

Approaching scalar diversity using multiple mechanisms

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Previous research [1-2] suggests that different scalar expressions give rise to scalar inferences at different rates. This phenomenon has become known as scalar diversity. The observed variation in inference rates cannot be fully explained by factors that bear on the relation between scalar term and its Alternative. Here we propose three different mechanisms that might be involved in interpreting scalar words: (i) Exhaustification with respect to Alternatives, (ii) Maximality (e.g. [3]), and (iii) Up enrichment. We implement these mechanisms in a lexical uncertainty framework [4] to predict the variability of scalar inferences in previous inference tasks. We find that the scalar diversity effect is not only due to factors relating to Exhaustification wrt Alternatives, but also due to factors relating to strengthening under negation and strengthening UP the scale.

[1] Doran, R., R. E. Baker, Y. McNabb, M. Larson & G. Ward. (2009) *International Review of Pragmatics*, 211-248. [2] Van Tiel, B., Van Miltenburg, E., Zevakhina, N., & Geurts, B. (2016) *Journal of Semantics*, 137-175. [3] Magri, G. (2011). *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 6-1. [4] Bergen, L., Levy, R., & Goodman, N. (2016). *Semantics and Pragmatics*.