

Eliciting embedded quantifiers

Chris Cummins (Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld)

The question of whether weak scalar terms in embedded positions give rise to implicatures is a theoretically relevant one. If *All of the researchers read some of the books* is interpreted as conveying that *Not all of the researchers read all of the books*, this is explicable by classically Gricean means. However, if it further conveys that *None of the researchers read all of the books*—as has been argued by Chierchia and colleagues—this appears to require the local derivation of a scalar implicature, which is more naturally attributed to some other, perhaps grammatical, process. Recent experimental work has failed to resolve this question of interpretation unambiguously. Here I discuss the possibility of illuminating this discussion by appeal to usage as well as interpretation, and present some pilot data in which weak embedded quantifiers are elicited. I argue that the patterns in usage appear most naturally to conform with a broadly Gricean picture but one which makes additional appeal to prototypicality effects, in a similar fashion to ongoing work by Geurts and van Tiel.