

Literal and ironic name-mentioning: Theoretical and empirical investigations into the lexicon-pragmatics interface

Holden Härtl (U Kassel)

Pure quotation as in *“Paris” has five letters* is a device used to point to linguistic shapes; see, among others, Cappelen & Lepore (1997), Ginzburg & Cooper (2014), Recanati (2001) for analyses. Instances of pure quotation are constructions involving a name-mentioning predicate like *call* as in *Blood poisoning is also called “sepsis”* or the prenominal modifier *so-called* as in *The doctor diagnosed a so-called “tennis elbow”*. Constructions of this type inform the addressee about the name of a lexical concept as well as its status as a term used conventionally in a certain speech community. Crucially, name-mentioning constructions can also adopt an ironic, modalizing interpretation instead of a name-informing one, cf. *The so-called “hotel” was really just a few rooms above a shop*.

In my talk, I will investigate the semantic properties of name-mentioning constructions and propose a pragmatic analysis to account for the different interpretations. I will report on data from a series of experimental studies, which examined (i) the acoustic profiles of name-mentioning quotation, (ii) the interplay between the establishedness of the mentioned name and the construction’s interpretation, and (iii) how the different meaning components involved in ironic name-mentioning blend into the spectrum between at-issue and not-at-issue content of the utterance.