

Conjunction Meets Negation: A Study in Cross-linguistic Variation

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Abstract

The central topic of this inquiry is a cross-linguistic contrast in the interaction of conjunction and negation. In Hungarian (Russian, Serbian, Italian, Japanese), in contrast to English (German), negated definite conjunctions are naturally and exclusively interpreted as ‘neither’. It is proposed that in Hungarian-type languages conjunctions simply replicate the behaviour of plurals, their closest semantic relatives. The ‘neither’ reading is due to the homogeneity presupposition accompanying distributive predication over pluralities. More puzzling is why English-type languages present a different range of interpretations. By teasing out finer distinctions in focus on connectives, syntactic structure, and context, the paper tracks down missing readings and argues that it is eventually not necessary to postulate a radical cross-linguistic semantic difference. In the course of making that argument it is observed that negated conjunctions on the ‘neither’ reading carry the expectation that the predicate hold of both conjuncts. The paper investigates several hypotheses concerning the source of this expectation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Although conjunction, disjunction, and negation are the simplest logical operators, their interaction exhibits robust cross-linguistic differences. Compare the English and the Hungarian examples below:

Negation and disjunction:

- (1) Mary didn’t take hockey or algebra.
can mean ‘Mary didn’t take hockey and didn’t take algebra’
- (2) Mari nem járt hokira vagy algebrára.
Mari not went hockey-to or algebra-to
cannot mean ‘Mary didn’t take hockey and didn’t take algebra’
can mean ‘Mary didn’t take hockey or didn’t take algebra’

Negation and conjunction:

- (3) Mary didn’t take hockey and algebra.
can mean ‘Mary didn’t take hockey or didn’t take algebra’

- (4) Mari nem járt hokira és algebrára.
 Mari not went hockey-to and algebra-to
 cannot mean ‘Mary didn’t take hockey or didn’t take algebra’
 can mean ‘Mary didn’t take hockey and didn’t take algebra’

At first blush, one might describe the contrasts as follows. English disjunction and conjunction happily scope below a c-commanding negation and dutifully obey the de Morgan laws, whereas the Hungarian counterparts either must scope above the c-commanding negation or fail to obey the de Morgan laws. Such contrasts are not restricted to English versus Hungarian. Similar to English is German; similar to Hungarian are Russian, Serbian, Italian, and Japanese, among other languages.¹

The paper first takes up the issue of Hungarian. It argues that although the above facts pertaining to *nem ... vagy* ‘not ... or’ and *nem ... és* ‘not ... and’ initially seem to follow the same pattern, they have different explanations, having to do with polarity sensitivity and plurality, respectively. The paper then focuses on negated conjunctions and investigates how and why Hungarian and English differ in this domain.

The main claims to be made about *not ... and/nem ... és* are as follows.

- (i) Both English and Hungarian have a standard Boolean connective that gives rise to ‘not both’ readings with sentences, quantifiers, predicates, etc. However, its availability for definites seems to correlate with whether connectives in the given language can be non-metalinguistically focused.
- (ii) In the absence of such focus, Boolean conjunctions shift to a plurality-denoting interpretation in the definite domain. Within the scope of negation, the ‘neither’ reading follows from the standardly assumed homogeneity presupposition of distributive predication applied to pluralities. While less prominent than in Hungarian, the ‘neither’ reading is also available in English.
- (iii) Negated conjunctions on the ‘neither’ reading carry the expectation that the predicate hold of both conjuncts. The paper investigates three hypotheses concerning what the source of this

¹ We thank Thomas Leu, Martin Hackl, Artur Stepanov, Vita Markman, Željko Bošković, Franca Ferrari, and Andrea Gualmini for German, Russian, Serbian, and Italian judgments. We have, however, not been in a position to consider these languages in as careful detail as we did English and Hungarian. Muromatsu (2002) and Goro (2003) report Hungarian-like facts for Japanese, with some intriguing observations regarding locality conditions. The English judgments reported in this paper are understood to be American English.

expectation might be, one pertaining to homogeneity, one to negation, and one to competition.

2 POSITIVE POLARITY

Consider first the contrast in (1) and (2). Szabolcsi (2002, 2004) argued that the counterparts of *or* in Hungarian-type languages are positive polarity items (PPIs). Compare the behaviour of *vagy* in (6) with the well-known behaviour of English *some* in (5). Both resist scoping under clausemate, though not under extraclausal, negation:

- (5) a. He didn't see someone. clausemate negation
 * 'not > some', i.e. 'He saw no one'
 ✓ 'some > not'
- b. I don't think that he saw someone. extraclausal negation
 ✓ 'not > some', i.e. 'I think he saw no one'
- (6) a. Nem látta Katit vagy Marit. clausemate negation
 Lit. 'He didn't see *K* or *M*'²
 * 'not > or'
 ✓ 'or > not'
- b. Nem hiszem, hogy látta volna Katit vagy Marit. extraclausal negation
 'I don't think that he saw *K* or *M*'
 ✓ 'not > or'

If so, the absence of the 'not > or' reading in (2) and (6a) does not challenge the Boolean character of Hungarian *vagy* (Russian and Serbian *ili*, Italian *o*, Japanese *ka*); it can be looked upon as a matter of restricted scope behaviour.

It is worth mentioning that the distribution of *some* and *vagy* is actually more complex than traditional wisdom would have it. The clause-internal 'not > some' and 'nem > vagy' readings can be rescued if this scopal configuration is placed into a NPI-licensing context. In the examples below the quantifier *few*, the conditional, and the matrix adversative predicate create NPI-licensing contexts for the bracketed portion of the sentence:

- (7) a. Few people believed that you [didn't see someone].
 ✓ 'Few people believed that you saw no one'

² *Lit.* indicates a literal translation when the English and the Hungarian interpretations diverge or possibly diverge. We often omit glosses because morphological details are typically irrelevant in this paper.

- b. If you [don't see someone], you are doomed.
 ✓ 'If you see no one, you are doomed'
- c. I regret that he [didn't see someone].
 ✓ 'I regret that he saw no one'
- (8) a. Kevesen hitték el, hogy [nem láttad Katit vagy Marit].
 'Few people believed that you didn't see *K* or *M*'
 ✓ 'not > or'
- b. Ha [nem látod Katit vagy Marit], véged.
 'If you don't see *K* or *M*, you are doomed'
 ✓ 'not > or'
- c. Sajnálom, hogy [nem láttad Katit vagy Marit].
 'I regret that you didn't see *K* or *M*'
 ✓ 'not > or'

Szabolcsi (2002, 2004) offers an analysis of the rescuing phenomenon.³ The details of this analysis are immaterial for present concerns. The data in (7) and (8) are relevant because they allow us to ask whether the explanation of the exclusive 'neither' reading of *nem ... és* 'not ... and' in (4) is that *és* is also a PPI and scopes above clausemate negation. We can test whether the interaction of *nem* and *és* replicates that of *nem* and *vagy* in full detail. It turns out that the similarity does not go beyond the minimal, clausemate negation context. The 'neither' interpretation does not give way to 'not both' if negation is extraclassal or if an NPI-licensor is added on top of [*nem ... és*]:⁴

- (9) a. Nem látta Katit és Marit.
 Lit. 'He didn't see *K* and *M*'
 * 'not both'
 ✓ 'neither'
- b. Nem hiszem, hogy látta volna Katit és Marit.
 Lit. 'I don't think that he saw *K* and *M*'
 * 'not both'
 ✓ 'neither'

³ Szabolcsi observes that PPIs like *some* and *vagy* do not scope immediately below the same clausemate antiadditive operators that license strong NPIs like *yet*, cf. (5a)–(6a), unless that configuration occurs within a larger, broadly speaking decreasing context that licenses weak NPIs like *ever*, cf. (7)–(8). She proposes that *some* and *vagy* exhibit the combined licensing needs of strong and weak NPIs; in the unacceptable cases the PPI is 'halfway' licensed. For further details see the references cited.

⁴ To make the jargon transparent, we are going to use the 'not both' and 'neither' labels to distinguish the two readings. The latter label is not intended to carry the specific shades of meaning of the *neither ... nor* construction. Section 9 discusses some of the relevant empirical differences. We use the 'not both' and 'neither' labels in order to keep the description neutral as to what logical structure each reading has.

- c. Ha nem látod Katit és Marit, véged.
 Lit. 'If you don't see *K* and *M*, you are doomed'
 * 'not both'
 ✓ 'neither'
- d. Sajnálom, hogy nem láttad Katit és Marit.
 Lit. 'I regret that you didn't see *K* and *M*'
 * 'not both'
 ✓ 'neither'

We thus conclude that *és* 'and' is not a positive polarity item; at least, not one belonging to the class that *vagy* 'or' and *some* belong to.⁵

3 HOMOGENEITY

Seeking to explain the 'neither' reading of *nem ... és*, it is more promising to notice that definite plurals in both English and Hungarian interact with negation in the same way that Hungarian definite conjunctions do:⁶

- (10) He didn't see the girls.
 * 'not all the girls'
 ✓ 'none of the girls'
- (11) Nem látta a lányokat.
 'He didn't see the girls'
 * 'not all the girls'
 ✓ 'none of the girls'

The parallelism is in fact not surprising. The plurals literature works on the assumption that definite plurals and definite conjunctions share the same semantics. This is based on their parallel behaviour in a variety of contexts. They support collective and cumulative readings in addition to run-of-the-mill distributive ones, see (12)–(14); they introduce text-level discourse referents for pronominal anaphora, see (15); they are not good at making *c*-commanding indefinites referentially dependent, see (16), etc. To save space, these properties are illustrated using only English:

⁵ The different accounts of disjunction and conjunction facts in Hungarian-type languages are supported by acquisition data. Takuya Goro's truth value judgment experiments, inspired by Szabolcsi (2002) and earlier versions of the present work, have shown that Japanese children reach adult-like behaviour in interpreting negated conjunctions as 'neither' much earlier than in interpreting negated disjunctions as 'I don't know which' (T. Goro, personal communication). Recall that in all major respects Japanese patterns with Hungarian in this domain.

⁶ Definite plurals are known to tolerate exceptions. This phenomenon is orthogonal to the issue at hand and will be ignored in what follows.

- (12) The girls/Kate and Mary had a beer.
'distributive'
- (13) The girls/Kate and Mary lifted up the table together.
'collective'
- (14) The girls/Kate and Mary were born in London and Boston.
'cumulative'
- (15) Everyone heard the rumour that you had spotted the girls/Kate and Mary. They are wanted for bank robbery.
- (16) Six students took these two subjects/hockey and algebra. # The twelve students graduate in May.

To account for the availability of collective readings in the first place, definite plurals are generally interpreted as denoting pluralities: sets or individual sums (Link 1983; Landman 2000). Given the descriptive similarities, Hoeksema (1983, 1988) and others have proposed the same interpretation for conjunctions of definites. That is, *Kate and Mary* is not interpreted via the strictly Boolean generalized conjunction schema in Partee & Rooth (1983) that is used for the coordination of predicates, quantifiers, etc.; its *and* is a non-Boolean operator yielding sets or i-sums.

However, the peculiar interaction of plural definites with negation does not yet follow from this semantics. Those few studies of plurality that discuss negation at all invoke a homogeneity presupposition accompanying distributive predication.^{7,8} Drawing from Löbner and Schwarzschild, Beck (2001) formulates homogeneity as in (17). A denotes a plurality and $*P$ a pluralized, i.e. distributive one-place predicate; Beck also extends the definition to pluralized, i.e. cumulative two-place relations $**P$.

- (17) Homogeneity
 $*P(A) = 1$ iff $\forall x[x \in A \rightarrow P(x)]$
 0 iff $\forall x[x \in A \rightarrow \neg P(x)]$
 undefined otherwise

⁷ For example, Link, Schein, Landman, and Winter do not discuss interaction with negation.

⁸ As the reviewer points out, *The birds are above and below the cloud* (Winter 2001b) seems like a counterexample to homogeneity. Whether it is depends on whether one's theory admits or rejects separate cumulative readings. Winter's rejects them. Beck & Sauerland (2000) argue that cumulativity is necessary, and Beck (2001) makes it an integral part of her discussion of the strongest meaning hypothesis. We propose to follow Beck.

If the general behaviour of definite plurals and definite conjunctions are the same, we expect the latter to share homogeneity.⁹ Hungarian-type languages bear out this expectation quite straightforwardly. Thus we conclude that the observed ‘neither’ readings are not due to Boolean conjunctions scoping over the c-commanding negation; they are due to pluralities undergoing homogeneous distributive predication within the scope of negation.

This analysis correctly predicts that when the connective is plausibly Boolean, the ‘not both’ reading is available. Such is the case with the conjunction of quantifiers: ‘every poem and every novel’ and ‘every poem and more than three novels’ are standardly analysed as undergoing generalized conjunction of the Boolean kind, as in Partee & Rooth (1983).

- (18) a. Mari nem olvasott el minden verset és minden regényt.
 Mari not read every poem-acc and every novel-acc
 ✓ ‘Mary didn’t read every poem or didn’t read every novel’
 b. Mari nem olvasott el minden verset és háromnál több regényt.
 Mari not read every poem-acc and three-than more novel-acc

⁹ If homogeneity is intimately linked to denoting pluralities (as in (17)) then this explanation of the ‘neither’ reading is potentially challenged by whatever evidence favors conjunction reduction, i.e. a thoroughly Boolean analysis of definite plurals; and conversely, the exclusivity of the ‘neither’ reading in Hungarian presents a challenge for the conjunction reduction approach.

One such current theory is Schein’s (1998). Schein refers to Collins’s (1988) observation that the members of English conjunctions can be modified by a modal—sentential—adverb even on the collective reading (a single unbroken chain):

- (i) The Columbia students and possibly the Harvard students formed the unbroken chain around the Pentagon.

Collins proposed the following interpretation for the conjunction (in Schein’s wording; we have not seen Collins’ manuscript):

- (ii) (All) the persons (*X*) such that the Columbia students are among them (*X*) and possibly the Harvard students are among them (*X*) (and no one else) . . .

Schein notes, however, that this interpretation is incorrect. Since every actual Harvard student is possibly a Harvard student, (ii) makes the Harvard students inescapably part of the chain. The crucial ingredient of Schein’s own solution is to derive conjunctions from a sentential source, i.e. conjunction reduction, which is essentially equivalent to the plain Boolean interpretation.

But it seems to us that there is a way to interpret (i) without falling into the trap that Schein points out:

- (iii) A plurality *X* such that the Columbia students are in *X* and possibly the Harvard students are in *X* and nothing that is not Columbia st’s or Harvard st’s is in *X* . . .

As Z. Szabó (personal communication) notes, this interpretation is unexceptionable if *possibly* is interpreted epistemically. The conjecture that the modals in conjunctions are epistemic ones is supported by the fact that *necessarily*, for instance, does not occur here. Thus, data such as (i) do not make the plurality analysis untenable. On the other hand, it is not obvious how Schein’s own theory would replicate the predictions homogeneity makes, without forcing unusual scopings and without predicting that conjunctions of quantifiers and conjunctions of definites behave alike.

√ ‘ Mary didn’t read every poem or didn’t read more than three novels’

To take stock, we now understand why Hungarian definite conjunctions exhibit a ‘neither’ reading. If their sole interpretation is non-Boolean, we also understand why this reading is the only available one. But then the fact that definite conjunction in English do allow ‘not both’ is surprising. How do they do it and why is the same trick not available in Hungarian? Secondly, the homogeneous plurals analysis makes one expect that the ‘neither’ reading is as readily available in English as it is in Hungarian; the question here is whether it is factually readily available. We attack both questions starting with the English data, carefully adding considerations pertaining to intonation and context.

4 STRESSED *AND*, A BOOLEAN CONNECTIVE

Corpus data as well as elicited judgments indicate that ‘not both’ is a readily available reading of *not ... and* in English definites. Despite its prevalence, it turns out not to be an ‘unmarked’ or ‘default’ reading. For the overwhelming majority of speakers we have consulted, it is contingent on stress on the connective, as in (19). When the connective is not stressed, as in (20), then, depending on various factors to be discussed later, speakers either judge *not ... and* to mean ‘neither’ or they find it marginal or unacceptable.¹⁰

- (19) Mary didn’t take hockey *AND* algebra. (stressed *AND*)
 ‘not both’
- (20) Mary didn’t take hockey and algebra. (unstressed *and*)
 (i) ‘neither’
 (ii) ?? or *

These data suggest that when *Mary didn’t take hockey and algebra* occurs as a more or less isolated written sentence, reaction to it is a result of complex co-operative behaviour. Native speakers cannot help endowing the string with an intonation contour that makes it acceptable and, because no context is supplied, they probably come up with one that does not require complex background assumptions.

¹⁰ Additionally, the ‘not both’ reading is possible in sentences like *MARY didn’t take hockey and algebra*, understood as a retort to *Susan didn’t take hockey AND algebra*. We assume that the absence of high pitch on *and* here is phonological, as in second occurrence focus.

- c. At least ten students are taking hockey AND algebra.
? ‘AND > at least ten’

M. Hackl (personal communication) points out that the assumption that *AND* is a Boolean connective is supported by the fact that it exhibits scalar implicatures that are expected only if it has *or* as its scalar alternative:¹²

- (24) Mary hasn’t taken hockey AND algebra. \Rightarrow Mary has taken hockey or algebra.

The implicature arises because the sentence asserts that Mary has not taken both hockey and algebra and, by the Maxim of Quantity, implicates that the stronger alternative, i.e. that Mary has not taken either hockey or algebra, is false.

How many *and*’s are there, then? A Boolean *and* (stressed or unstressed) for general purposes, a non-Boolean *and* (unstressed) for definites, and a Boolean *and* (stressed) also for definites? To avoid such a proliferation, we propose to follow the general strategy in Hoeksema (1988) and Winter (2001a), who start out with a Boolean *and* for all, and obtain results equivalent to using non-Boolean *and* from that, under specific semantic conditions. In particular, Winter relies on the fact that names, definites and their conjunctions as generalized quantifiers are principal filters: they all have a unique minimal element. For example, *John and Mary* denotes the set of all sets that are supersets of $\{j, m\}$; $\{j, m\}$ is its unique minimal element. He introduces a MIN operator that associates $\{\{j, m\}\}$ with *John and Mary*; this will undergo existential and collective raising in the derivation of collective readings.

In this paper we do not wish to evaluate particular details of Winter’s theory. We assume that the general strategy of deriving all *and*’s from a single Boolean source is correct, and propose three additions. One is to acknowledge the homogeneity presupposition in the interpretation of distributive predication over pluralities like $\{j, m\}$, as in Beck (2001). The second is to assume that MIN applies to the appropriate generalized quantifiers unless something specifically ‘bleeds’ it. The third is that stress on *and* bleeds MIN. In other words, *John AND Mary* remains Boolean, without homogeneity and without collective readings.

¹² More precisely, *Mary hasn’t taken hockey AND algebra* implicates that Mary has taken hockey but not algebra. This is probably due the fact that stressed *AND* has an asymmetrical scalar implicature:

- (i) a. The Hungarian translation of Homer preserves the content AND the meter.
‘the content and even the meter’
b. # The Hungarian translation of Homer preserves the meter AND the content.
‘the meter and even the content’

Why does stress bleed MIN? The anonymous reviewer proposes that the explanation derives from the fact that the function of focus is to invoke alternatives. Boolean *and* has *or* as its alternative, but non-Boolean *and* does not. Likewise, it is not clear what would count as an alternative for *and* after MIN applies to the generalized quantifier.

The observation that stressed *AND* is responsible for the ‘not both’ reading of English definite conjunctions may help explain why the Hungarian counterparts lack such a reading, i.e. why (4) is unambiguous:¹³

- (4) Mari nem járt hokira és algebrára.
 Mary not went hockey-to and algebra-to
 ✓ ‘neither’
 * ‘not both’

Hungarian generally allows only metalinguistic focus on connectives. (To our knowledge the same holds for Russian, Serbian, and Italian.) For example, the Hungarian counterparts of (25) and (27) with stressed connectives are entirely unacceptable. The acceptable Hungarian versions have stresses on the two conjuncts, indicating that the conjunction as a whole is focused:

- (25) Mary speaks (only) Spanish, but Kate speaks Spanish AND Japanese.
- (26) a. *Mari (csak) spanyolul beszél, Kati viszont spanyolul ÉS japánul (beszél).
 Mary only Spanish speaks Kate however Spanish and Japanese speaks
- b. Mari (csak) spanyolul beszél, Kati viszont SPANYOLUL és JAPÁNUL (beszél).
 Mary only Spanish speaks Kate however Spanish and Japanese speaks
- (27) Mary may go to London, but Kate may go to London OR Paris.
- (28) a. *Mari Londonba mehet, Kati viszont Londonba VAGY Párizsba (mehet).
 Mary London-to go-may, Kate however London-to or Paris-to go-may

¹³ (4) is compatible with Mary having taken hockey or algebra if hockey-and-algebra was a single combined course. Cf. *Mary didn't have fish and chips for dinner* is very compatible with her having had steamed sea bass.

- b. Mari Londonba mehet, Kati viszont LONDONBA vagy PÁRIZSBA (mehet).
 Mary London-to go-may, Kate however London-to or Paris-to go-may

The connective can be focused only when an utterance in the immediately preceding discourse is repeated and corrected, much like in (29):

(29) He didn't buy oxES, he bought oxEN.

- (30) A: Úgy tudom, hogy Mari elmehet Londonba és Párizsba.
 so know-I that Mary go-may London-to and Paris-to
 B: Rosszul tudod.
 wrongly know-you
 Mari nem Londonba ÉS Párizsba, hanem Londonba VAGY Párizsba mehet.
 Mary not London-to AND Paris-to but London-to OR Paris-to go-may

'My understanding is that Mari is allowed go to London and Paris.—Wrong. It is not London AND Paris but London OR Paris where Mary is allowed to go.'

The reason for this restriction is probably not that these words are too small to bear stress. For example, *vagy* has a paired version where it may well be stressed (*VAGY te*, *VAGY én* 'either you or me, not both'). Whatever the explanation might be, we observe that Hungarian simply does not have the tool that English uses to retain the Boolean reading of definite conjunctions, and we conjecture that this is responsible for the absence of such a reading in Hungarian.

In sum, all languages have a Boolean 'and' that operates on quantifiers, predicates, sentences, etc. and may in principle scope above or below negation. However, it appears that only under stress does it operate on names and definites. Languages that do not allow non-metalinguistic stress on connectives therefore lack a 'not both' reading in definite conjunctions. Expression of this reading requires an overtly quantificational connective, in Hungarian *X is, Y is* 'X also, Y also = both X and Y':

- (31) Péter (nem) beszélt Kati-val is és Mari-val is.
 Peter (not) spoke Kati-with also and Mari-with also
 'Peter spoke/didn't speak with both Kathy and Mary'

5 THE 'NEITHER' READING IN ENGLISH: A PREVIEW

In Section 3 the 'neither' reading of definite conjunctions was traced to their commonalities with plural definites like *the girls*. It was pointed out that (i) plural definites denote pluralities (sets or individual sums); (ii) distributive predication over pluralities carries a homogeneity presupposition; (iii) conjunctions of definites exhibit the same general properties and are therefore thought to have the same plurality denotations; ergo, (iv) distributive predication over pluralities denoted by conjunctions of definites should also carry a homogeneity presupposition. Within the scope of negation this results in a 'neither' reading.

This reasoning holds equally of Hungarian and English, wherefore we expect that the 'neither' reading is equally available in both languages. Is this really so?

In Hungarian, the 'neither' reading is quite natural and by default available, irrespective of the nature of the conjuncts and irrespective of whether a rich context is provided. Some speakers of English have comparable intuitions. However, the majority of American English speakers we consulted have more nuanced judgments. Recall example (3), where hockey and algebra are two subjects that are not stereotypically associated with each other. When presented with this example without a specific discourse context, the majority of our informants judge that unless *and* is stressed, the acceptability of the sentence is outright questionable. They comment that the 'neither' reading would require *or* or *nor* in the place of *and*:

- (3) ?? Mary didn't take hockey and algebra. (unstressed *and*)
'neither'
- (32) Mary didn't take hockey or/nor algebra.
'neither'

But the same speakers readily accept 'neither' readings of slightly different examples.

Postverbal versus topicalized conjunction:

- (33) a. ?? Mary didn't take hockey and algebra.
b. Hockey and algebra, Mary didn't take.

Postverbal versus subject conjunction:

- (34) a. ?? The petition wasn't signed by the president and the janitor.
b. The president and the janitor didn't sign the petition.

Mere examples versus exhaustive list:

- (35) a. ?? Mary didn't take hockey and algebra.
 b. Of the courses on the list, Mary didn't take hockey and algebra.

Ad hoc conjunctions versus stereotypical pairs:

- (36) a. ?? Mary didn't take hockey and algebra.
 b. Mary didn't take math and physics.

In addition, a specific discourse context may save or kill an example.

In what follows we focus on speakers with such contrastive judgments and consider the contrasts in turn, including cases where just the background assumptions make a difference.

6 AND SCOPING ABOVE NEGATION

Because definite conjunctions denote pluralities, the literature seems to assume that they fall within the scope of negation irrespective of their syntactic position (e.g. Schwarzschild 1993–1994). Some of the contrasts observed above argue against this assumption. First recall the topic/subject versus VP-internal contrast:

- (33) a. ?? Mary didn't take hockey and algebra.
 b. Hockey and algebra, Mary didn't take.
- (34) a. ?? The petition wasn't signed by the president and the janitor.
 b. The president and the janitor didn't sign the petition.

Similarly, T. Leu (personal communication) points out that while *X und Y* does not express 'neither' when in the scope of a negative in Swiss German, the same reading is perfect if *X und Y* is topicalized:

- (37) a. Käi Lehrer biätet das Jahr Tschutä und Singä a.
 no teacher offers this year soccer and singing PRT
 'not both'
 * 'neither'
- b. Tschutä und Singä biätet das Jahr käi Lehrer a.
 soccer and singing offers this year no teacher PRT
 'neither'
- (38) Käi Lehrer biätet das Jahr Tschutä odr Singä a.
 no teacher offers this year soccer or singing PRT
 'neither'

We take these data to indicate that definite conjunctions in subject and topic position scope above negation, as subjects and topics generally do. Remaining close to home, a comparable asymmetry is observed in the interpretation of stressed, Boolean *AND*:

- (39) a. The petition wasn't signed by the president AND the janitor.
 'not both'
 b. The president AND the janitor didn't sign the petition.
 * 'not both'

Scoping above the *c*-commanded negation is in no way incompatible with the claim that the conjunctions in (33), (34), and (37) denote pluralities, which are potentially scopeless. On Landman's (2000) theory a plural may enter the sentence either directly or via what he calls scopal quantifying in, SQI: Landman uses the first option to derive cumulative readings (where both arguments of the relation are interpreted distributively but scopelessly) and the second, quantifying-in option for asymmetrical distributive readings. Since SQI is independently available to plurals, it comes for free in interpreting (34b) for example:

- (40) SQI_{*n*}: scopal quantifying-in (Landman 2000: 194):
 Let ϕ be of type *t* and α the unique expression stored under index *n* in *S* _{ϕ} :
 SQI_{*n*}[α , ϕ] = APPLY[$\lambda x. \forall x_n \varepsilon AT(x) : \phi, \alpha$]

Let us now turn to (35b). We thank D. Beaver (personal communication) for pointing out that when a contrast set is provided by the linguistic or extralinguistic context and the conjunction is understood to provide an exhaustive list of what the predicate does not hold of, the 'neither' reading is entirely natural:

- (35) b. Of the courses on the list, Mary didn't take hockey and algebra.

In view of the above, we propose that in this case *hockey and algebra*, although it is in VP-internal position, scopes above negation. This is plausible since such a sentence answers an implicit or explicit negative question:

- (41) Which of the courses didn't Mary take?

We need not decide whether all these conjunctions must be quantified in or this is just one of the possible derivations. Relevant to us is the fact that subjects, topics, and exhaustive lists may be quantified in and thus scope above negation. It is thus understandable that even speakers who otherwise have a difficulty with 'neither' readings within the scope of negation easily accept them in these positions.

7 PACKAGES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF NEGATION

We now turn to the contrast in (36). Even speakers who require *or/nor* in (36a) with the *ad hoc* pair hockey and algebra, find *and* natural in (36b), where maths and physics form a stereotypical pair: they are often linked together in college programs, they are thought to require similar skills, etc.

- (36) a. ?? Mary didn't take hockey and algebra.
 b. Mary didn't take math and physics.

Other examples with stereotypical pairs or with conjuncts that the specific context may package together are also natural on 'neither' readings without further ado:

- (42) a. He didn't bring the map and the compass.
 b. He didn't notice the scratches and the bruises.
 c. He didn't talk to Mr. and Mrs. Smith.
 d. He didn't see John and Mary. [understood to be a couple]

All of these will be referred to as 'packages'.

The importance of packages is this. The data we have reviewed so far indicated that a significant subset of speakers reject or strongly disprefer *not > and* interpreted as 'neither'. If this were a hard and fast rule, it would have disturbing implications. One might be that English definite conjunctions cannot be interpreted as pluralities. This is implausible, given all the other properties they share with plural definites. Another implication might be that they can be interpreted as pluralities but do not exhibit the homogeneity presupposition. This is equally implausible, at least given the understanding of homogeneity as in (17). (17) cares about whether a distributive predicate is applied to a plurality; it does not and cannot matter whether the expression that denotes the plurality is *the girls* or *Mary and Susan*.

Against this background, the discovery that all speakers easily admit a 'neither' reading for packages within the scope of negation comes as a relief. It turns out that packaging is not a necessary condition.

8 NON-PACKAGES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF NEGATION

So far we have only considered largely decontextualized examples. It is relatively easy to make non-packaged conjunctions acceptable on the 'neither' reading if an appropriate context is provided. Consider the following:

- (43) Context: Professor is advising a student who has five more required courses to take. All are offered in the given semester, but the student cannot fit all into her schedule at the same time. The five courses are unrelated to each other. Professor says,
- You haven't taken hockey and algebra. Why don't you sign up for them now?

As above, hockey and algebra are not a stereotypical package; nor are they the only courses the student still has to take; nor does the context link them together to the exclusion of other required courses. Nevertheless, the 'neither' reading is perfectly acceptable. (43) shows that English does not draw a sharp line between packages and non-packages. Both can be interpreted as 'neither'. Therefore the homogeneous plurality interpretation of distributive predication must in principle be generally available.

But the mere fact that we have a richer context is not enough. Not any old context will do:

- (44) Context: Student asks Professor to recommend courses from the catalog that will contribute to a nice balanced curriculum. Professor says,
- a. # You haven't taken hockey and algebra. Why don't you take them?
 - b. You haven't taken hockey or algebra. Why don't you take them?

Corpus data may be used to corroborate the impressions gleaned from (43) versus (44). The following data are among those turned up by a Google search for '*don t * * * and*', etc. on one day in May 2003; they most plausibly carry the 'neither' reading:¹⁴

- (45) a. Don't blame consulting firms and I-banks
 b. Don't call area 809 and other Caribbean codes
 c. Winter's coming—but don't abandon the yard and garden
 d. Don't Let Sports Sprains and Strains Sideline You
 e. Why don't Bonnie B. Barr and Michael B. Leyden answer their mail . . .

¹⁴ As the reader may easily confirm, each such search will find over a million tokens of a negated auxiliary separated from *and* by three arbitrary words. Most of the examples have to be discarded because *and* is not within the scope of the negation (*Don't miss it! Bonnie and Clyde . . .*). Many of the relevant ones, especially those involving conjoined VPs, will obviously carry the 'not both' interpretation. We did not include such examples in the list.

- f. We don't have dancing girls and corporate boxes, but this is the oldest rugby league club in Australia
- g. Don't Let the Feminists and Cloners Lead Your Members Astray
- h. Don't help the spammers and hackers!
- i. Don't forget seat belts and depend on air bags, . . .
- j. Don't Cut Tributaries, Streams, and Wetlands Out of the Clean Water Act
- k. Don't get plastic tarps and duct tape just yet . . .
- l. Don't waste your energy and intellect on ignorance
- m. I Don't See My Templates and Custom Lists. What Happened?
- n. Why doesn't God prevent evil and suffering?
- o. Teen Doesn't Care about Schoolwork and Hygiene
- p. Border doesn't block dirty air and water
- q. Golf doesn't have training camp and overpriced exhibition games.
- r. ASW's online store doesn't work with Opera and iCab.
- s. Features, Ease of Use, Stability, Speed, 'doesn't work on Mac and Linux'.
- t. Mike doesn't work with Messenger and Paltalk
- u. Mailing List ls doesn't show directories and links in WU-FTPD 2.6.
- v. restore icon doesn't work in Word and Pwrpoint
- w. She likes animals, nature, and me. She doesn't like violence, poaching, and meat.
- x. Okay, so maybe heart disease doesn't show itself for years, but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist in kids and teens
- y. EU won't divulge passengers' race and religion
- z. Why didn't 'everything' include 'mew' and 'im'?

Some of these examples clearly involve what may be called packages (*sprains and strains*, *the feminists and cloners*, *evil and suffering*, etc.) but many others do not. For example, Mac and Linux are far from being a stereotypical pair. What makes the use of *and* natural in (45s) is that the customer expects a product to work on both Mac and Linux (among other systems, presumably). In general, strikingly many of the relevant examples express complaints, i.e. failed expectations, of some sort.

This squares well with the contrast between (43) and (44). In the context of (43), *You haven't taken hockey and algebra* is natural, because although unrelated, both courses are required, while in the context of (44), the same sentence is not natural, because these courses are not

required at all. In other words, in (43) it is normal or expected for the student both to take hockey and to take algebra, while in (44) it is not.

9 AND VERSUS OR AND NEITHER ... NOR

Similar insights are obtained if the same sentence is contrasted with some alternatives. (46b,c) are alternatives to (46a) in the sense that all three sentences require that you have not taken hockey and you have not taken algebra. (46a) with *not ... and* suggests that it is normal or expected to take both hockey and algebra, though not necessarily simultaneously. (46b) with *not ... or* makes no such suggestion; it sounds like mentioning two examples of courses you have not taken. Finally, (46c) with *neither ... nor* resembles (46b) in that it does not suggest that normally both courses are taken; it suggests, however, that these two courses are under discussion and checks them off one by one.

(46)	normal or expected to take both	hockey and algebra dis- course salient
a. You haven't taken hockey and algebra.	yes	no
b. You haven't taken hockey or algebra.	no	no
c. You have taken neither hockey nor algebra.	no	yes

The same effect is observed in (47)–(48), which work the same way in Hungarian and English.

(47) Sajnálom, hogy nem jártam hokira és algebrára.
'I regret that I didn't take hockey and algebra' = I didn't take either, and it would have been good if I had taken both

(48) Sajnálom, hogy nem jártam hokira vagy algebrára.
'I regret that I didn't take hockey or algebra' = I didn't take either, and it would have been good if I had taken at least one of them

In the same spirit, the comparison of (49) and (50) illustrates a case where *és/and* is not appropriate. Imagine the consulate of a country where people are filling out visa applications. The application form lists the questions in Spanish and English. You see an applicant staring at the blank form in front of him and say,

- (49) # Ez a fickó nem tud angolul és spanyolul, így nem tudja kitölteni a kérdőívet.
 this guy not knows English and Spanish so not can out.fill-inf the form-acc
 ‘This guy doesn’t know English and Spanish, so he cannot fill out the form’
- (50) Ez a fickó nem tud se angolul, se spanyolul, így nem tudja kitölteni a kérdőívet.
 this guy not knows nor English nor Spanish so not can out.fill-inf the form-acc
 ‘This guy knows neither English nor Spanish, so he cannot fill out the form’

We know that although the form offers two languages, the applicant is supposed to use only one of them. (49) with *és/and* is inappropriate; it seems to suggest that knowledge of both languages is relevant and needed. (50) with *se X, se Y* ‘nor X, nor Y’ is appropriate, because it indicates that languages *X* and *Y* were considered one by one; also, *X* and *Y* are the salient options in the discourse situation. (*Se X, se Y* ‘nor X, nor Y’ is the negative concord version of *X is, Y is* ‘both X and Y’.)

10 ‘NEITHER’: AN INTERIM SUMMARY

This paper argues that the ‘neither’ reading of conjunctions within the scope of negation follows from the semantics that conjunctions share with plurals. The preceding two sections have demonstrated that this reading is indeed widely available in English too. Therefore the basic job of the semantic analysis is done.

Nevertheless, some further interesting questions arise:

- (51) What explains the fact that the ‘neither’ reading is most natural with packages and in cases where there is a contextual expectation for the predicate to hold of both conjuncts? (In short, where do the restrictions come from?)
- (52) What explains the fact that the restrictions in (51) are significantly stronger in English than in Hungarian, according to both elicited judgments and corpus data?

This paper will not be able to offer satisfactory answers to these questions; they must be left for further research. However, we have investigated several potential explanations; the following sections lay

them out and also indicate why they do not seem to settle the issues. The discussion will be brief and informal, because we believe that at this stage the argument does not require elaborate formalization.

11 HOMOGENEITY AS A SOURCE OF THE RESTRICTIONS

A very natural source of the restrictions would be the homogeneity presupposition.¹⁵ On one implementation, the ‘expected both’ suggestion observed in the foregoing sections is construed as a presupposition, which must be supported by the context or else accommodated by the hearer. Homogeneity gives rise to the ‘expected both’ presupposition in contexts where P is expected to hold of at least X or Y . If P is true of X , then homogeneity entails that P holds of both X and Y . Thus, in the expectation-worlds where $P(X)$ is true even $P(X\text{-and-}Y)$ is true.

This account correctly distinguishes between the contextual demands associated with packages and non-packages. Suppose that it is expected that students take math or take physics. If math and physics are stereotypically grouped together in curricula, then this expectation amounts to a stronger one, namely, that they take both. Therefore the ‘expected both’ presupposition is by default satisfied, and *Mary didn’t take math and physics* ‘Mary took neither’ is felicitous out of the blue. On the other hand, hockey and algebra are not stereotypically grouped together, wherefore *Mary didn’t take hockey and algebra* ‘Mary took neither’ is felicitous only if it is known that specifically in the given context there is an expectation for Mary to take both courses, as was the case in example (43). In the absence of established knowledge, the hearer must accommodate the dual expectation. The visa application situation (49) shows that accommodation may be impossible and the use of *and* may be outright infelicitous.

Because homogeneity pertains to $P(X\text{-and-}Y)$ in positive environments as well, this account predicts that ‘expected both’ is present in affirmatives. The following example indicates that in contexts where expectations matter this may indeed be correct. Imagine a situation where a detective is assigned to watch the entrance and the swimming pool of a house. They are on opposite sides of the house, wherefore it cannot be taken for granted that there is a spot from where they can be watched simultaneously. In this case *both . . . and* seems preferable to plain *and*:

¹⁵ We thank the anonymous reviewer for suggestions on this point.

- (53) ?# Jones climbed up a tree from which he could see the entrance and the pool very well.
- (54) Jones climbed up a tree from which he could see both the entrance and the pool very well.

But there is another prediction that is more difficult to confirm. The presupposition under discussion ought to come in two different flavors, ‘expected both’ and ‘expected neither’. When there is an expectation for at least $P(X)$ or $P(Y)$ to be false, homogeneity entails that both are expected to be false. If the context indeed supports that, *and* should be felicitous. Relevant contexts are not easy to construct but here is an attempt:

- (55) A: We will only take this program to a country that has eradicated tuberculosis and malaria.
B: ?# This country indeed does not have tuberculosis and malaria.
B’: This country indeed has neither tuberculosis nor malaria.

As (55) shows, this context prefers *neither . . . nor*, contrary to what we predict.

Likewise, this account makes the somewhat paradoxical prediction that if there is no initial expectation whatsoever of either $P(X)$ or $\neg P(X)$, then *and* is completely free, because homogeneity does not generate any presupposition regarding expectations. In fact, affirmative examples generally bear out this prediction. (56) is felicitous out of the blue:

- (56) Mary took hockey and algebra.

But negative examples like (44) seem to indicate that this is not correct. Recall that in (44) we have a lack of expectations, rather than a negative expectation, regarding hockey and algebra:

- (44) Context: Student asks Professor to recommend courses from the catalog that will contribute to a nice balanced curriculum. Professor says,
- a. # You haven’t taken hockey and algebra. Why don’t you take them?
 - b. You haven’t taken hockey or algebra. Why don’t you take them?

In sum, homogeneity is an intuitively plausible source of the restrictions in (51) but it is not clear to us how it might derive the exact patterning of the data.

12 NEGATION AS A SOURCE

Although the contrast in (53)–(54) indicates that ‘expected both’ may be present in affirmatives, (56) shows that it is absent from affirmatives in contexts without any expectations regarding $P(X)$. Martin Hackl (personal communication) has proposed an elegant way to derive it from a general felicity condition on negation, as in (57):

- (57) Felicity Condition on *not p*: *not p* presupposes/implicates that *p* is normal or was expected.

As a motivation for (57), Hackl observes that (under normal circumstances) *John was yelling* and *John wasn’t breathing* are felicitous, but *John wasn’t yelling* and *John was breathing* are not.

It seems to us that (57) is too strong and the effect observed in connection with yelling versus breathing is probably due to informativity. *Naturally, not p* and *As was expected, not p* are fully felicitous sentence types. Additionally, Hackl’s observation that (under normal circumstances) *John was breathing*, similarly to *John wasn’t yelling*, is infelicitous entails that a comparable condition should be imposed on plain non-negated *p* as well; this is now called into question by the felicity of the type *Naturally, p* and *As was expected, p*.

Specifically, it is difficult to see how a condition pertaining solely to negation would account for the differential acceptability of definite plurals and definite conjunctions within its scope. Suppose a person witnessed a crime committed by a single individual. The police show the witness pictures of two suspects from their files. Clearly, there is no expectation for her to have seen both men at the crime scene. In this context (58) is still perfect but (59a) is marginal, even though the noun phrases refer to the same plurality:

- (58) I have never seen these guys.
 (59) a. ?? I have never seen the tall guy and the fat guy/this guy and that guy.
 b. I have never seen the tall guy or the fat guy/this guy or that guy.

13 EMERGENCE OF THE UNMARKED?

We have not considered the possibility that ‘expected both’ is an independent presupposition, much like homogeneity itself. Such an

analysis does not seem viable. ‘Expected both’ cannot be directly associated with *and* or with distributive predication, because *Mary took hockey and algebra* and *Mary did not take hockey and algebra* do not carry equal amounts of the expectation.

In sum, ‘expected both’ does not seem to be a permanent component of the meaning of $P(X\text{-}and\text{-}Y)$, directly or in view of homogeneity, nor does it seem to derive simply from the presence of negation. A logical possibility that suggests itself is that $P(X\text{-}and\text{-}Y)$ is an unmarked form whose interpretation does not solely depend on its inherent content, but also on its relation to other elements in opposition to it (Jakobson 1932). This approach has two novel features as compared to the ones discussed above. One, it shifts the interpretive burden away from *not . . . and*. Two, it makes crucial use of what other linguistic expressions the negated conjunction competes with in the expression of the same truth conditional content.

As was pointed out in section 9, *not > and*, *not > or*, and *neither . . . nor* are true under the same conditions (although they are false under slightly different ones, since homogeneity is a presupposition). But let us now turn the table and assume, in addition, that *or* and *neither . . . nor* have an independence condition associated with them. Stalnaker (1975) and Zimmermann (2000) propose that one disjunct must not entail the other. As the anonymous reviewer notes, this is too strong, witness (60):

(60) He doesn’t live in L.A. or even in California.

The condition might thus be a conventional implicature, which is not strictly a precondition for truth and is detachable. More pertinent to the present discussion, we assume that the notion relevant to us is not one of logical independence, but independence in terms of some contextually given set of practical considerations C . As a first approximation, we define independence simply as the absence of the expectation we found in *not > and*:

(61) The propositions p and q are independent $_C$ if there is no expectation $_C$ that both p and q be true.¹⁶

Thus, (46) may be recast as follows:

¹⁶ Frank (1997) and Zvolenszky (2002) observe an important problem for Kratzer’s semantics for modals. Zvolenszky proposes that modal propositions be interpreted as normative facts about the world of evaluation. We do not attempt to develop (61) in more precise terms here, using either approach to modality, because, as we show in section 14, empirical facts do not support the competition hypothesis as strongly as one would wish.

(62) <i>not-P(X and Y)</i> is true	only if	$\neg P(X)$ and $\neg P(Y)$ [by homogeneity]
<i>not-P(X or Y)</i> is true	iff	$\neg P(X)$ and $\neg P(Y)$, and implicates that $P(X)$ and $P(Y)$ are independent _C
$P(\textit{neither } X \textit{ nor } Y)$ is true	iff	$\neg P(X)$ and $\neg P(Y)$, and implicates that $P(X)$ and $P(Y)$ are independent _C , and X and Y are discourse salient

A speaker who wishes to convey $\neg P(X)$ and $\neg P(Y)$ can choose from at least these three distinct options. She is supposed to choose the one that fits best with the context; thus, if $P(X)$ and $P(Y)$ are independent_C, she is supposed to choose *not ... or* or *neither ... nor*. Thus, use of *not ... and* will convey ‘expected both’ without this being part of its permanent meaning.

This latter part of the reasoning might be expressible either in terms of Gricean conversational implicatures or in terms of bidirectional optimality theory; two approaches that are very close to each other although, to our knowledge, their relationship has only been explored in a preliminary fashion; see Blutner (no date).

This proposal correctly predicts that the use of *not ... and* will not ambiguously convey either ‘expected both’ or ‘expected neither’. The reason is that, by brute force, we defined independence_C so that it covers all cases except those where both $P(X)$ and $P(Y)$ are expected. This removes a problem that arose in connection with deriving ‘expected both’ from homogeneity. Similar reasoning might also explain why the effect is much weaker in affirmative environments. Here plain *and* competes with *both ... and*. In optimality theory, the fact that there is only one competitor, which is in addition syntactically more complex, may account for the wider distribution of plain *and*. If the reasoning is framed in Gricean terms, the conventional implicature of *both ... and* may be more specific than that of *or*, thus leaving more space for plain *and*.

Finally, the present proposal might offer an answer to the question in (52), namely, why speakers of Hungarian (Russian, Serbian, Italian, Japanese) judge negated conjunctions to be so much more neutral and natural on the ‘neither’ reading than their English (German) speaking counterparts. Recall the observation, elaborated in Section 2, that disjunctions are positive polarity items in the former languages. Therefore, the main competitor is absent: Hungarian *nem ... és* does not compete with *nem ... vagy* for the expression of ‘neither’. The

only competitor is *se ... , se ...* ‘neither ... nor ...’, which is both syntactically more complex and requires a kind of discourse salience that conjunction and disjunction themselves do not.

14 PROBLEMS FOR THE COMPETITION ACCOUNT

It is a crucial and attractive feature of the competition account that its predictions are contingent on exactly what linguistic expressions are available for the given meaning. Now we test the predictions in three different environments in Hungarian. Let us consider three cases.

- (63) *és* ‘and’ is in the environment of clausemate negation.
Competitors: *se ... , se ...* ‘neither ... nor’
- (64) *és* ‘and’ is in the environment of clausemate negation, but this constellation is embedded under a NPI-licensor.
Competitors: *vagy* ‘or’ and *se ... , se ...* ‘neither ... nor’
- (65) *és* ‘and’ is in the complement of *nélkül* ‘without’.
Competitors: none.

Case (63) was discussed in Section 13 and was claimed to bear out the predictions. The background for (64) was presented in Section 2: example (8) demonstrated that in this ‘rescuing’ environment, Hungarian disjunctions behave exactly like English disjunctions, hence they compete with conjunctions. The contrast in (47)–(48) of Section 9 actually relied on this fact in demonstrating that when *vagy* is available for competition, ‘expected both’ is quite clear in *és*. So far, so good. But consider now (65), a good example of which is (66):

- (66) Kati az apja és a húga nélkül ment nyaralni.
Kate the father-3sg and the sister-3sg without went vacation-inf
Lit. ‘Kate went on vacation without her father and her sister’ =
‘without her father or her sister’

Nélkül ‘without’ blocks positive polarity items, wherefore *vagy* is ruled out as a competitor, just as in (63). But *nélkül* ‘without’ does not license *se ... , se ...* ‘neither ... nor’ in strict negative concord languages like Hungarian. Thus *és* ‘and’ has no competitor.

The competition account predicts that in case (65), *X és Y nélkül* ‘lit. without X and Y’ is appropriate independently of contextual expectations. Specifically, it should sound entirely natural even if it is outright unexpected for the predicate to hold of both X and Y. Unfortunately, this prediction is not borne out. The data in (67)–(68)

are at best marginal. These intended meanings must be expressed using some circumscription.¹⁷

- (67) Tudom, hogy nem szereted az édeset.
 ‘I know that you don’t like sweet things’
 # ? Ezt az ételt cukor és édesítőszer nélkül készítettem.
 this the dish-acc sugar and sweetener without prepared-I
 Lit. ‘I prepared this dish without sugar and (artificial) sweetener’
- (68) Csengettek, miközben öltöztem.
 ‘The bell rang while I was dressing’
 # Szoknya és farmer nélkül nyitottam ajtót.
 skirt and jeans without opened-I door-acc
 Lit. ‘I opened the door without a skirt and a pair of jeans’

In this environment, *és* ought to be immune to ‘expected both’, but it is not. This indicates that ‘expected both’ is not just a product of competition—or at least not in any straightforward way.

The cross-linguistic line of explanation also faces a problem. The competition account would work best if all languages fell either into the English type or the Hungarian type:

- (69) English, German:
 disjunction not a PPI—negated conjunctions more difficult on the ‘neither’ reading
- (70) Hungarian, Russian, Serbian, Italian, Japanese:
 disjunction a PPI—negated conjunctions natural on the ‘neither’ reading

In fact, we are aware of a third type, which resembles English in one crucial respect but Hungarian in another:

- (71) Modern Hebrew, Bulgarian:¹⁸
 disjunction not a PPI—negated conjunctions natural on the ‘neither’ reading

The good news is that the division of labor between conjunctions and disjunctions in these latter languages conforms to our generalizations. The following Modern Hebrew paradigm was constructed by Edit Doron (personal communication):

¹⁷ Hungarian conjoined bare singulars behave like definites, not like quantifiers, indicating perhaps that they are kind denoters, as suggested by Barbara Partee (personal communication).

¹⁸ We thank Edit Doron, Julia Horvath, Erez Levon, Eytan Zweig, and Boyana Stamenova for data and discussion.

- (72) lo macati ba'al o me'ahav.
not I-found husband or lover
'I didn't find a husband or a lover' = looked for either and found neither
- (73) lo macati ba'al ve me'ahav.
not I-found husband and lover
'I didn't find a husband and a lover' = looked for both and found neither
- (74) lo macati lo ba'al ve lo me'ahav.
not I-found not husband and not lover
'I found neither a husband nor a lover' = search for two independent things, both failed
- (75) lo macati ba'al VE me'ahav.
not I-found husband AND lover
'I didn't find both a husband AND a lover' implies that a husband was found
- (76) lo macati gam ba'al ve gam me'ahav.
not I-found also husband and also lover
'I didn't find both a husband and a lover'

The bad news is in these languages negated conjunctions and negated disjunctions are equally natural in their own spheres; especially in Bulgarian they may even be interchangeable.¹⁹ This contrasts with the fact that the majority of our English and German informants express a strong preference for negated disjunctions in situations without a very clear expectation for both $P(X)$ and $P(Y)$ to be true. The Modern Hebrew and the Bulgarian data indicate that this may not be derivable from competition from disjunctions.

¹⁹ The Bulgarian data come from a chatroom corpus with 64 tokens involving negated conjunctions or disjunctions, collected and annotated for this project by Boyana Stamenova. (The corpus is available at <http://hompages.nyu.edu/~as109/bulgariancorpus.pdf>.) The fact that Bulgarian may use *i* 'and' and *ili* 'or' interchangeably is nicely illustrated by the following example, where the same person uses both connectives in the same sense in the same sentence:

- (i) Samo edin vâpros, Puffi. Zašto smjataš, če predviždanijata ne se opredeljat ot xaresvaneto i nexaresvaneto, odobrenieto ili neodobrenieto.
'Only one question Puffy. Why do you think that the predictions are **not** based on likes **and** dislikes, approval **or** disapproval'

In sum, at least the simple form of the competition hypothesis outlined in Section 13 is found wanting, just as the hypotheses relating ‘expected both’ to homogeneity or negation.

15 CONCLUSION

The starting point of this paper was the observation that in Hungarian(-type languages) negation interacts with disjunction and with conjunction in a more restricted fashion than in English (or German). We first argued that in Hungarian the disjunction facts are due to polarity sensitivity, while the conjunction facts follow from the plurality semantics that definite conjunctions are generally thought to share with definite plurals. Distributive predication applied to pluralities carries a homogeneity presupposition. To explain the absence of an additional Boolean *and* in the definite domain we observed that it is only available when the connective can be non-metalinguistically focused; a possibility which is present in English(-type languages) but not in Hungarian(-type languages).

The starting point of the second half of the paper was the observation that the ‘neither’ reading due to plurality semantics should be available in English as much as it is in Hungarian—but where the conjunction certainly falls within the scope of negation this does not initially seem to be true. Discussing stereotypically packaged as well as ad hoc conjunctions we argued that ‘neither’ readings are in fact available; thus the central semantic claim is supported.

In the course of making that argument, we observed a presupposition/implicature accompanying negated conjunctions that was dubbed ‘expected both’. In the last sections we asked where ‘expected both’ comes from. We outlined three hypotheses that look promising but eventually do not work quite as well as they should. We did this in the hope of promoting further research on the subject.

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