

Abstracts of the talks of Nirit Kadmon (Tel Aviv University)

at the Universität Potsdam, Campus Golm, 2013

Talk 1: No 'focus'

Wednesday, 18.09.2013 2.00-4.00 pm, Building 14, Room 0.32

- (i) Our reasons for being skeptical about having 'focus' in the grammar;
- (ii) A sketch of how we treat only and some of the facts of pitch accent placement, to illustrate how we envisage treating so-called 'focus effects' without 'focus'. The pitch accent placement facts are basically the same ones discussed in our Riga paper (sentences with both thematic and rhematic parts, examples with contrasts), but with a revised treatment, in light of our later research.

Talk 2: only

Tuesday, 25.09.2013 10.00-12.00 am, Building 14, Room 0.32

- (i) Our semantic analysis of only and our approach to how its 'associate' is identified by the hearer (expanding on the analysis presented in the first talk);
- (ii) Our take on the three messages conveyed by only (prejacent, exclusive statement, and mitrative implication) and their 'at-issue'/'non-at-issue' status

Talk 3: On the pragmatics of three prosodic patterns in all-new sentences

Wednesday, 26.09.2013 10.00-12.00 am, Building 14, Room 0.21

Looking at all-new clauses reveals roles of pa placement that have to do with factors other than givenness-k or marking 'the short answer to the QUD' (aka 'the focus'). We have identified three distinct patterns of pitch accent placement in all-new clauses, exhibiting distinct discourse roles. We introduce a set of pragmatic factors which we take to govern the choice of pattern. We support our proposals with initial results of an on-going corpus study.