

Inviteds: Rick Nouwen

From disjunction to modified numerals

The pragmatic inferences triggered by modified numerals like "at least 4" are interesting for a number of reasons. First of all, in simple sentences, modified numerals lack quantity implicatures. Second, some modified numerals instead give rise to ignorance implicatures. Finally, in certain embedded contexts, quantity implicatures do appear for modified numerals. In recent years, part of this behaviour has been explained by assuming that there is a parallel between the pragmatics of disjunction and the pragmatics of "at least". For instance, at some level of description "at least 4" should be seen as "exactly 4 or more than 4". (For various forms of this and for discussion, see among others Buring 2008, Cummins and Katsos 2010, Schwarz 2013, Coppock and Brochhagen 2014, Nouwen 2015). In this talk I want to focus on different ways in which one could flesh out the parallel between modified numerals and disjunction by looking at the various ways our thinking about disjunction has taken shape over the past decades. In particular, I will compare analyses of the pragmatics of disjunction to the results of a series of experiments conducted by Stavroula Alexandropoulou (Utrecht), Jakub Dotlacil (Groningen) and myself.

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-- Cummins, Chris & Napoleon Katsos. 2010. Comparative and superlative quantifiers: Pragmatic effects of comparison type. *Journal of Semantics* 27(3). 271 -305.

-- Nouwen, Rick. 2015. Modified numerals: the epistemic effect. In: Alonso-Ovalle, L. and Menendez-Benito, P. (eds) *Epistemic Indefinites*. OUP.

-- Schwarz, Bernhard. 2013. At least and Quantity Implicature: Choices and Consequences. Proceedings of the 19th Amsterdam Colloquium, ed. by Maria Aloni, Michael Franke and Floris Roelofsen.