

Specificity, referentiality and discourse prominence: German indefinite demonstratives

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There are various notions of specificity, ranging from Fodor & Sag's (1982) referentiality view to Givón's (1983) discourse prominence view. Ionin (2006) discusses the relation between these two perspectives by analyzing the English indefinite *this*. She represents indefinite *this* as a referential operator in the sense of Fodor & Sag (1982), but also adds the felicity condition of "noteworthiness". She notes that it is an open question how these two properties of indefinite *this* are linked to each other. Wright & Givón (1987) claim that the discourse prominence is primary and that referential properties are derived from it. I argue that the contrary holds: On the analysis of German indefinite demonstrative *dies* ('this') and *so'n* ('such-a') I demonstrate how we can derive discourse properties of indefinite demonstratives from their referential properties.