have to be interpreted logophorically, (see Charnavel, 2020 or Charnavel, 2019b, Charnavel, 2019a), hence refer to a sentient entity. But this is precisely *not* true in such a case. This comes in addition to the fact that (i) the sentences (3) are out with pronouns (but this could have been argued to be due to a reflexive/pronoun competition); (ii) Also, sentence (5) is ill-formed, an unexpected observation if a reflexive in this position could indeed be exempt from condition A.

<sup>10</sup> In effect, Heim's 1994 examples illustrate that PRO and reflexives relate differently to their antecedents. Unlike PRO, reflexives do not generally have to be read *de se* or *de dicto omnibus*. The following is a closer minimal pair:

- i. a. Oedipus<sub>k</sub> expects PRO<sub>k</sub> to be punished  
 b. Oedipus<sub>k</sub> expects himself<sub>k</sub> to be punished

Sentence (7a) is false in the Oedipus scenario, while (7b) is true. This is corroborated by the minimal contrast between the following two examples:

- ii. a. (Only) Oedipus<sub>k</sub> expects PRO<sub>k</sub> to be punished  
 b. (Only) Oedipus<sub>k</sub> expects himself<sub>k</sub> to be punished

With *only*, the second sentence can be contradicted by *No, I expect him<sub>k</sub> to be punished too*, but the first one cannot be, felicitously.

While all the consulted speakers agree with these judgments, others reportedly disagree that the reflexive can be read *de re* e.g. Higginbotham (2003), or disagree if the reflexive is prosodically reduced, Hornstein and Pietroski (2010). There are good reasons to agree with a version of what Hornstein and Pietroski (2010) report: "weak" reflexives in the sense of Charnavel and Sportiche (2021) resist *de re* readings, see Charnavel and Sportiche (2021) or Sportiche (2022) for discussion. What needs to be controlled for is how speakers cluster regarding examples (16), (3), (7b) and (ii-b) above. I have not been able to duplicate these reported judgments (so I am not sure what to say for these speakers). As noted earlier, some speakers do report that accent on the reflexive makes the *de re* reading of the reflexive more easily accessible (see footnote 6).

This PRO/reflexive difference also holds in French:

- iii. a. (seul) Jean<sub>k</sub> croit PRO<sub>k</sub> avoir été élu  
 (only) Jean believes PRO to have been elected  
 b. (seul) Jean<sub>k</sub> se<sub>k</sub> croit élu  
 (only) Jean self believes elected

Only the latter can be denied by *No, Pierre le croit élu aussi*. The fact that this holds even though the marker of reflexivity is a clitic here (*se*), suggest that focal accent is not essential to the availability of *de re* readings.

It is hard to see how to handle (7) in terms of Sharvit’s 2011 Type II covaluation, but even if we could:

- #1 This would not tell us why Type II covaluation works.
- #2 It is insufficient to handle other cases not involving intermediate *de se* read pronouns, some pointed out in Charlow (2010), others by Philippe Schlenker (p.c.).

### 2.2.2 *De re* cases

To illustrate point #2 above, we look at cases not involving control relations, hence not involving the *de dicto omnibus* property.

First, we examine a case with a modified Oedipus scenario.

- (8) Oedipus has learned that Laius had a unique son without realizing that he himself is this son. He now thinks that Laius’s son, who he of course does not imagine is Laius’ killer, should take revenge by punishing Laius’s killer. Oedipus says/thinks: ‘Laius’s son should punish Laius’s killer’

I can truly report:

Amusant! Oedipe<sub>k</sub> pense qu’ il<sub>k</sub> devrait se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>\*k</sub> punir  
 Funny! Oedipus<sub>k</sub> thinks he<sub>k</sub><sup>1</sup> should punish himself<sub>k</sub><sup>2</sup> / him<sub>\*k</sub>

In Oedipus’s mind (that is in his modal alternatives), *he*<sup>1</sup> and *himself*<sup>2</sup> do not corefer and neither refers to him. So this should be a case of non local binding of *himself*<sup>2</sup> by *Oedipus*. But *he*<sup>1</sup> here is not read *de se*.

Philippe Schlenker’s examples (slightly modified here) make the same point with counterfactuals. The following examples all involving the reflexive *se* are well formed:

- (9) Context: Charles is interviewing with a recruiter who is my interlocutor - but even he (= Charles) isn’t too convinced that he should be hired. In fact...
  - a. À ta place, Charles ne s’embaucherait pas  
 in your place, Charles NE SE would-hire not  
 ‘In your place, Charles would not hire himself’
  - b. S’il était toi, Charles ne s’embaucherait pas  
 if he were you, Charles NE SE would-hire not  
 ‘If he were you, Charles would not hire himself’

These examples show that *se* can be licensed even if, according to the logic of Heim’s discussion, it cannot have any antecedent. In the counterfactual situations, there is no act of self-hiring. Rather, what happens is that my interlocutor (or her counterpart) does not hire Charles (or Charles’s counterpart). So *se* cannot be coindexed with *Charles*, as this would yield a reading of self-hiring. But it also cannot be coindexed with *toi*, since *se* has 3rd rather than 2nd person features.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Note also that even if it somehow could - change *in your place, if he were you to in his place, if he were him* there is no binder (no *c*-command) that could satisfy Condition A. This adds a reason not to adopt Heim’s long distance binding idea.

### 2.3 Intermediate *de se* binders not sufficient: *de se non de re* cases

Suppose we modify the story about Oedipus as follows where the modifications are shown in red:

- (10) Oedipus Scenario:  
Oedipus is under the delusion that he is the king of Athens and that it is his responsibility to search for the killer of his fellow king Laius, to punish him in order to satisfy the gods and end the plague. Athens is in fact a democracy and nobody but him believes that Athens has a king. Oedipus is in fact king of Thebes.

Oedipus, believing that he is talking about himself, while visiting Athens expresses his hope to a crowd as ‘The king of this city will punish the culprit’, referring to himself by his title (as kings, politicians and others sometimes do). In this context, Oedipus is expressing a hope about him *de se* and indeed I can truthfully report, using a PRO which must be read *de se*:

- (11) Oedipe<sub>k</sub> espère [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO<sub>k</sub> punir le coupable]  
 Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO to punish the culprit]

but if I report:

- (12) Oedipe<sub>k</sub> espère que [<sub>localdomain</sub>[le roi d’Athènes] \*se<sub>k</sub>/ √le<sub>k</sub> punira ]  
 Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [<sub>localdomain</sub> that [the king of Athens] will punish \*himself<sub>k</sub>/√him<sub>k</sub>]

the judgments are the opposite of those in (3b) - the reflexive is out and the pronoun is fine - even though *the king of Athens* is read *de se*. In this scenario, with object pronouns, coreference with Oedipus is fine. With reflexives, the reading of interest, true in this scenario, namely Oedipus hoping ‘I will punish Oedipus’ is not available.

### 2.4 Conclusion

The previous discussion shows that having an intermediate *de se* binder is neither necessary, nor sufficient. What then separates the good cases from the bad cases? These last examples provide a minimal pair showing what the relevant criterion is:

- (13) Oedipe<sub>k</sub> espère [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO<sub>k</sub> se<sub>k</sub>/le\*<sub>k</sub> punir]  
 Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO to punish himself<sub>k</sub>/lhim\*<sub>k</sub>]  
 (14) Oedipe<sub>k</sub> espère que [<sub>localdomain</sub>[le roi d’Athènes] \*se<sub>k</sub>/ √le<sub>k</sub> punira ]  
 Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [<sub>localdomain</sub> that [the king of Athens] will punish \*himself<sub>k</sub>/√him<sub>k</sub>]

Adopting the terminology in Sharvit (2004), note that in all cases, the reflexive and the pronoun are meant to be *de re* pronouns only: they pick out Oedipus for the speaker but not for Oedipus. Now in (13), *PRO* behaves like an implicit 1st person direct discourse pronoun (as in *Oedipus hopes: ‘I will punish him’*). This pronoun picks out Oedipus for Oedipus (whoever Oedipus may think he is), but it picks out the actual Oedipus for me the speaker, which the reflexive or the pronoun also do. The *de se* reading of *PRO* is (or can be) a subcase of a *de re* reading.

This is not the case in (14): here the expression *the king of Athens* picks up Oedipus for



Oedipus, but does not pick out anyone for me. It can be meaningfully read *de dicto* only. What seems to matter then is that both the reflexive (or the pronoun) and its local antecedent be read *de re*, that is as coreferential for the speaker. It should be clear that this handles the cases discussed so far.

But this will not handle further cases (e.g. the gryphon cases below, or FID or logophoric contexts cases). As we will see, the proposed generalization is that to be licensed (resp. counterlicensed) the reflexive (resp. the pronoun) and its local antecedent must be covalued for the same attitude holder (and not necessarily the speaker).

What follows provides a more explicit proposal.

### 3 Binding Theory

#### 3.1 How to satisfy Conditions A and B

Assume the Binding conditions A and B as standardly formulated:<sup>12</sup>

- (15) Binding Conditions
- a. Condition A: an anaphor must be bound in its local domain.
  - b. Condition B: a pronoun cannot be bound in its local domain.

Where (syntactic) binding is defined as c-command plus coindexing. Now, consider the following sentence, with indexing as indicated (where nobody is mistaken about who Flora is: *Flora* denotes Flora for all). Assume further that Flora invited exactly one person:

- (16) Charles thinks that  $Flora_k$  invited herself<sub>k</sub>

Coindexing is interpreted as the reflexive having the same semantic value as its antecedent: whoever *Flora* points to, *herself* points to the same person. The words used are the speaker's. A speaker meaning to convey truth and not believing that this identity relation held would not use a reflexive: such sentences always conveys identity of semantic value between the reflexive and its antecedent **according to** the speaker. In other words, covaluation between *Flora* and *herself* holds *de re*. This holds regardless of whether the speaker or Charles believes that the embedded proposition is true. But for the sentence to be true, the embedded proposition must be true for either Charles, or the speaker, or both. For example, my uttering (16) is truthful in the following contexts:

- (17) a. Charles thinks that Flora invited a person who I think is Flora but who he does not think is Flora (he may be unsure or think it is someone else)  
 b. Charles thinks that Flora invited a person who both I and he think is Flora  
 c. Charles thinks that Flora invited a person who he thinks is Flora but who I do not think is Flora (I may be unsure or think it is someone else)

(16) would be false in the following context:

- (18) Charles thinks that Flora invited a person who neither he thinks nor I think is Flora

---

<sup>12</sup> Recall that unless otherwise explicitly stated, I will also not worry about some licit apparent violations of Condition B of the kind discussed in Heim, 1993, Heim, 2007, Roelofsen, 2010 or Sharvit, 2014 until section 4, and some later in section 5.

Are there cases in a sentence is true only in context of the (17c) sort? The answer is positive. To be able to bring out cases such cases, we need to have the antecedent of the reflexive to have different denotations for Charles and me, the speaker. This can arise with descriptions that pick out different individuals for Charles and me, or with cases in which some description does not pick out anything for me.

So let us first consider descriptions, which may diverge in different worlds. Consider:

(19) Charles thinks that the best French girl in the class talked about herself (in her essay)

Assume that for Charles, the best French girl in the class is Flora, while for me the speaker, it is Leila. This sentence can mean either:

- (20) a. Charles thinks that Leila talked about Leila  
b. Charles thinks that Flora talked about Flora

The first meaning could arise in the following situations.

(i) Charles points at Leila and says: the topic of Leila's essay is her. I could report this by uttering (19) with *the best French girl in the class* read *de re*.

(ii) Charles points to someone who he mistakenly thinks is Leila and says: the topic of Leila's essay is her. I could report this by uttering (19) with *the best French girl in the class* read *de re*.

The second meaning could arise in the following situations.

(i) Charles points at Flora and says: the topic of Flora's essay is her. I could report this by uttering (19) with *the best French girl in the class* read *de dicto*.

(ii) Charles points to someone who he mistakenly thinks is Flora and says: the topic of Flora's essay is her. I could report this by uttering (19) with *the best French girl in the class* read *de dicto*.

In all these cases, there is covaluation of the reflexive and its local antecedent in the actual world. In all cases, whether *the best French girl in the class* is read *de re* (=Leila) or *de dicto* (=Flora), it denotes someone for me and the only requirement is that the reflexive denote this person too, whether she is correctly identified by Charles or not.

Note that this remain true even if we modify the context and assume that Charles thinks there are French girls in the class, but in fact there aren't any: *the best French girl in the class* does not denote anyone for me. But it does for Charles, namely Flora. If I know that this is who Charles means when he says *the best French girl in the class*, who Charles takes to be the best French girl in the class denotes Flora for me. I could truthfully report (19) with the second meaning in one of the second situations.

Note that the sentence (19) cannot be used to truthfully convey that Charles said: "Flora talked about Leila". The expression *the best girl in the class* does denote Leila *de re* but this is not who Charles was talking about. Here either there would no covaluation for anyone: the description picks out Flora *de dicto* but *herself* is meant to pick out Leila. Or, the report with the description picking out Leila *de re* would be false.<sup>13</sup>

Suppose I modify the scenario above and now assume that there are in fact no French girl in the class and Charles means to refer to someone but I have no idea who Charles mean by the expression *the best French girl in the class*. I can still truthfully utter (19) simply reporting Charles having said: 'the best French girl in the class talked about herself (in her

---

<sup>13</sup> This point cannot be made with proper names under the widespread assumption that they are rigid designators, in the sense of Kripke (1972).

essay)’. As long as Charles means to talk about someone real (whoever Charles means by ‘the best French girl’), there is covaluation in the actual world.

This state of affairs could be, and has been, taken to mean that covaluation must hold in the actual world, the world the speaker takes herself to live in, where by covaluation, we mean that each term has a denotation and these denotations are identical. But this would be an incorrect conclusion. To see this, we need to look at cases in which the antecedent of the reflexive has no denotation for the speaker.

This can be made conspicuous in the following kind of cases: suppose for example that Charles thinks that gryphons exist but I don’t and he says, talking about gryphons: ‘A gryphon grooms itself every morning’. I can say:

(21) Charles thinks that a gryphon<sub>k</sub> grooms itself<sub>k</sub> every morning

Here, *a gryphon* does not pick out any referent for me<sup>14</sup> but I take it does in Charles’s thoughts.<sup>15</sup> What this shows is that in principle, condition A may be required to hold for someone else than the speaker, and this should be in principle be detectable even in cases like (16), in which *Flora* has a denotation for me.

I will call cases in which the reflexive and its antecedent are covalued in the actual world *de re* covaluation or *de re* coreference. And I will call cases in which the reflexive and its antecedent are covalued in the thoughts of an attitude holder other than the speaker *de dicto* covaluation or *de dicto* coreference. As we will see, the latter can be shown to arise when the embedded clause is reported from the point of view of the attitude holder (other than the speaker). This is the case in (21), in Free Indirect Discourse, and more generally in logophoric contexts (an example of which (21) has to be).

These conclusions hold *mutatis mutandis* for pronominal binding. Suppose for example that I do not believe in ghosts but Charles does and thinks “every ghost haunts its castle, namely the castle it lives in”. I can still truthfully report: “Charles thinks that every ghost haunts its castle” with *its* bound by *every ghost*. Here I report Charles’ belief in a relation he thinks exists between ghosts and their castles, even though these terms have no denotation for me.

Similar considerations hold for condition B (where *Flora* invited exactly one person, namely herself):

(22) a. Charles thinks that Flora<sub>k</sub> invited her<sub>✓j/\*k</sub>  
 b. Charles thinks that a gryphon<sub>k</sub> grooms it<sub>✓j/\*k</sub> every morning

Both sentences are ill formed with coindexing: they violate Condition B. By using a pronoun (instead of reflexive) in (22a), the speaker signals that the denotations of *Flora* and *her* actually diverge. What Charles think does not matter: he may well think: ‘Flora invited herself and nobody else’. Sentence (22a) would still be well formed and true as long I the

<sup>14</sup> Note that we could not say that the reflexive and its antecedent are covalued for me, the speaker, in that they both have no value (one could imagine postulating a special entity in the actual world - the empty set - such that any expression picking it out is interpreted as having no actual referent). This would yield wrong results in variants of cases like (22b): Say Charles believes in gryphons and thinks that a gryphon grooms the gryphon in his backyard every morning. The sentence *Charles thinks that a gryphon grooms it (the gryphon in his backyard) every morning* would come out as ill formed because *a gryphon* and *it* would come out as covalued for me.

<sup>15</sup> This would be valid whether the relation between *a gryphon* and *itself* is one of coreference or semantic binding, as shown by *Charles thinks that every gryphon<sub>k</sub> grooms itself<sub>k</sub> every morning*.

speaker think that the person invited is not Flora. For the same reasons as above, to detect reported reference disjointness for the attitude holder, we must, in such simple cases, use an antecedent for the pronoun that has no denotation for the speaker. This is done in (22b). Here the sentence would be false if Charles thinks: ‘a gryphon grooms itself and nothing else’ (despite the fact that *a gryphon* and possibly the pronoun *it* have no denotation for me).

In conclusion:

- (23) When Condition B is satisfied in such a sentence as (22a) or (22b), the speaker reports that there is disjoint reference but this underspecifies in which worlds this holds. This could hold:
- a. in the actual world only, in which case the attitude holder is not aware that there is disjoint reference between the subject and the object of *invite*.
  - b. in both the actual world and the attitude holder’s modal alternatives in which case both the speaker and the attitude holder are aware of it.
  - c. in the attitude holder’s modal alternatives only in which case only the attitude holder believes that there is disjoint reference.

To summarize, when two expressions are coindexed or conindexing, the semantic co or contra valuation expressed will hold for the speaker if these expressions have a denotation for the speaker. But it could also hold for the attitude holder if these expressions are embedded in an attitude report. If these expressions do not denote for the speaker, semantic co or contra valuation will hold for the attitude holder for whom they do denote.

### 3.2 Formulating the binding conditions

From the above considerations, we conclude that a speaker using a locally bound reflexive or a non locally bound pronoun conveys that there is local coreference or local disjoint reference, but this does not say for whom coreference or disjoint reference is reported to hold. Sometimes it can mean coreference or disjoint reference in the thoughts or only in the thoughts of some attitude holder whose attitude is being reported. I will formulate the binding conditions accordingly. To illustrate cases involving expressions that unlike gryphons denote actual objects, I will build on a distinction made in Charnavel (2020) or Charnavel (2019b). In these works, a distinction is made between different ways of reporting the content of someone’s attitude, different points of view on the content conveyed: it can be reported from the point of view of the reporter, or it can be reported from the point of view of the attitude holder, or both, among other options. Furthermore, Charnavel (2020) shows that these options are syntactically encoded for binding theoretic reasons: for example a TP is or can be introduced by a logophoric operator, LOG, which takes the TP as complement, taking a silent subject anteceded by the point of view holder(s). For example, my uttering a simple sentence without embedding,

- (24) Flora invited Leila

expresses by default (which can be overridden, e.g. in FID, or other cases in which someone else’s thoughts are reported) my point of view about its content. Assuming a LOG operator is present at the edge of the main TP, scoping over the sentence and taking the speaker of

the main context as antecedent for its subject:<sup>16</sup>

- (25)  $[e_s [\text{LOG} [\text{Flora invited Lydia}]]]$  (with  $e_s = \text{speaker}$ )

Intuitively, we can read the import of  $[e_s [\text{LOG}]]$  as ‘as  $e_s$  would describe it’, or here (since  $e_s$  is the speaker) ‘as I would describe it’ or perhaps ‘I say’ as in ‘Flora invited Lydia, I say’. If the sentence contains an attitude report as in (26):

- (26) Charles thinks that Flora invited Lydia

I can present its entire content from my own point of view or I can present the embedded clause from the attitude holder’s point of view (or both, or other people’s under the right discourse circumstances). Sentence (26) is thus syntactically ambiguous:

First, I can present the entire content of this sentence from my point of view as shown below, where LOG operators taking the author coordinate of the main context as antecedent for its subject is present at the edge of the main TP, or at the edge of both TPs, as shown below:<sup>17</sup>

- (27) a.  $[e_s [\text{LOG} [\text{Charles thinks Flora invited Lydia}]]]$   
 b.  $[e_s [\text{LOG} [\text{Charles thinks } [e_s [\text{LOG} \text{Flora invited Lydia}]]]]]$

Intuitively, with such a structure, the sentence is (roughly) conveying that as I would describe it, Charles thinks that Flora invited Lydia or ‘Charles thinks that Flora invited Lydia, I say’.

I can also present some or all of the content that the attitude holder has thoughts about from his point of view: in (28a), the entire embedded TP is so presented. This is encoded by LOG, which means: ‘my complement is presented from the first personal perspective of my subject’. The intuition here is that (28a) is the most faithful indirect discourse rendition of (28b), where the direct quote unambiguously states Charles’ thought as Charles sees it:

- (28) a.  $[e_s [\text{LOG} [\text{Charles}_k \text{ thinks that } [e_k [\text{LOG} [\text{Flora invited Lydia}]]]]]]]$   
 b. Charles thinks: ‘Flora invited Lydia’  
 or to put it intuitively with indirect discourse:  
 c. As I would describe it, Charles thinks that, as he would describe it, Flora invited Lydia.

Charnavel (2020)’s reason for representing the LOG operator syntactically is based on the distribution and properties of so-called exempt anaphors. Empirically, Charnavel shows that they are subject to Condition A where the local binder is the subject of the logophoric operator, a syntactic condition, just like non exempt anaphors, and thus unifies their treatment in any language in which anaphors are underspecified as to whether they can be used logophorically or not.<sup>18</sup> At a more fundamental level, the reduction of the standard

<sup>16</sup> I may be simplifying the presentation in a way that does not impact the present discussion: Schlenker (1999) argues clauses are introduced by a larger set of contextual parameters  $\langle \text{author, addressee, world, ...} \rangle$  (encoded in C, say) providing contextual information about the author (who ‘I’ denotes) and his addressee(s) (who ‘you’ denotes) in each of such worlds, among other things. The antecedent of the subject of LOG may be the author coordinate of a context LOG is embedded under. I will return to this in section 6.

<sup>17</sup> The difference between these two representations does not matter here but it is possible to detect the presence of these LOG operators, e.g. by locality considerations.

<sup>18</sup> Based on work in Major (2021) on Uyghur and Avatime, a good case can also be made that these LOG operators can show overtly as *say* ‘complementizers’ crosslinguistically.

anaphoric status of expressions such as English *herself* or French *lui-même* to their containing the items *self*, *même*, a desideratum of any explanatory theory, requires treating their morphologically identical exempt counterparts as standard anaphors too, and thus subject to exactly the same structural licensing conditions (see Charnavel and Sportiche (2021) and Charnavel and Sportiche (2022) for recent suggestions how to achieve this).

Condition A and Condition B are syntactic conditions, as their appeal to locality considerations - a syntactic notion - show. Since I argue that it is essential to take point of view into account to evaluate whether Condition A and Condition B are satisfied for pronouns or non exempt anaphors, I too must assume that LOG operators are syntactically represented.<sup>19</sup>

With this background, we can now return to the examples (16), (21), (22a) and (22b). Starting with (21), the fact that I do not believe in gryphons means that I must adopt Charles's point of view when reporting the content of his beliefs regarding gryphons or pronouns denoting gryphons. In other words, (21) receives the following representation:

- (29) Charles<sub>p</sub> thinks that [e<sub>p</sub> [LOG [a gryphon<sub>k</sub> grooms itself<sub>k</sub> every morning]]

Intuitively, this reports Charles thinking, quote, a gryphon grooms itself every morning, unquote. This is only true if indeed Charles thinks so. So here there must be coreference for Charles but not for me since these terms have no denotation for me.

Giving these syntactic options, (16) repeated below in (30a) may receive one of the following two representations:

- (30) a. Charles thinks Flora invited herself  
 b. [e<sub>s</sub> [LOG [Charles thinks Flora<sub>k</sub> invited herself<sub>k</sub> ]]]<sup>20</sup>  
 c. [e<sub>s</sub> [LOG [Charles<sub>p</sub> thinks [e<sub>p</sub> [LOG [Flora<sub>k</sub> invited herself<sub>k</sub>]]]]]]

First, in both cases, there is a reflexive relation for me the speaker, namely that holding between Flora and what *herself* denotes (the reflexive relation is: R(x,x)= Charles thinks that x invited x). In addition, as stated earlier, my uttering (30a) with structure (30b) conveys that the relation I report as holding in Charles' thoughts is reflexive even if he does

<sup>19</sup> Let me note that I simplify the exposition here, regarding the exact distribution of logophoric operators, in ways that do not affect the discussion, more specifically, LOG operators need not scope over entire clauses, they may scope over smaller domains, roughly phases. Indeed, Charnavel's LOG operator, or Sharvit 2008's FID operator encode the first personal perspective of the attitude holder whose perspective is reported. This should normally preclude *de re non de dicto* ascriptions in their scope. In fact, some *de re* ascriptions are allowed to leak through (FID's are a subset of other LOG operators's), e.g. first person features, suggesting that these LOG operators need not scope over certain portions of these "embedded" contexts. I will briefly return to this in the case of FID in section 5 but I will otherwise not discuss this question. Since we are focusing here on binding relations, what will matter here is whether a binder and a bindee are each presented from the point of view of the same individual(s). It will thus suffice here to see whether both are within the scope of a single LOG operator (although having each with the scope of its own LOG operator with covalued subjects would suffice). Thus instead of (a) below, the representation may have to be (b):

- (i) [Charles<sub>k</sub> thinks [that [e<sub>k</sub>[LOG[ DP<sub>1</sub> invited DP<sub>2</sub>]]]]]  
 (ii) [Charles<sub>k</sub> thinks [that [e<sub>k</sub>[LOG[ DP<sub>1</sub>]]] invited [e<sub>k</sub>[LOG[ DP<sub>2</sub>]]]]]

In a related point, I also ignore the connection between concept generators in the sense of Percus and Sauerland (2003a) and logophoric operators: they may well be exactly the same objects, both syntactically represented, although with a more specified syntax for the latter.

<sup>20</sup> This representation is perhaps a simplification of:  
 (i) [e<sub>s</sub> [LOG [Charles thinks [e<sub>s</sub> [LOG [ Flora<sub>k</sub> invited herself<sub>k</sub> ]]]]]]  
 where there is a LOG operator at each TP. I will ignore this difference here.

not realize that it is. The expressed proposition would be true in all situations in (17) except (17c).

My uttering the sentence with structure (30c) conveys that there is a reflexive relation in Charles’s thoughts that he is aware of, as intuitively, this representation encodes that Charles thinks: ‘Flora invited herself’. The expressed proposition would be true in all situations in (17) but (17a). Since (30b) and (30c) are string identical, we do not know which we are dealing (but, as we will see below, it is possible to disambiguate).

To summarize, in a well formed sentence,

- (i) an anaphor must be reported by the speaker to be covalued with a local c-commanding antecedent, and
- (ii) this covaluation must hold for the attitude holders (that is, in all of their modal alternatives) such that the anaphor and its antecedent are in the immediate scope of a LOG operator representing these attitude holders’s point of view on the content of their thoughts. Call any such attitude holder ‘relevant attitude holder’. This is saying that an anaphor must be reported by the speaker to be covalued with a local c-commanding antecedent for relevant attitude holders *de dicto*.

This does not exclude simultaneous covaluation *de re*: if the antecedent of the reflexive has a denotation for the speaker, covaluation between them will hold *de re* too since the speaker, by choosing a reflexive, conveys that there must be covaluation, hence for himself.

Given a pair of DPs  $(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $\alpha$  a local binder of  $\beta$  a reflexive, there is a unique LOG operator in whose immediate scope this pair is found (else Condition A cannot be satisfied). This LOG operator requires the content of its complement to be reported from the first personal point of view of this LOG’s pronominal subject. As a pronoun, this subject may denote a single individual, in which case there is a unique relevant attitude holder. But this subject may denote a set of people (e.g. have a plural antecedent or split antecedents), in which case there is a set of relevant attitude holders. In what follows, I will stay away from such cases but an extension covering them seems straightforward.

The same consideration applies to Condition B, *mutatis mutandis*. Syntactically, sentence (31a) can have the following representations (among other possibilities):

- (31) a. Charles thinks Flora invited her
- b.  $[e_s \text{ [LOG [Charles thinks Flora}_k \text{ invited her}_k \text{ ]}] ]]$
- c.  $[e_s \text{ [LOG [Charles}_p \text{ thinks [e}_p \text{ [LOG [Flora}_k \text{ invited her}_k \text{ ]}] ]]] ]]$
- d.  $[e_s \text{ [LOG [Charles}_p \text{ thinks [e}_{s,p} \text{ [LOG [Flora}_k \text{ invited her}_k \text{ ]}] ]]] ]]$

Suppose I the speaker know that Flora invited exactly one person. What (31b) conveys, is my belief that Charles thinks that Flora invited someone who is not Flora. What (31c) conveys is my belief that in Charles’s thoughts, Flora invited some other person. The invited person may however well be believed by the speaker to be Flora herself. This makes condition B effects seemingly disappear! Finally, sentence (31d) conveys my belief that the person invited by Flora is not Flora for Charles or me. I return to such cases in section 4 below.

We can reformulate the binding conditions as follows:<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Semi formal considerations: granting that the binding conditions should be stated as we do, the binding theory looks at co- or contra- indexing patterns, interpreted as co- or contra- valuation for particular attitude holders. This raises the question of how this latter notion should be formally encoded. There are at least two ways to go about it. Deciding which is more suitable depends on other, complex issues, that are way beyond the scope of the present article, so I simply informally outline what they are which

- (32) Relativized Binding Conditions (RB Conditions or RBC)
- a. Condition A: An anaphor must be covalued with a local binder for some relevant attitude holder.
  - b. Condition B: A pronoun cannot be covalued with a local binder for any relevant attitude holder.

### 3.3 Detecting logophoric contexts

Since (30b) and (30c) are string identical, we do not know which we are dealing with. But we can disambiguate and test the binding conditions in (32) using exempt anaphors.

An exempt anaphor X is a licit, anaphor looking, expression which has a non local antecedent A. We adopt the conclusions in Charnavel (2020) or Charnavel (2019b) which argue that in such cases, X is anaphoric: it is in fact locally bound by the pronominal subject of a LOG operator, itself anteceded by A (thereby unifying the behavior of all anaphors under Condition A). Abstractly, this is illustrated in (33), where  $lbd(X)$  means local binding domain of X:

$$(33) A_k \dots [lbd(X) [e_k [\text{LOG} [ \dots X_k \dots ]]]]$$

Given that LOG encodes the first person perspective of its subject  $e_k$  anteceded by A, X must be read as referring to A from A's perspective, that is must be read *de se*. Two examples of such anaphors are the French expressions *son propre Y/his own Y* (where Y it is understood to contrast with others' Ys) and *lui-même /himself/ lit. him-same*. Following Charnavel and Sportiche (2016), with an animate antecedent, these anaphors can be exempt - this is exemplified in (34a) - while they can't be with an inanimate antecedent. (34b) illustrates one case of exemption and how it is analyzed:

- (34) a. Charles pense que sa propre maison fait de l'ombre sur l'église.  
 Charles thinks that his own house casts a shadow on the church
- b.  $\text{Charles}_k$  pense que  $[e_k [\text{LOG} [ \text{sa}_k \text{ propre maison fait de l'ombre sur l'église}]]]$

---

we can illustrate by returning to example such as (21) and similar cases. Recall that Charles thinks that gryphons exist but I don't and has certain beliefs about gryphons that I reports as:

- i. a. Charles thinks that a gryphon<sub>k</sub> grooms itself<sub>k</sub> every morning
- b. Charles thinks that a gryphon<sub>k</sub> grooms its<sub>k</sub> chicks every morning

The question does not arise if coindexation codes semantic binding. Indeed, in such a case the embedded clause would fit the format *a gryphon  $\lambda x$ . x grooms x/x's chicks every morning* and the indices play no role other than to indicate that the same variable is used. If however we are dealing with coreference, we would need to specify the referential role played by the index k.

One way to do so would be to assume that quite generally, attitude predicates quantify over assignment functions. This would generalize Sharvit, 2008's treatment of the FID operator - actually beyond what she proposes - but in ways consistent with what is proposed in Groenendijk et al. (1996) (see Buring, 1998 however). Coindexation could then be directly interpreted as identity of referential value for the relevant attitude holder, so the index k here would signal coreference for Charles (and k would not map to anything for me). The alternative would be to deny that coreference is ever involved and to treat apparent cases of coreference as involving e-type pronouns. Thus, in a sentence like:

- ii. John thinks that there is a gryphon<sub>k</sub> in his back yard, and he says that it<sub>k</sub> is grouchy

We would treat  $it_k$  as e-type, standing for *the gryphon that John thinks is in his backyard*.



We are now in position to test the prediction made by the formulation of the binding conditions in (32). We adopt the descriptive version of Condition A defended in Charnavel and Sportiche (2016). This states that an anaphor must be bound within the spellout domain of the phase containing it, which may be a CP, a vP, or a DP with subject (very roughly, TP, VP and NP, respectively). Concomitantly, Charnavel (2019b) shows that LOG operators can be found at the edge of the spell out domain of each of these phases. The embedded clause in (34b) now expresses the perspective of Charles. We thus expect that Conditions A and B will have to be satisfied in Charles' s modal alternatives. These predictions can be showed to be fulfilled for Condition A and Condition B.

- (35) Context: Looking at a picture showing several buildings, Charles takes one of them to be his house casting a shadow only on the adjacent church. He points at the shaded part, which he takes to be the church and says: ‘See, my house but not the neighbor’s is casting a shadow on it’. He has correctly identified his house but not the shaded building: the shaded part in fact is a portion of his house. I can truthfully report (35a) or (35b) but not (35c):<sup>22</sup>
- a. Charles<sub>k</sub> pense que [sa<sub>k</sub> propre maison]<sub>m</sub> fait de l’ombre sur l’église  
Charles thinks that his own house casts a shadow on the church
  - b. Charles<sub>k</sub> pense que [sa<sub>k</sub> maison]<sub>m</sub> fait de l’ombre sur elle-même<sub>m</sub>  
Charles thinks that his house casts a shadow on itself
  - c. Charles<sub>k</sub> pense que [sa<sub>k</sub> propre maison]<sub>m</sub> fait de l’ombre sur elle-même<sub>m</sub>  
Charles thinks that his own house casts a shadow on itself
  - d. Charles<sub>k</sub> pense que [e<sub>k</sub> [LOG [sa<sub>k</sub> propre maison]<sub>m</sub> fait de l’ombre sur elle-même<sub>m</sub>]]

The minimal contrast is that between (35b) and (35c). In the former, the coreference relation can be read *de re*. In the latter, because of the exempt anaphor, the embedded TP must be presented from Charles' s point of view, as shown in (35d). If Condition A was not required to hold for Charles, *itself* could pick out *sa propre maison* as antecedent - thus satisfying the classic Condition A for me (*de re*) - but not for Charles. The sentence would mean: Charles thinks that his house casts a shadow on a building which (he wrongly thinks is the church but) is in fact his house.

But this sentence is judged false: this shows that *itself* must pick out *sa propre maison* as antecedent for Charles, that is that Condition A must be satisfied for Charles. Thus the sentence must mean: Charles thinks that his house casts a shadow on a building which he takes to be his house itself. This falsely entails that Charles is aware that a shadow is cast on his house.

We can illustrate the same pattern in a different syntactic configuration, with a different anaphor.

- (36) Context: Looking at a picture showing reconstructed houses after an earthquake with some ruins still visible. Charles thinks that they rebuilt his house, not the neighbor’s house, on the ruins of the church: pointing at ruins next to his house, he says: ‘See, the ruins of the church. They reconstructed my house, not the neighbor’s house, on top of them’ But he is mistaken. In fact, it ’s been rebuilt where it was.
- a. Il pense qu’ on a reconstruit sa propre maison sur les ruines de l’église.  
He thinks that they rebuilt his own house on the ruins of the church

<sup>22</sup> In the context, *sa propre maison* / *his own house* contrasts with the neighbor’s: this guarantees that *son propre* behaves like an anaphor - see Charnavel (2012). This also applies to the next few examples.

- b.  $\Pi_k$  pense que on a reconstruit  $[sa_k \text{ maison}]_m$  sur  $ses_m$  propres ruines.  
He thinks that they rebuilt his house on its own ruins
- c.  $\Pi_k$  pense que on a reconstruit  $[sa_k \text{ propre maison}]_m$  sur  $ses_m$  propres ruines.  
He thinks that they rebuilt his own house on its own ruins
- d.  $\Pi_k$  pense que  $[e_k$  [LOG [on a reconstruit  $sa_k$  propre maison sur  $ses_m$  propres ruines]]]

Sentences (36a) is true and (36b), where we replaced *les ruines de l'église* by *ses propres ruines* is also true, with the PP is read *de re* in both cases. But if we replace *les ruines de l'église* by *ses propres ruines* in (36c), the syntax must be as in (36d). The inanimate *ses propres (ruines)* is a plain anaphor. If Condition A was not required to hold for Charles, *ses / its* could pick out *sa propre maison* as antecedent for me - thus satisfying Condition A - but not for Charles, yielding a true sentence. But if Condition A must be satisfied for Charles, *its* must pick out *sa propre maison* as antecedent for Charles. This entails that Charles is aware that his house was rebuilt where it was. In this context, this is, correctly, predicted false.

As for Condition B, I will discuss it in the context of Heim's examples below in in section 4.

## 4 Back to the initial puzzles

Let us now return to Heim's puzzles and review the cases we discussed in connection with these puzzles. Consider again the original cases in (3) beginning with the reflexive/condition A cases only.

- (37) a. Oedipe<sub>k</sub> espère qu' [<sub>localdomain</sub> il<sub>k</sub> se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>\*k</sub> punira ]  
Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes that [<sub>localdomain</sub> he will punish himself<sub>k</sub>/him<sub>\*k</sub> ]
- b. Oedipe espère [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO<sub>k</sub> se<sub>k</sub> punir ]  
Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [<sub>localdomain</sub> PRO to punish himself<sub>k</sub> ]

Because sentence (37b) with the reflexive involves a PRO which must be read *de se* in such contexts, PRO functions like 'I' in the direct discourse paraphrase of (37b) *Oedipus hopes 'I will punish the killer'*. As a result, for Oedipus, PRO (like 'I' in the paraphrase) denotes who Oedipus thinks he is (in each of his modal alternatives) and PRO denotes Oedipus for me the speaker. This means that, although PRO and the reflexive are not covalued for Oedipus (that is *de dicto* for Oedipus), they are covalued for me (that is *de re*, or equivalently *de dicto* for the speaker).<sup>23</sup> This is sufficient to satisfy Condition A. So this puzzle disappears. The inanimate cases of reflexives discussed in section 2.2.1 can be handled the same way given that PRO and its antecedent must be the same entity for the speaker (or if we embedded such sentences in an attitude report for the attitude holder). Consider again the case in (12). If I report:

- (12) Oedipe<sub>k</sub> espère que [<sub>localdomain</sub> [le roi d'Athènes] \*se<sub>k</sub>/√le<sub>k</sub> punira ]  
Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [<sub>localdomain</sub> that [the king of Athens] will punish \*himself<sub>k</sub>/√him<sub>k</sub> ]

There is neither coreference for the speaker (the embedded subject does not pick out anyone while the object picks out Oedipus), nor for Oedipus (the embedded subject picks out Oedi-

<sup>23</sup> Note that even if the content of the infinitive is presented exclusively from Oedipus's point of view, PRO still refers to Oedipus for the speaker: this is one case of *de re* ascriptions apparently leaking from under logophoric operators, which raises questions beyond the scope of the present article.

pus, but the object does not in the context). So the reflexive yields a false statement. As mentioned earlier, the analysis of all these cases default to that in [Charlow \(2010\)](#) (which takes it that only *de re* covaluation matters).

Let us turn to the pronoun/condition B cases and let us begin with the case in (12). We observe no condition B. Superficially this looks surprising because both the subject and the object pick out Oedipus. But they do it in different worlds: there is no single world in which they corefer. So condition B is not violated.

Turn to the case (38) with the pronoun.

- (38) Oedipe espère [*localdomain* PRO<sub>k</sub> le<sub>\*k</sub> punir ]  
 Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [*localdomain* PRO to punish him<sub>\*k</sub>]

For the sentence to satisfy Condition B, it must be possible to construe the sentence so that PRO and the pronoun are not covalued for anyone relevant. Given the above discussion, PRO must refer to Oedipus for the speaker. Given that the pronoun is meant to refer to the killer *de re* but not *de dicto*, there should be a Condition B violation. But the judgements actually fluctuate. This would mean that the star in (37b) (which Heim actually rates ?\*, possibly for this reason) requires discussion. Indeed, (38), seems fine if we modify it as follows:

- (39) Quant au tueur, Oedipe espère [ PRO le punir ]  
 As for the killer, Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [ PRO to punish him]

I suggest that the use of the description “the killer” is pragmatically meant to facilitate placing oneself in an “as if” situation where being Oedipus and being the killer do not pick out the same person, that is as adopting Oedipus’ s point of view. Thus, “as for the killer” can be taken to mean “as for the killer, who Oedipus does not know is him”. This acts as a licensing condition to report the content of the infinitive from Oedipus’ s point of view, thus not triggering a Condition B violation.

Because of the availability of this option, I will now report the judgments with pronouns as #\*, to indicate that whether condition B is violated or not depends on whose point of view is adopted.

This approach seems extendable to other cases. Indeed, [Sharvit \(2011, p. 63-64\)](#) writes:

‘As is well known, Condition B may often be obviated in special circumstances...  
 Another case where Condition B may be obviated is when the preceding discourse makes it possible to interpret the pronoun as a ‘paycheck’ (or E-type) pronoun...’

[Sharvit \(2011, p. 63-64\)](#) provides the following sentence with the indicated minimal pair of contexts:

- (40) Context: McCain visits three different female politicians: Sarah Palin, Hilary Clinton, and Caroline Kennedy. He knows that they suffer from severe memory loss. He wants to guarantee that Palin’s ballot says ‘Sarah Palin’, Clinton’s ballot says ‘Hilary Clinton’, and Kennedy’s ballot says ‘Caroline Kennedy’, so he gives each one of them a picture of herself. None of them recognizes herself in the picture. After he leaves, we ask each of them who she will vote for. Each one of them, while pointing at her own picture, says: ‘Certainly not for this woman.’ So we know he failed with all of them.

- a. \*McCain didn't convince any amnesiac female politician to vote for her.
- b. McCain showed every amnesiac female politician a picture of a woman, namely, herself. Still, ✓He didn't convince any one of them to vote for her.

Sharvit (2011) reports that Condition B is violated in the first case but that the second case is fine, as the second context provides an explicit way (namely the linguistic expression 'a picture of a woman': the so called 'formal link') to identify which woman is shown in each case, namely 'the woman in the picture' in each instance. While PRO and *her* are actually coreferential, the existence of such a description makes it possible to understand *her* as picking out that woman.

Note that the supplied description does not just help construe the pronoun as bound by its antecedent in the relevant way. Indeed, the first sentence becomes fine if we remove condition B's structural description, that is, if we modify the first context as follows:

- (41) Context: McCain visits three different men, the husbands of Sarah Palin, Hilary Clinton, and Caroline Kennedy. He knows that they suffer from severe memory loss. He wants to guarantee that Palin's husband's ballot says 'Sarah Palin', Clinton's husband's ballot says 'Hilary Clinton', and Kennedy's husband's ballot says 'Caroline Kennedy', so he gives each one of them a picture of his wife. None of them recognizes his wife in the picture. After he leaves, we ask each of them who he will vote for. Each one of them, while pointing at his wife's picture, says: 'Certainly not for this woman.' So we know he failed with all of them.  
 ✓McCain didn't convince any amnesiac man to vote for his wife

So the licensed description remove the condition B violation in the second case. But why? Using it is perfectly fine as in *McCain showed every amnesiac female politician a picture of a woman. Still, he didn't convince any one of them to vote for the woman in the picture.* And this is fine regardless of whether the woman in question is 'herself' or not. A suggestion in line with what was said about example (39) above is that the availability of the description 'the woman in the picture' (in each instance) allows presenting the content of the infinitive from the point of view of someone who ignores that the woman in the picture is herself. So such cases would reduce to what was previously seen. This suggestion now makes a prediction: it should be difficult to have an exempt anaphor in the infinitive referring back to McCain, since this would require the content of the infinitive being presented from his point of view.

To check this prediction in French, we slightly modify the context as shown below:

- (42) Context: McCain visits three different female politicians Ð Sarah Palin, Hilary Clinton, and Caroline Kennedy. He knows that they suffer from severe memory loss. He wants to guarantee that Palin will support Sarah Palin, Clinton will support Hilary Clinton and Kennedy will support Caroline Kennedy, **in addition to supporting his (McCain's) allies**. So he gives each one of them a picture of herself. None of them recognizes herself in the picture. After he leaves, we ask each of them who they will support. Each one of them, while pointing at her own picture, says: 'Certainly not this woman.' So we know he failed with all of them.
  - a. McCain<sub>m</sub> n'a convaincu [aucune femme politicienne amnésique]<sub>k</sub> de la\*<sub>k</sub> soutenir elle et ses<sub>m</sub> alliés.  
 McCain<sub>m</sub> didn't convince [any amnesiac female politician]<sub>k</sub> to support her<sub>k</sub> and his<sub>m</sub> allies.

- b. McCain<sub>m</sub> a montré à chaque femme politicienne amnésique la photo d’une femme. Malgré cela, il n’ a convaincu [aucune d’ entre elles]<sub>k</sub> de la<sub>✓k</sub> soutenir elle et ses<sub>m</sub> alliés.  
 McCain<sub>m</sub> showed every amnesiac female politician a picture of a woman. Still he didn’t convince [any of them]<sub>k</sub> to support her<sub>✓k</sub> and his<sub>m</sub> allies.
- c. McCain<sub>m</sub> a montré à chaque femme politicienne amnésique la photo d’une femme. Malgré cela, il n’ a convaincu [aucune d’ entre elles]<sub>k</sub> de la<sub>\*k</sub> soutenir elle et ses<sub>m</sub> **propres** alliés.  
 McCain<sub>m</sub> showed every amnesiac female politician a picture of a woman. Still he didn’t convince [any of them]<sub>k</sub> to support her<sub>\*k</sub> and his<sub>m</sub> **own** allies.

The first two French examples function like their English counterparts: the first example is a Condition B violation, the second, providing a licensing description, is not. The crucial example is the third one. This third example is degraded as compared to the second, in that it is harder to ignore the Condition B effect. We can explain this as follows: the addition of the exempt anaphor *ses propres alliés* requires that the infinitive (in fact at least the object DP) be presented from McCain’s perspective. This conflicts with the pronoun in it having to be presented from the perspective of the female politicians to avoid a Condition B violation.

It should be clear how this discussion generalizes to pronoun cases in (7) essentially without modification.<sup>24</sup> Consider finally the case of (8) repeated below:

- (8) Oedipus has learned that Laius had a son without realizing that he himself is this son. He now thinks that Laius’s son, who he of course does not imagine is Laius’ killer, should take revenge by punishing Laius’s killer. Oedipus says/thinks: ‘Laius’s son should punish Laius’s killer’

I can truly report:

Amusant! Oedipe<sub>k</sub> pense qu’ il<sub>k</sub> devrait se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>#\*k</sub> punir  
 Funny! Oedipus<sub>k</sub> thinks he<sub>k</sub><sup>1</sup> should punish himself<sub>k</sub><sup>2</sup> / him<sub>#\*k</sub>

In this scenario, in Oedipus’s mind (that is in his modal alternatives), *he*<sup>1</sup> and *himself*<sup>2</sup> do not corefer and neither refers to him. However, they are read as coreferential for me the speaker, that is as Oedipus in fact. Indeed, while Oedipus could truthfully utter his thought as: “Laius’s son should punish Laius’s killer”, I could truthfully report his thought as “Oedipus actually thinks that Oedipus should punish Oedipus”. The reasoning is the same as in the previous case. If we understand the embedded clause to be presented from my point of view, (8) meets the RB Condition A since I take these two pronouns to be covalued for me. The #\* diacritic on the pronoun case is meant to encode that it is easy enough to remove a condition B violation by construing the pronoun *de dicto* only, as in [*As for Laius’s killer*]<sub>k</sub>, *Oedipus thinks he should punish him*<sub>k</sub>.

Examples similar to (8) are already discussed in unpublished work (from 2009) by Simon Charlow to motivate a proposal concerning anaphor binding equivalent to the present one in (8) and similar cases but not generally. Charlow’s proposal assumes that anaphor binding only cares about what the speaker thinks, that is about the values that DPs have when evaluated outside the scope of any intensional operators. This proposal is insufficient as

<sup>24</sup> There is substantial literature discussing the possibility of obviation of Condition B, see Lakoff, 1972, Evans, 1980, Reinhart, 1983, Grodzinsky and Reinhart, 1993, Heim, 1993, Roelofsen, 2008, Schlenker, 2005, i.a. Given the text, it is tempting to extend the treatment proposed here to more cases condition B case types, as well as some Condition C cases, perhaps in future work.

Sharvit (2011) pointed out: it cannot handle cases where what non-speakers think matter, a point Sharvit (2011) makes by discussing FID cases to which we return. This point is also made by the logophoric context cases we discussed above.<sup>25</sup>

So we fundamentally agree with Sharvit (2011).<sup>26</sup> Where we differ with Sharvit’s 2011 proposal is that we take the FID (or more generally the logophoric) cases as illustrating the general case, covering Heim’s basic cases without the need to appeal to intermediate *de se* binders.

Overall then, what seems to matter for the binding conditions to be satisfied is whether covaluation is correctly reported to hold in at least one person’s thoughts (this is why indirect discourse is crucially different from direct discourse), where this someone may be but need not be the speaker. This is the gist of the present proposal.

## 5 Free Indirect Discourse Cases

All the cases but a couple (namely (49) and (51)) in this section are discussed in Sharvit (2011) from which the text in this section extensively and **literally** borrows. I also modify

<sup>25</sup> The case can be also be made by “embedding” the *de re* cases in (8).

- (i) Scenario: We are in scenario (1) to which we add that Oedipus’ daughter Antigone is in the same epistemic state as Oedipus, but Tiresias the blind prophet knows the truth. Oedipus states: I hope I will punish the killer’ and both Tiresias and Antigone say they believe he does. I report:
- a. Oedipus<sub>k</sub> espère [*localdomain* PRO se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>##k</sub> punir ]  
Oedipus<sub>k</sub> hopes [*localdomain* PRO to punish himself<sub>k</sub>/him<sub>##k</sub>]
  - b. Antigone pense que le fils de Laius<sub>k</sub> espère [*localdomain* PRO se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>##k</sub> punir ]  
Antigone thinks that the son of Laius<sub>k</sub> hopes [*localdomain* PRO to punish himself<sub>k</sub>/him<sub>##k</sub>]
  - c. Tirésias pense que le fils de Laius<sub>k</sub> espère [*localdomain* PRO se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>##k</sub> punir ]  
Tiresias thinks that the son of Laius<sub>k</sub> hopes [*localdomain* PRO to punish himself<sub>k</sub>/him<sub>##k</sub>]

Paying attention to covaluation for the speaker works for the first two examples. In (i-a), Oedipus hopes ‘I will punish the killer’. As far as I am concerned, PRO denotes the actual Oedipus. This last property makes PRO qualify as an antecedent for the reflexive: they are covalued for me. Similarly, in (i-b), *the son of Laius* is read *de re* (as Antigone thinks Laius had no son) hence the judgements (at least as long as I, the speaker, believe that the killer is the son of Laius; if not, the sentence is simply false).

But consider (i-c) and suppose now that \*I\* think Laius had no son, I am merely reporting what Tiresias said (namely ‘the son of Laius hopes to punish himself). Since Tiresias also takes PRO to refer to Oedipus, binding is local. The judgments remain as indicated even though there is no covaluation for me the speaker: what matters is not what I think, what matters is what Tiresias thinks.

Similarly consider (ii):

- (ii) Suppose further that Tiresias is under the mistaken impression that Oedipus is the king of Athens, whereas I know that Athens has no king. Tiresias says: the king of Athens hopes to punish himself. I have no idea who he means by *the king of Athens* and so who Tiresias means by *himself*, yet I can truthfully report:
- Tirésias pense que [le roi d’Athènes]<sub>k</sub> espère [*localdomain* PRO se<sub>k</sub>/le<sub>##k</sub> punir ]  
Tiresias thinks that [the king of Athens]<sub>k</sub> hopes [*localdomain* PRO to punish himself<sub>k</sub>/him<sub>##k</sub>]

The anaphor is fine and the pronoun is not. Yet, there is no *de re* option available since there is no king of Athens: what derives these facts is that the antecedent of PRO, hence PRO, must be read *de dicto* only relative to Tiresias, like the reflexive. Once again, requiring coreference for the speaker is too strong.

Finally, modify this very last scenario and assume now that Tiresias does not know that Oedipus is the killer and says: the king of Athens hopes to punish himself. Now the judgements in (ii) for the reflexive is reversed. The reason is that there is no thinker for whom covaluation holds.

<sup>26</sup> Sharvit also notes that this proposal does not handle Condition B effects, but I argued otherwise, at least in some cases.

some examples slightly to be able to make the point in French. The point here is to illustrate that the RBC as stated in (32) can handle them, in particular the contrast between first and third person in F(ree) I(ndirect) D(iscourse).

Sharvit (2011) brings some complex examples involving FID to bear on the proper formulation of the binding theory to show that a variety of proposals face challenges, in particular that of Charlow (2010) according to which the binding theory cares only about the speaker's beliefs. As mentioned, the current proposal is equivalent to proposals taking the point of view of the speaker only in simple examples. However, it allows paying attention to attitude holders other than the speaker and this is relevant in FID.

F(ree) I(ndirect) D(iscourse) is a form of reported speech or thought that seems to be a hybrid of S(tandard) I(ndirect) D(iscourse) (embedding by an attitude verb such as *say*, *believe*, *convince*, *suggest*, *dream*, etc.) and quotation, as illustrated below (for discussion, see Banfield (1982), Doron (1991), Schlenker (1999), Sharvit (2008), Eckardt (2014) and references therein).

- (43) ‘Do you love me?’ asked Flora.
- a. FID: Elie answered with great passion. Yes, he loved her, and he would definitely marry her, if not today then tomorrow.
  - b. SID: Elie answered with great passion that he loved her, and he would definitely marry her, if not that day then the next day.

The sequence *Yes he loved her and he would definitely marry her if not today then tomorrow* is FID. We infer from it that Elie said ‘Yes, I love you, and I will definitely marry you, if not today then tomorrow’. If we wanted to report this using SID, we would say something along the lines of ‘Elie confirmed that he loved her and said that he would definitely marry her, if not that day then the following day’. In some respects (e.g. the fact that the speaker-oriented *yes* and the time adverbials *today* and *tomorrow* reflect Elie's point of view), the FID sequence resembles the corresponding quotation. In other respects (e.g. the fact that the third person pronouns *he* and *she* take the place of *I* and *you* in the corresponding quotation), the FID sequence resembles the corresponding SID sequence.

FID-Control constructions license third person reflexives in *de se* situations but not in *de re* situations. Thus, (44a) is a well-formed continuation of Flora wishing she could go back to her singing days that uses quotation, (44b) is a well-formed continuation that uses SID and (44c) is a well-formed FID continuation. All three continuations report a *de se* thought.<sup>27</sup>

- (44) Flora wished she could go back to her singing days and be proud of herself again.
- a. She thought: ‘Ah! To hear myself sing and be proud of myself again!’
  - b. She wanted to hear herself sing and be proud of herself again.
  - c. Elle était pleine de nostalgie. Ah! s'entendre chanter et être fière  
She was filled with longing. Ah! To hear herself sing and be proud  
d'elle-même de nouveau!  
of herself again!

By contrast, the FID *To hear herself sing again* is unacceptable as reporting a *de re* thought,

<sup>27</sup> As mentioned, almost all of the following examples come from Sharvit (2011). I adapt them to French: in French, *me* can stand either for a 1st person pronoun or a reflexive. To make the difference conspicuous, I use the complement of an adjective (here, *fier/proud*), where the pronoun *elle*, *lui*, *moi* and the reflexive *elle-même*, *lui-même*, *moi-même* are different.

as shown by (45c); but the corresponding SID in (45b) is acceptable.

- (45) Flora was listening to an old recording of hers on the radio, not recognizing her own voice. The radio suddenly stopped playing, and she was disappointed that she couldn't make it play again.
- a. She thought: 'Ah! To hear this woman sing again!'
  - b. She wanted to hear herself sing again.
  - c. Elle était frustrée. \*Ah! S'entendre chanter encore!  
She was frustrated. \*Ah! To hear herself sing again!

Why do we find this pattern? To address this question, I will assume some of Sharvit's 2008 relevant descriptive preliminaries for the sake of addressing the kind of examples discussed therein (see the conclusion of this section 5 for some reservations):

**Preliminary #1** We assume with Sharvit (2008) the mandatory presence of a silent intensional operator, the FID operator, that scopes over all the FID string. In fact, we take this silent operator to be a special case of Charnavel's 2020 LOG operator, and thus to be syntactically represented, with its subject interpreted as referring to the FID attitude holder.

**Preliminary #2** Unlike what happens in SID, the FID operator blocks all *de re* descriptions as noted as early as Reinhart (1975) (and more generally being fairly literal like quotations), but following Sharvit (2008) here, with one exception relevant to our present concerns to be detailed below: the speaker's thoughts about the content of the FID are not accessible, only descriptions by the FID attitude holder and in the FID attitude, *de dicto* descriptions relative to the FID attitude holder, are. This is what we expect from the presence of LOG: the content of the FID is presented from the FID attitude holder point of view only.

The one relevant exception is that person features on pronouns referring to the speaker or their addressee(s) or to the attitude holder reflect the speaker's beliefs, not the FID attitude holder's. Following Doron (1991), we can illustrate that the reference of first person pronouns or of second person pronouns (unlike that of third person pronouns) does not shift (to the FID attitude holder or his addressee) in FID (italicized), as illustrated in (46).<sup>28,29</sup> We also see, as earlier, that the attitude holder refers to himself by using a first person pronoun, but the speaker refers to him with a third person pronoun.

- (46) I say: As Elie looked at my picture (me= Lydia) and your picture (you = Charles, Lydia's addressee), his mind filled with sad thoughts. *Yes, yes, I would probably leave him soon to be with you and we would travel to the Far East.*

Elie's reported thought (while he is looking at (Lydia's =) the speaker's picture) is: 'This woman will probably leave me soon to be with Charles, and they will travel to the Far East.'

<sup>28</sup> There is some disagreement in the literature regarding the interpretation of first person pronouns in FID, specifically, between Banfield (1982), Doron (1991) and Schlenker (2004). In what follows, I accept Sharvit's reported judgments who states 'those speakers for whom an unbound first person pronoun always refers to the speaker/author of the utterance context, also accept an unexpected Condition A effect with *myself*, this effect being discussed below, as I am one of these speakers.

<sup>29</sup> Presumably, in a language shifting indexicals, this would not have to happen.



As stated in the preliminaries above, some *de re* descriptions of material in the scope of the FID/LOG operator are available: they concern (i) who the FID attitude holder actually is (ii) who the actual speaker and speaker's addressee(s) are. These are described using the person features (but possibly not the gender features) normally used in SID. In particular, this means that the PRO subject of the infinitive in (44c) and (45c) is (and must be) seen by the speaker as the FID attitude holder (*de se* in fact).

This is not surprising as the very same properties are found in SID in the scope of a LOG operator. Thus, I must report Charles's utterance in (47a) as in (47b):

- (47) a. Charles says: 'gryphons groom themselves and me but not you every morning'  
 b. Charles thinks that gryphons groom themselves and **him** but not **me** every morning  
 c. Charles<sub>k</sub> thinks that [e<sub>k</sub> [LOG [gryphons groom themselves and **him** but not **me** every morning]]]

Given that I do not believe in gryphons, and *gryphons* binds the object, the object in the embedded clause is reported from Charles's point of view, that is as represented in (47c) with both *him* and *me* read *de re* as in FID.

Given these preliminaries, why is (44c) fine and (45c) out?

Sentence (44c) is fine because the PRO subject of *hear* and the referent of *herself* are both seen as who Flora thinks she is by Flora. There is covaluation for Flora, which licenses the reflexive. Sentence (45c) is out because the PRO subject of *hear* and the referent of *herself* are not covalued for anyone accessible. What I may think is irrelevant since the FID is presented from Flora's perspective. And Flora takes PRO to be herself *de se* but does not recognize the singer as herself. So the reflexive is counterlicensed.<sup>30</sup>

Sharvit (2008) remarks that first person reflexives can be used to report both *de se* and *de re* thoughts, as illustrated in (48) and (50). Begin with the *de se* case:

- (48) *de se*: A month ago, I listened to an old recording of my own voice, and wished I could go back to my singing days and be proud of myself again.  
 a. I thought: 'Ah! To hear myself sing and be proud of myself again!'  
 b. I wanted very much to hear myself sing and be proud of myself again.  
 c. J'étais frustrée. Ah! M'entendre chanter and être fière de moi-même  
 I was frustrated. Ah! To hear myself sing and be proud of myself  
 encore!  
 again!

This case is like (44c): there is covaluation for the FID attitude holder, who is now also the speaker: a first person pronoun is used both in direct discourse and in FID.

Let's now turn to *de re* case. Let us begin with the following case.

- (49) *de re*: A month ago, when Lydia woke up from a coma, she did not know who I was anymore. She listened to an old recording of me, not recognizing my voice. Suddenly, the radio stopped playing, and she was frustrated that she could not make it play again.

<sup>30</sup> It is this last fact that Sharvit (2011) notes argues against theories of anaphor binding such as Charlow's 2010 which limit covaluation requirements to covaluation for the speaker.

- a. she thought: ‘Ah! To hear this man sing again!’
- b. she wanted very much to hear me sing again.
- c. Elle était frustrée. % Ah! m’entendre chanter encore  
She was frustrated. % Ah! To hear me sing again!

Some but not all speakers (hence the % diacritic) allow the first person pronoun in (49c). The reason is that it is read *de re* in a “stronger” sense than under the exception noted in preliminary #2. In preliminary #2, the FID attitude holder has thoughts about an individual who she would be ready to identify as being the speaker at the time at which she had this thought. Using a first person pronoun is true to the content of her thought, not *de dicto* but truth conditionally equivalent to *de dicto*.<sup>31</sup> Here the report is not true to the content of her thought at the time: even though I am the singer, she would not have been ready then to identify this singer as me. My using *me* to refer the singer is not truth conditionally faithful to her thought as she construed it.

Now speakers allowing (49c) also allow a reflexive first person pronoun in such cases. Assume Lydia is speaking, she now believes that she is Lydia, and she is indeed.

- (50) *de re*: A month ago, when I woke up from a coma, I did not know who I was. I listened to an old recording of myself, not recognizing my own voice but recognizing the controversial singing style I had pioneered. Suddenly, the radio stopped playing, and I was frustrated that I could not make it play again and feel proud of this singer.
  - a. I thought: ‘Ah! To hear this woman sing again and feel proud of her!’
  - b. I wanted very much to hear myself sing again and feel proud of myself.<sup>32</sup>
  - c. J’étais frustrée. Ah! m’entendre chanter encore et me sentir fière de  
I was frustrated. Ah! to hear myself sing again and feel proud of  
moi-même!  
myself!
  - d. J’étais frustrée. Ah! s’il était possible que je m’entende chanter encore  
I was frustrated. Ah! if only it was possible I hear myself sing again  
et que je me sente fière de moi-même!  
and feel proud of myself!!

Sharvit (2011) reports (50c) as well formed with respect to Condition A. In the scope of the FID operator, there is no coreference. But because the direct object refers to the speaker within the scope of this FID operator, it is possible for the speakers who accept (49c) to use first person features on the direct object. However and crucially, *PRO* subject of the infinitive refers to the speaker for the speaker, it can like all such occurrences be read *de re* (and must be read *de se*, as usual, but not relevantly here). This suffices for the reflexive to satisfy Condition A since there is local coreference for the speaker.

That this is so, is corroborated by (50d), the FID tensed counterpart of (50c) in which the subject of the reported thought is *I*, that is seen as the speaker by the speaker now. In conclusion, this *de re* case is thus accounted for as well as it now becomes like case (3b): *PRO* and *myself* are both seen as the speaker for the speaker in fact.

Of course, for Sharvit (2011) that *PRO* is read *de se* is crucial to the well formedness of

<sup>31</sup> This very much recalls the cases discussed in Kaufman (2011) or Sudo (2014) where a truth conditional equivalent *de re*, *non dicto* predicate can be used.

<sup>32</sup> As discussed, SID also allows: *I wanted very much to hear her again and feel proud of her*, where the infinitive is presented from the point of view of who I thought I was then, so no Condition B violation is incurred.

(50c) (via type II covaluation). However, we can show as we did in case (12) that it is not sufficient.

- (51) Charles is a singer. He is under the delusion (one nobody else believes) that he is the fifth Beatle (which he is of course not as there are only four Beatles) and proud of it and reminds everyone including himself of his rock star status by referring to himself as the fifth Beatle. A month ago, when he woke up after a head trauma, he listened to an old recording of himself, not remembering the song and not recognizing his own voice. He found the song inspiring and wanted to hear it again as it would be suitable for a star like him to perform. But his phone battery went dead and he was frustrated that he could not make it play again.
- a. He thought: ‘Ah! if only the fifth Beatle could hear this man sing again!’
  - b. He wanted very much the fifth Beatle to hear himself sing again.
  - c. His mind was filled with frustrating thoughts. Ah! if only the fifth Beatle could hear himself sing again!

Even though the expression *the fifth Beatle* picks out Charles for Charles, that is, is him *de se*, sentence (51c) is false. The reason is that there isn’t anyone for whom there is coreference between *the fifth Beatle* and *himself*. The fifth Beatle is Charles for Charles, but he does not recognize himself as the singer so there is no coreference for him. For me, *the fifth Beatle* does not denote so Condition A cannot be satisfied.<sup>33</sup>

In conclusion, treating FID as a case of logophoric context is consistent with the data discussed. But there are differences too. One difference we have assumed - following Sharvit (2011) - is that the FID operator scopes over the entire “FID string” which is unexpected if the FID operator is just a Log operator. I think that this maximal scope requirement is in fact empirically too strong, the FID operator having a more flexible distribution, just as a Log operator but this discussion is beyond the scope of the present article. Another difference regards which indexicals shift and which do not. As we saw, in FID, person features are reported from the point of the speaker not from that of the attitude holder as in logophoric contexts in SID. But temporal adverbials are not, unlike what happens in SID, at least in English. The right theory of FID should be able to derive these differences (see Eckardt (2014) for a recent proposal and a survey of previous proposals). What matters for our purpose here is that FID and logophoric operators behave alike when it comes to covaluation options meeting the binding theory requirements.<sup>34</sup>

## 6 Some other cases of Heim’s

Let us now turn to some further cases Heim discusses (inspired by examples in Lakoff (1972)), namely dream scenarios in which someone dreams that he is someone else. Consider a scenario in which John the sinner dreams that he is Jesus Christ, and that in the dream, Jesus Christ (JC) forgives John his sins. I could report:

- (52) John dreamt that he forgave himself/?\*him his sins.

<sup>33</sup> Note that ‘the fifth Beatle’ with scare quotes does denote Charles for me - I know about his delusion - and would corefer with *himself* read *de re*. However, my thoughts do not matter in the scope of the FID operator.

<sup>34</sup> As noted earlier, it would be worth while exploring what happens in FID in languages which, unlike English, allow indexical shifts in SID.

John however, would report:

(53) I dreamt I forgave me/\*myself my sins

This illustrates an asymmetry.<sup>35</sup> A reflexive in the second report could only mean that JC forgave himself. A reflexive in the first report can mean that JC forgave John.

To sharpen judgements, let us change slightly the scenario and entertain a few more variants. Now Maria Magdalena (MM) dreamt that she was JC, who in the dream, forgave her. This could be reported as follows:

(54) Maria Magdalena dreamt that she was JC and that  
a. \*she forgave her  
b. she forgave herself  
c. #he forgave her  
d. \*he forgave himself

Standardly if X dreams X is someone else, the dreamer is thought of as X *de re*, while who X dream X is is X *de dicto*. Here, some (hence the # diacritic) speakers (this includes me in French) allow using either the pronoun *she* or the pronoun *he* to pick out MM as JC in the dream. The pronoun *he* must be a *de dicto* pronoun - since only in the dream can MM be considered male. The pronoun *she* on the other hand can only be a *de re* pronoun since MM is female in fact only.

This sharpens under what circumstance the reflexive is fine, namely only if its local antecedent is read *de re*. This must be what is unavailable in the first person report (53).

There is an independent reason corroborating this conclusion. In a modal alternative such as within a dream, I may well believe or imagine or wish that I am someone else, but when I wake up and report the dream, I am like an amnesiac having recovered her memory and realizing what I did in my amnesic state. Something must remain constant or similar enough across worlds so that both the dreamer and her persona in the dream can be seen as the same individual. As in Lakoff (1972), we can distinguish X's inner self (X's mental identity, or X's Cartesian self as in Williams 1973) from its "embodiment". What remains constant is X's inner self, X's mental identity. It seems impossible to take oneself to have a different inner self from one's own (see Williams 1973 or more recently Ninan 2016 for discussion.<sup>36</sup> In the scenario above, MM's inner self is embodied as JC in the dream. But then, whose inner self inhabits JC in the dream? For MM the dreamer, it isn't MM's as MM does not dream that she is both JC and herself. For MM qua dreamer, it must be someone else's embodied as MM. As a result the person forgiven cannot MM *de dicto*, it must be who MM identifies as herself post hoc, that is MM *de re* (although it is not entirely clear how exactly this comes about). This means that the object pronouns in these examples must always be *de re* pronouns.

Are the examples in (54) expected? (54a) and (54b) are: the feminine pronouns are read *de re*; there is covaluation for the speaker which makes the reflexive fine and the pronoun

---

<sup>35</sup> Heim report similar facts for German, and this reportedly holds for English – I will accept her description here but the facts may be more complex as discussed in Reis (1974). For reasons too complex to discuss here, the reflexives in all these cases cannot be logophoric. See Charnavel and Sportiche (2016), and Charnavel and Bryant (2023) for more extended discussion.

<sup>36</sup> Ninan 2016 implies that postulating a "Cartesian self" entails a dualist position, a conclusion I do not think is necessary, but this would require a discussion beyond the scope of the present article.

unacceptable (under the relevant reading). In example (54c), the mismatched pronouns show that there is no covaluation for anyone so there is no condition B (and, *mutatis mutandis*, there would not be any condition B effect with two masculine pronouns - one read *de re* and the other read *de dicto* if John the baptist was having this dream instead of MM.<sup>37</sup> Moving from example (53) to example (54a), one loses a potential point of view holder, namely a speaker distinct from the dreamer. The facts would follow if the first person embedded subject had to be read *de dicto*. Why however remains unclear.

---

<sup>37</sup> One more option, the actual MM forgiving MM qua JC in the dream is pragmatically odd and reportedly excluded, the *Oneiric Reference Constraint*, an example of a *de re* blocking effect discussed in Percus and Sauerland (2003b), Anand (2006) and Sharvit (2011) (but see Cappelen and Dever, 2013 for a different view): this case would be .. *MM dreamt that she was JC and that she forgave him* which is indeed at least much harder than (54c).

## References

- Anand, P. (2006). *De de se: MIT dissertation*. Ph. D. thesis, MIT Cambridge, MA.
- Banfield, A. (1982). *Unspeakable sentences*. Routledge and Kegan Paul, Boston.
- Buring, D. (1998). Identity, modality, and the candidate behind the wall. In D. Strolovitch and A. Lawson (Eds.), *Proceedings of SALT VIII*, Ithaca, NY, pp. 36–54. CLC Publications.
- Cappelen, H. and J. Dever (2013). *The inessential indexical: On the philosophical insignificance of perspective and the first person*. OUP Oxford.
- Charlow, S. (2010). De re anaphors. Abstract. SALT 20.
- Charnavel, I. (2012). *On her own – Parsimonious Compositionality: Probing Syntax and Semantics with French propre*. Ph. D. thesis, University of California Los Angeles.
- Charnavel, I. (2019a). Apparent exemption from condition A: a perspective-based theory. Available at <http://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/002683>.
- Charnavel, I. (2019b). *Locality and Logophoricity: A Theory of Exempt Anaphora*. Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax. Oxford University Press.
- Charnavel, I. (2020). Apparent exemption from condition A: a perspective-based theory. *Linguistic Inquiry* 51(4), 671–723.
- Charnavel, I. and S. Bryant (2023). The whole picture: Disentangling locality, logophoricity and subjecthood in English picture noun anaphora. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 41, 547–610.
- Charnavel, I. and D. Sportiche (2016). Anaphor Binding: what French inanimate anaphors show. *Linguistic Inquiry* 47(1), 35–87.
- Charnavel, I. and D. Sportiche (2021). Taking a strong position on strictly read reflexives. In *the forthcoming proceedings of the 39th meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 39)*, University of Arizona.
- Charnavel, I. and D. Sportiche (2022). Unifying intensifiers ourselves. In B. Pratlley, O. Bakay, E. Neu, and P. Deal (Eds.), *52nd North East Linguistics Society meeting proceedings*. A longer more detailed version is available at <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006618>.
- Doron, E. (1991). Point of view as a factor of content. In S. Moore and A. Z. Wyner (Eds.), *Proceedings of the First Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference*, Cornell University, pp. 51–64. Cornell University Working Papers in Linguistics.
- Eckardt, R. (2014). *The semantics of free indirect discourse: How texts allow us to mind-read and eavesdrop*. Brill.
- Evans, G. (1980). Pronouns. *Linguistic Inquiry* 11(2), 337–362.
- Grodzinsky, Y. and T. Reinhart (1993). The innateness of binding and coreference. *Linguistic Inquiry* 24(1), 69–102.

- Groenendijk, J., M. Stokhof, and F. Veltman (1996). Coreference and modality. In S. Lappin (Ed.), *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*. Blackwell, Oxford.
- Heim, I. (1993). Anaphora and semantic interpretation: A reinterpretation of Reinhart's approach. SFS-Report 7–93, Universität Tübingen, Germany.
- Heim, I. (1994). Puzzling reflexive pronouns in *de se* reports. Unpublished Handout.
- Heim, I. (2007). Forks in the road to rule I. In M. W. M. Abdurrahman, A. Schardl (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Thirty-Eighth Annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (Ottawa: KS)*. University of Massachusetts, Amherst: GLSA Publications.
- Higginbotham, J. (2003). Remembering, imagining, and the first person. In A. Barber (Ed.), *Epistemology of Language*, pp. 496–534. Oxford: OUP.
- Hornstein, N. and P. Pietroski (2010). Obligatory control and local reflexives. *Movement theory of control* 154, 67.
- Kaufman, M. (2011). Speaking of qualities. In *Proceedings of SALT 19*, pp. 395–412. CLC Publications.
- Kripke, S. (1972). Naming and necessity. In D. Davidson and G. H. Harman (Eds.), *Semantics of Natural Language*. Dordrecht: Reidel.
- Lakoff, G. (1972). Linguistics and natural logic. In D. Davidson and G. Harman (Eds.), *Semantics of Natural Language*, pp. 545–665. Reidel Publishing Company, Dordrecht.
- Major, T. (2021). *On the nature of 'say' complementation*. Ph. D. thesis, UCLA.
- Ninan, D. (2016). Imagination and the self. In *The Routledge handbook of philosophy of imagination*, pp. 274–285. Routledge.
- Pearson, H. A. (2012). *The sense of self: Topics in the semantics of de se expressions*. Ph. D. thesis, Harvard University.
- Percus, O. and U. Sauerland (2003a). On the LFs of attitude reports. In M. Weisgerber (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Conference Sinn und Bedeutung 7*. Arbeitspapier Nr. 114, FB Sprachwissenschaft.: Universität Konstanz, Germany. Available at <http://ling.uni-konstanz.de/pages/conferences/sub7/>.
- Percus, O. and U. Sauerland (2003b). Pronoun movement in dream reports. In *NELS proceedings*, Volume 33, pp. 265–284.
- Reinhart, T. (1975). Whose main clause?(point of view in sentences with parentheticals). *Harvard studies in syntax and semantics* 1, 127–71.
- Reinhart, T. (1983). *Anaphora and Semantic Interpretation*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press.
- Reis, M. (1974). Patching up with counterparts. *Foundations of Language* 12(2), 157–176.
- Roelofsen, F. (2008). *Anaphora Resolved*. University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam: Institute for Logic, Language and Computation.

- Roelofsen, F. (2010). Condition B effects in two simple steps. *Natural Language Semantics* 18(2), 115–140.
- Sauerland, U. (2013). Presuppositions and the alternative tier. In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory*, Volume 23, pp. 156–173.
- Schlenker, P. (1999). *Propositional Attitudes and Indexicality: A Cross-Categorical Approach*. Ph. D. thesis, MIT.
- Schlenker, P. (2004). Context of thought and context of utterance: A note on free indirect discourse and the historical present. *Mind & Language* 19(3), 279–304.
- Schlenker, P. (2005). Non-redundancy: Towards a semantic reinterpretation of binding theory. *Natural Language Semantics* 13(1), 1–92.
- Sharvit, Y. (2004). Free indirect discourse and ‘de re’ pronouns. In R. B. Young (Ed.), *Proceedings of SALT XIV*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, pp. 305–322. CLC Publications.
- Sharvit, Y. (2008). The puzzle of free indirect discourse. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 31(3), 353–395.
- Sharvit, Y. (2011). Covaluation and unexpected BT effects. *Journal of Semantics* 28(1), 55–106.
- Sharvit, Y. (2014). Sneaky derivations sneak rule I in: A reply to Heim’s ”forks in the road to rule I. *MITWPL* 2(71), 101–121.
- Sportiche, D. (2022). Constraints on reflexivization. ms. University of California Los Angeles. Available at <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005488>.
- Sportiche, D. (2023). How (not) to control pro. Available at .
- Sudo, Y. (2014). On de re predicates. In *Proceedings of WCCFL*, Volume 31, pp. 447–456.
- Williams, B. (1973). Imagination and the self. In *Problems of the self*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.