

Specificational particles

Edgar Onea

(Abstract)

This paper concentrates on the discourse pragmatic analysis of the German particle *nämlich*. *Nämlich* is traditionally described as having a specificational reading such that the expression *nämlich* is attached to specify a previously underspecified discourse referent, and a causal reading such that the expression *nämlich* is attached to give some kind of explanation for the previous utterance. In this paper we will argue for a unified analysis of *nämlich* as a discourse marker which simply marks that the expression it is attached to is to be understood as an answer to a salient question about the previous utterance. Moreover, we will provide a comparison between *nämlich* and additional discourse particles from German (*und zwar*) and Hungarian (*éspedig* and *ugyanis*) having similar semantic contributions, which will lead to a more complex overall picture about specificational particles.