

Free Choice Inferences: A Priming Study

This poster presents theoretical as well as methodological background on an experimental project inquiring the status of Free Choice inferences. Ever since Kamp's (1973, 78) seminal work, the status of FC inferences has been disputed (s. Meyer 2016 for an overview). Thus, while some proposals derive the quasi-conjunctive reading of disjunctions as part of the semantics (e.g., Zimmermann 2000, Geurts 2005, Simons 2007), others view the FC effect as a pragmatic inference. Within this latter approach, an influential type of account posits second-order (aka recursive) implicature computation to be the source of FC (Kratzer & Shimoyama 2000, Alonso-Ovalle 2006, Fox 2007). A general and parsimonious account, the implicature-based derivation of FC inferences seems to be at odds with recent experimental evidence indicating that FC inferences differ from certain other types of implicature in their processing profile (Chemla & Bott 2012). The goal of the current project is to test experimentally in how far FC inferences are subject to priming effects, which have recently been used to establish differences and similarity among inferences based on alternatives (Bott & Chemla 2016).