

Mathematics for linguists

Gerhard Jäger

University of Tübingen

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Review: The Syntax of Statement Logic

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Note that we assume that statements are finite.

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Generally, proving by induction that “All X have the property P ” is possible just in case the set of all X is defined inductively.

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- One or more rules on how to construct new objects from objects that have already been constructed.

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- Show that P holds for the most basic (atomic) statements.
- Show that every possibility of building complex statements from statements that have already been constructed 'transfers' P from the constituent statement to the complex one.

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Since we have considered all cases, we have established the theorem.