

Discourse properties of specific indefinites  
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(Abstract)

Specific indefinites have semantic properties: they are referential expressions, i.e. they allow for de re readings, they strongly prefer wide scope reading or they are epistemic expressions. Specific indefinites also show some discourse properties: they introduce discourse referents that are noteworthy, and they show "referential persistence", i.e. they trigger anaphoric expression in the subsequent discourse. The semantic properties are categorical, while the discourse properties are rather gradable. The talk investigates (i) the relation between the semantic properties and the discourse properties, and (ii) the mapping between gradable and categorical properties. One further question I address is whether the semantic properties are grammaticalized discourse properties or whether the discourse properties are epiphenomena of the semantic behavior of specific indefinites.