Complex connectives
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This talk discusses the interpretation and analysis of several sentential connectives found in Cheyenne (Algonquian), drawing on the author’s fieldwork as well as several collections of texts. Coordinating connectives in English, including *and*, *but*, and *or*, are monomorphemic. In Cheyenne, the basic form used for conjunction is *naa*. Other connectives are morphologically complex, formed by combining *naa* with other morphemes, all of which have independent uses.

These complex connectives, and certain uses of *naa* alone, complicate a compositional, truth-functional analysis of the Cheyenne connectives. In particular, though disjunction is logically weaker than conjunction, the two forms for disjunction – *naa mató=héva* and *naa mó=héá’c* – each contain the conjunction *naa*. Recently, several authors have proposed analyses of related data from other languages, arguing the basic element is not true conjunction. However, the data in these languages differ from Cheyenne in crucial ways. Building on these analyses, and other work on the semantics of disjunction, this talk proposes an analysis of the Cheyenne connectives that preserves *naa* as conjunction. Specifically, *naa* is analyzed as dynamic conjunction, different from English *and* in several ways.