

## Contrastiveness and exhaustivity: experimental insights

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In our talk we present experimental insights about two different topics: the role of contrastiveness in the choice of demonstratives and the status of exhaustivity in the interpretation of two Hungarian focus structures (identificational and information focus).

**1. Contrastiveness** We present the results of an experiment (Tóth et al. 2014), where we tested various hypotheses regarding the choice of Hungarian, Dutch and English proximal and distal gestural demonstratives, i.e. demonstratives accompanied by a pointing gesture. Using the so-called scripted dialogue technique (Luz & van der Sluis 2011) we showed that there is a significant difference between the choice of gestural demonstratives depending on the nature of context (non-contrastive vs. contrastive) in each of these languages. In non-contrastive contexts the traditional factor of distance plays a crucial role, while in contrastive contexts the pattern of demonstratives changes, i.e. in contrastive contexts distance as a factor is challenged and has to compete with some other factor. These results suggest that the type of context has a strong influence on the choice of demonstratives.

In a second experiment (Tóth & Csátár forthcoming) we wanted to get a more detailed picture of contrastive contexts and examined the choice of demonstratives in a special subtype of contrastive contexts which is indicated by identificational focus in Hungarian. We found that in contrastive contexts utterances with distal demonstratives were preferred by native speakers in a rating task even when the entities being referred to were close to the speaker. The findings provide empirical evidence in favour of the contrastive nature of identificational focus in Hungarian, at least under the condition that identificational focus is explicitly marked by moving the preverb to a postverbal position.

**2. Exhaustivity** In a third experiment (Tóth & Csátár 2016) we further explored the interpretative properties of identificational focus in Hungarian. More specifically, we tested whether exhaustivity and expectedness influence the interpretation of identificational and information focus within the same experimental framework. Our findings support the claim that information focus can also receive an exhaustive interpretation, at least in a context which strongly supports exhaustivity by the presence of an introductory *wh*-question. The results also question the inherent exhaustivity of identificational focus and support the view that it arises only as a pragmatic implicature, moreover, they confirm Zimmermann's (2008) and Skopeteas and Fanselow's (2011) suggestion that the interpretation of identificational focus in Hungarian does not depend on the discourse expectability of the focussed constituent.

## References

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