

UMass Workshop on the Acquisition of Quantification

abstract

Comments on Quantifier Spreading

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In this talk I will attempt to outline some aspects of the “empirical footprint” of quantifier spreading that must sooner or later be examined and explained to obtain a descriptively adequate account of classic spreading, under-exhaustive search and bunny spreading. Presupposing familiarity with the key proposals in the literature, I will focus on experimental observations, some new, others quite old, that have bearing on one or another proposal, or on all existing proposals. Due to time limitations and because it is closer to my own work and views on the matter, I will restrict my attention primarily to findings with normally developing monolinguals and to the implications of these findings for accounts of quantifier spreading that adopt a Strong Continuity position as regards its significance to the L1A of UG-based knowledge of distributive universal quantification and that, accordingly, adopt either a pragmatic or a processing-theoretical approach.

156 words