

Quantity and quality in linguistics

Jeroen van Craenenbroeck

In this talk I sketch the outlines of a new research program I've been pursuing over the past two years, in which theoretical insights from generative grammar are combined with methods and techniques from exploratory statistics. The approach grew out of a frustration of working as a microsyntactician with increasingly large and increasingly varied data sets, and the realization that traditional generative grammar is ill-equipped to deal with such data richness. In the talk I go through a number of case studies in which I've applied this new approach, and I also sketch some possible future applications.