

Actuality entailment and free choice

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The talk is about the interaction between two inferences, both associated with modals: Actuality Entailments (AEs), and Free Choice (FC). The empirical foci of the presentation are the generalizations in (i-iii):

- (i) AE-licensors preserve the modality of their non-AE-licensing counterparts;
- (ii) Negated AE-licensors entail the negation of the AE (what may be called "anti-AEs"); and
- (iii) AE-licensors do not give rise to FC inferences when they embed disjunctions.

I discuss the challenges of (i,ii) to existing accounts of AEs (e.g. Bhatt 1999/2006, Hacquard 2006/2009, Homer 2011), but more importantly discuss the consequences of (i-iii) to theories of FC. Specifically, I argue that views of FC as a scalar implicature (e.g. Fox 2007 and many since) correctly predict (iii) from (ii), as long as other auxiliary assumptions are put in place. Such views stand in contrast with other, semantic accounts of FC disjunction (e.g. Simons 2005, Aloni 2007), which I argue lead us to expect FC from (i), contrary to the generalization (iii).