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Information

Discussion

Catalan "Déu n'hi do" and Conventional Implicatures in Exclamatives*

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Abstract: This paper presents a formal semantic analysis of the Catalan interjection 'Déu n'hi do' (DND, henceforth) and its interactions with exclamative sentences. The analysis of DND in a nutshell is that (1) it has the lexical meaning of weakening and not of intensification, contrary to previous approaches in the literature and (2) it changes the semantic type of the exclamative sentence it precedes, turning a set of propositions into a proposition. Since DND-exclamatives can syntactically embed in more contexts than bare exclamatives, they provide evidence that part of the meaning of exclamatives is conveyed through a Conventional Implicature (CI). Finally, the syntactic distribution and semantic behavior of DND-clauses in embedded contexts can be explained by the interaction between the asserted and the CI meaning.

Keywords: Exclamatives ; Conventional Implicature ; Levels of Meaning ; Particles ; Interjections

Published in: *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*. V. 7 (2008) p. 135-156 ISSN 1695-6885



Record created 2009-02-24, last modified 2009-09-28

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