

Scalar Additive Particles Crosslinguistically

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In this talk, I discuss the semantic properties of a certain class of scalar additive particles in English and Spanish (even and its equivalents). I address a debate about whether the semantic properties of even are better captured by the theory that even is a scope taking element that can sometimes scope out of clauses (Karttunen and Peters 1979, Wilkinson 1997) rather than one that posits multiple ambiguities (Rooth 1985, Rullmann 1998, Giannakidou 2005). I address in particular arguments stemming from Giannakidou about a certain kind of scalar particle found in languages like Greek and those of the Romance family (those she dubs “concessive” even); showing that they do not constitute an argument against a scope theory of even, and that moreover, a proper semantics of structures with a “concessive” even must involve an scalar particle that takes scope outside of clauses.