1. Definition

Complex anaphors are nominal expressions referring to propositional structured referents while introducing them as unified entities into a discourse.

1. Young drivers usually drive too fast.  
   This / this state / this fact / this image …

3.1 Types of Complexation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antecedent</th>
<th>Maintenance by lexical anaphors</th>
<th>Maintenance by neutral anaphors</th>
<th>Ontology-changing complexation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[The Jacob-Sisters’ dogs resemble each other as much as their owners]_w</td>
<td>Insiders assume that [this resemblance]_w is the reason for their success.</td>
<td>Insiders assume that [this fact]_w is the reason for their success.</td>
<td>Insiders assume that [this fact]_w is the reason for their success.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[This process]_w hasn’t finished yet.</td>
<td>[The whole thing]_w hasn’t finished yet.</td>
<td>[This insight]_w, [This assumption]_w determined economical sciences of the 20th century.</td>
<td>[This fact]_w proves that the situation isn’t under control yet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two soldiers were injured during [this action]_w, one inside the house and the other one outside the house.</td>
<td>[This]_w, happened yesterday while Mr. Rumsfeld visited Bagdad.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Constraints on Ontology Changing Complexation

2. *z_y ≈ x if x > y  
   (“if x is higher on abstractness scale than y”)

Anaphorical complexation can shift referents of any ontological type to a discourse entity of either the same ontological type or an ontological type that is more abstract. Thus, anaphorical complexa-tion can be a process of increasing abstractness (in terms of fig. 1).

3. [The earth turns about the sun],  
   [This process], will presumably last for 7-10⁶ years.  
   [This state], will presumably last for 7-10⁶ years.  
   [This fact], is well known since the Middle Ages.  
   Researchers of the Vatican were not allowed to examine  
   [this possibility]_pp / [This event]_pp …

4. Resolution and Disambiguation

The ‘abstractness constraint’ (2) can serve to explain ontological based resolution of ambiguous complex anaphors.

4.1 [Gerhard Schröder assured that [Railway Manager Mehdorn is a competent man]_w].

(a) [This act of lying]_w distressed the Opposition. /  
(b) [This testimonial]_w, distressed the Opposition.

(fig. 2: resolution model)

5. Textual Function

Once the complex referent is established as a unified discourse entity by a complex anaphor, the discourse entity is accessible by personal pronouns (as it in the 3rd sentence), whereas the use of personal pronouns in the Vorfeld as a complex anaphor (as it in the 2nd sentence) is restricted (cf. Hegarty 2003):

5.1 [The earth turns about the sun]_w  
   [This process]_w, [This]_w, [This act of lying]_w will presumably last for 7-10⁶ years.  
   [It] might, however, terminate a few years earlier.