

Occasion verbs display cataphoric presupposition verification and symmetric filtering

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Presenting evidence from four offline rating experiments, we argue that a verb class that we characterize as *Occasion verbs* (e.g., *thank*, *criticize*, *congratulate*; partly overlapping with Fillmore's 1969 *judgment verbs*) display the intriguing property of allowing for cataphoric presupposition verification more broadly than other triggers discussed in previous research. Experiment 1 through 3 used methods established by Tonhauser and colleagues (Tonhauser et al. 2013, Tonhauser et al. 2018) to show that Occasion verbs do indeed pattern with a selection of thirteen other well-known triggers (e.g., factive and aspectual verbs, demonstrative noun phrases). In addition, Experiments 1 and 2 also provided evidence that Occasion verbs – as opposed to those well-established triggers – allow for the cataphoric verification of presuppositions in a separate clause. Experiment 4 provided more targeted evidence as to the compositional consequences of this cataphoric verifiability. We compared the filtering behaviour of Occasion verbs with factive or aspectual triggers (e.g., *know* and *continue*) for conjunctions in the antecedent of conditionals (*if p **and** q, then r*). The results show that while factive and aspectual verbs show left-to-right filtering asymmetry (Mandelkern et al. 2020), Occasion verbs display symmetric filtering, that is, right-to-left as well as left-to-right.

References

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