

Prominence and information structure

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A wide-spread belief has it that sentences are partitioned into information-structural segments and that these segments have discrete denotations or at least carry discrete contributions to sentence interpretation. It is also commonly assumed that each of the segments (topic, comment, background, focus, etc.) is positively or negatively correlated to prominence. This talk will be an attempt to deconstruct the notions of information structure and reanalyse the assumed means of expressing it as various types of prominence bearers that receive their specific interpretations through an interplay of contextual clues, world knowledge and micro-conventionalisations.