Towards a uniform super-linguistic theory of projection

lightning talk

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Question

How is meaning encoded in "secondary" modalities, e.g., via gestures, facial expressions, intonation?

Recent literature focused on projection of non-conventionalized gestures (Ebert & Ebert 2014; Hunter 2018; Schlenker 2018a, a.o.):

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(1) a. Lea might bring

 \rightarrow Lea's dog is large.



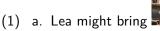


b. Zoe might

shoot at the target_{LONGBOW}.

ightarrow If Zoe shoots, she'll shoot a longbow.

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her dog_{LARGE}.

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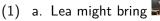


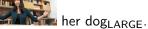
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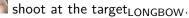
Common assumption: modality-specific rules for projection

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Schlenker 2018b: predict if/how "iconic enrichments" project from:

- whether they are "internal" or "external" ("eliminable" or not)
- whether they co-occur w/something in a more primary modality

E.g., gestures in (1) are "external" and co-speech \rightarrow "cosuppositions"

Super-linguistic approach (Esipova 2019):

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- the same principles guide projection in all modalities → no need for modality-specific typologies of projection patterns
- but to see this, we need to:
 - treat secondary modality expressions as first class citizens at all levels of representation
 - expand our empirical scope by looking at a wider range of meanings expressed in secondary modalities

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• subsective modifiers (project pragmatically when non-restricting):



2) If you bring <u>a semanticist_{CRAZY}, I'll fig</u>ht with them.

Only a properly linguistic approach can capture the diverse projection behavior of conventionalized gestures:

• subsective modifiers (project pragmatically when non-restricting):



2) If you bring <u>a semanticist_{CRAZY}, I'll fight with them.</u>

non-subsective modifiers (truth-conditionally non-vacuous):



(3) Kim is bringing her

friend AIR-QUOTES

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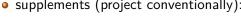


a semanticist_{CRAZY}, I'll fight with them.

non-subsective modifiers (truth-conditionally non-vacuous):



- Kim is bringing her 🏴
 - supplements (project conventionally):





a friend of mine wins_{FINGERS-CROSSED}, I'll be happy.

- primary modality degree modifiers:
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- (5) The movie was {very, truly, surprisingly, damn} good.
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- (6) The movie was good_{DEG-INT}.
 - facial expressions as degree modifiers:



Come to my poster to talk about, a.o.:

• more theoretical background for the super-linguistic approach

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- phonetic/phonological properties of DEG-INT

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- phonetic/phonological properties of DEG-INT
- the role of iconicity
- —and to see more silly pictures of me.

References I

- Ebert, Cornelia & Christian Ebert. 2014. Gestures, demonstratives, and the attributive/referential distinction. Talk given at *Semantics and Philosophy in Europe (SPE 7)*, Berlin.
- Esipova, Maria. 2019. Composition and projection in speech and gesture: New York University dissertation. https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/004676.
- Hunter, Julie. 2018. Relating gesture to speech: reflections on the role of conditional presuppositions. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 1–16. doi:10.1007/s10988-018-9244-0.
- Schlenker, Philippe. 2018a. Gesture projection and cosuppositions. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 41(3). 295–365. doi:10.1007/s10988-017-9225-8.
- Schlenker, Philippe. 2018b. Iconic pragmatics. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 36(3). 877–936. doi:10.1007/s11049-017-9392-x.