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Foreword

Autor:

Zeevat, Henk; Schmitz, Hans-Christian

Aufsatztitel:

Foreword

Jahrgang:

33

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01-02 (2009)

Seiten:

5

Abstract:

This volume grew out of a workshop on formal and experimental approaches to discourse particles and modal adverbs, held at the European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI) 2008 in Hamburg. The workshop has been the third in a series of workshops starting at ESSLLI 2003 in Vienna and continuing in Barcelona in 2005. Since 2003, formal and experimental approaches to particles have become a flourishing area of research. For the right reason: particles provide challenges for the formal and experimental methods currently available, both in the kind of content they express and in the way they (seem to) do so. The papers in this volume provide many examples.

It is fitting to make a methodological remark which we hope will be carried over to the next call for proposals. What is a formal treatment of a particle? Firstly, it seems that a formal treatment should comprise an analysis of the syntactic and intonational patterns in which the particle is involved, it should be able to predict the effect of the particle on the interpretation of its hosts, and it should be able to predict when the particle can be or even has to be inserted in a host. Formal means computational: a formal treatment should be able to guide a generator to the right form and intonation, and an interpreter to the right analysis of the hosts. Secondly, a formal treatment should shed light on grammaticalisation and acquisition. It should shed light on how the evolution of language can have formed the particle from its often transparent lexical source and how the usage of the particle can be learned (at least make clear that the

usage can be learned). Again, formal means computational, insofar that formation and learning should be reproducible by simulation. For all areas, but especially for grammaticalisation and acquisition, it holds that intense empirical investigation is required (more than is customary) and that corpus-based methods as well as interpretation experiments and elicitation experiments are necessary.

The papers collected in this volume impressively follow this demanding methodological account. Thus, research goes, from our perspective, in the right direction. Next, it would be very useful to have full treatments of really simple particles – if there are any. And it is also clear that it is still a way to go for the more nasty ones that are being studied in this volume.

The pragmatics of expressive content: Evidence from large corpora

Autor:

Constant, Noah; Davis, Christopher; Potts, Christopher & Schwarz, Florian

Aufsatztitel:

The pragmatics of expressive content: Evidence from large corpora

Jahrgang:

33

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7-23

Abstract:

We use large collections of online product reviews, in Chinese, English, German, and Japanese, to study the use conditions of expressives (swears, antihonorifics, intensives). The distributional evidence provides quantitative support for a pragmatic theory of these items that is based in speaker and hearer expectations.

Überhaupt und sowieso and überhaupt en sowieso

Autor:

Fisseni, Bernhard

Aufsatztitel:

Überhaupt und sowieso and überhaupt en sowieso

Jahrgang:

33

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01-02 (2009)

Seiten:

25-43

Abstract:

We compare the use of überhaupt and sowieso in Dutch and German. We use the word-wide web as the main resource and pursue a zigzag strategy, trying to find usages going back and forth between dictionaries, intuitions and real data obtained through web search. To our surprise, the results more or less confirm the decision of Dutch dictionaries to consider überhaupt and sowieso synonymous. In German, we find no synonymy, but only a great overlap of usage conditions in declarative sentences.

Hybrid Semantics for Modal Particles

Autor:

Gutzmann, Daniel

Aufsatztitel:

Hybrid Semantics for Modal Particles

Jahrgang:

33

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45-59

Abstract:

German modal particles show intriguing semantic and syntactic properties. To account for some of them – that they are non-truth-conditional, and that they can neither be coordinated nor focused – I build on Kaplan's (1999) insights and sketch a view on semantics that refers to both truth and use conditions, called *Hybrid Semantics*. To provide a formal implementation of the core ideas of Hybrid Semantics, I present L_{TU} , a multidimensional type-driven logic. The tools of L_{TU} are then employed to account for the three properties of modal particles mentioned above.

The Dutch particle *wel* as a denial of a negation

Autor:

Hogeweg, Lotte

Aufsatztitel:

The Dutch particle *wel* as a denial of a negation

Jahrgang:

33

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61-75

Abstract:

In this paper, I argue that all uses of the Dutch particle *wel* share a core meaning, namely that they mark a denial of a previous negation. To substantiate this claim, I will analyze the different uses in an LDRT model (Geurts & Maier 2003). Spenader and Maier (2009) show that this model allows denial and contrast to be analyzed in similar terms, which makes it very suitable for the purpose of this paper.

A unified DRT-based account of accented and unaccented middle field *doch*

Autor:

Karagjosova, Elena

Aufsatztitel:

A unified DRT-based account of accented and unaccented middle field *doch*

Jahrgang:

33

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77-93

Abstract:

The paper presents a unified DRT-based account of the meaning and function of two apparently dissimilar uses of the German particle *doch*, namely accented and unaccented *doch* in the middle field. It is claimed that both uses express the discourse relation Correction, and that unaccented *doch* additionally indicates that the *doch*-host is assumed by the speaker to be given in the discourse context. It is further assumed that *doch* is weakly ambiguous between

various relations of contrast, and its underspecified meaning is defined in the framework of UDRT (Reyle, Rossdeutscher and Kamp 2007). It is shown how in concrete discourse, a particular reading is selected from the underspecified meaning representation, depending on the information structure of the sentence, as well as on the syntactic and prosodic properties of the respective *doch*-use. This process is modelled in the framework of the most recent version of DRT (Kamp, van Genabith and Reyle to appear) and the version of DRT that takes into consideration the focus-background division of the sentence (Kamp 2004).

Expressiveness of the connective: a unifying approach of its incompatibility and mirativity functions

Autor:

Lobanova, Anna

Aufsatztitel:

Expressiveness of the connective: a unifying approach of its incompatibility and mirativity functions

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33

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95-108

Abstract:

English connectives *and* and *but* have been said to correspond to three Russian connectives: *i*, *no* and *a*. While *i* corresponds to the English *and*, and *no* to *but*, the functions of *a* are ambiguous, overlapping with both *and* and *but*. Previous work on these connectives has mostly focused on the contrastive function of *a*. The main goal of this paper is to analyze the function of *a* to indicate the attitude of the speaker. Although this function has been mentioned in previous studies (Foolen 1991, Malchukov 2004), it has not been fully addressed. I show that the Russian connective *a* induces inferences about the attitude of the speaker towards events described in a sentence. These inferences are detachable and non-cancellable, properties traditionally attributed to conventional implicatures (CIs) (Grice 1975, Potts 2005). I argue that *a*'s speaker-oriented meaning is a consequence of it inducing a CI. I conclude with a number of open questions regarding the implication of this analysis on a distinction between two uses of *a*: speaker-oriented expressive *a* and contrastive *a*.

Presupposition Accommodation of Discourse-Initial *Too*

Autor:

Sumiyo Nishiguchi

Aufsatztitel:

Presupposition Accommodation of Discourse-Initial *Too*

Jahrgang:

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109-121

Abstract:

Sentences with the Japanese focus marker *mo*, meaning ‘also/too,’ can be uttered out of the blue without sounding abrupt. *Mo* sentences have a presentational neutral focus, rather than a contrastive narrow focus. Although a certain amount of work has been conducted on *mo* as a contrastive too and a universal quantifier along with wh-words, little has been documented regarding the discourse-initial *mo*; hence, this forms the focus of this paper. I characterized this *mo* as bouletic *must* and a lexicalized verum operator. In other words, the discourse-initial *mo* is a speaker-oriented emphatic marker, similar to *indeed* or *unfortunately*. Even though the presentational neutral focus indicates that the propositions are discourse new, *mo-p* conveys logical presuppositions as indicated by the interference with negation and modals. Through association with a whole proposition, *mo* triggers presuppositions that form reasons to infer *p*—evidence to convince the speaker and hearer that *p* is true. The hearer abduces the presuppositions on his or her own and accommodates them. Since *p* is not implied by the context, the hearer accommodates the informative presuppositions. Such data enforces the view that the presupposed information need not have been available to anyone else prior to the speech (Stalnaker 1974, Prince 1978, Delin 1992).

Sharpening the adequacy of a characterisation

Autor:

Schaden, Gerhard & Tovená, Lucia

Aufsatztitel:

Sharpening the adequacy of a characterisation

Jahrgang:

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123-137

Abstract:

In this paper, we propose a characterisation for the German particle *gerade* (\approx just/precisely) that tries to capture the intuition of “emphatic assertion of identity” (König 1991a,b) in terms of an operation of comparison. Stated informally, *gerade* helps to “sharpen the perception of adequacy” of the description expressed by the associate. The focus-background partition is exploited to identify the elements in the identity relation, and the effect of sharpening comes about by asserting the superiority of the associate over the alternatives with respect to the issue under discussion.

To p or to $\neg p$ - The Bavarian Particle *fei* as Polarity Discourse Particle

Autor:

Thoma, Sonja

Aufsatztitel:To p or to $\neg p$ - The Bavarian Particle *fei* as Polarity Discourse Particle**Jahrgang:**

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139-152

Abstract:

This article provides a description of the semantic and pragmatic conditions for the use of the Bavarian German particle *fei*. I offer an analysis of *fei* as a discourse particle with strong polarity focus effects. It is shown that the particle encodes polarity focus by contrasting a proposition p with an alternative $\neg p$. *Fei* also acts like a discourse particle, since it works on presuppositions in discourse, and does not affect the truth-value of a sentence.

German demonstrative *so* – intensifying and hedging effects

Autor:

Umbach, Carla & Ebert, Cornelia

Aufsatztitel:

German demonstrative *so* – intensifying and hedging effects

Jahrgang:

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153-168

Abstract:

German *so* is a demonstrative expression which picks up degrees or properties and combines as a modifier with gradable as well as non-gradable expressions. Like other demonstratives it can be used deictically and anaphorically, and in addition occur ‘out of the blue’, without a demonstration gesture or antecedent. If an ‘out of the blue’ use of *so* is combined with a gradable expression it yields an intensifying effect, similar to the degree modifier *very*. But if it is combined with a non-gradable expression it appears like hedging, the speaker being uncertain whether the term she chose is appropriate. This paper focuses on the uses of *so* and addresses the question of how they relate to the deictic and anaphoric uses. Provided it is the same lexical item: Why can a demonstrative expression function as an intensifying device and a hedging device, respectively?

Modal Adverbs as Negotiation Chips

Autor:

Wolf, Lavi & Cohen, Ariel

Aufsatztitel:

Modal Adverbs as Negotiation Chips

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33

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169-177

Abstract:

A basic assumption is that modal adjectives such as *possible*, *probable*, *certain*, and *evident*, are synonymous with modal adverbs such as *possibly*, *probably*, *certainly* and *evidently*. In

this paper we challenge this view, provide a uniform formal account of modal adverbs and modal adjectives, and discuss the role of modal adverbs in discourse. We present an expanded context update theory that includes an intermediate mechanism, *Negotiation Zone*, in addition to the common ground, within which are placed asserted propositions together with degrees of strength. Modal adverbs modify this degree of strength, representing the degree of belief of the speaker in her asserted proposition. The degree of belief functions as one of the sources of evidence that play a role in the hearer's decision process, and affects the hearer's considerations for accepting or rejecting the speaker's assertion.

“Only” as a Mirative Particle

Autor:

Zeevat, Henk

Aufsatztitel:

“Only” as a Mirative Particle

Jahrgang:

33

Heft:

01-02 (2009)

Seiten:

179-196

Abstract:

It is argued that the semantics of *only* can be reduced to *only* being a particle that expresses surprise at the small size of a quantity. It follows from the expression of this surprise that the host sentence must define a quantity, i.e. have an exhaustive interpretation and that the complete sentence weakly presupposes that the quantity would be larger. The paper argues that the expression of surprise is the key to the pragmatic properties of *only*-sentences, suffices for explaining the status of the host (a non-cancellable presup-position) and can be the basis of an account of *only if*.