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Free choice effects in imperatives and strong necessity modals. What are the options?

Abstract

Recently Magdalena Kaufmann has criticised the idea that disjunctions of imperatives invariably grant free choice between the actions named by their disjuncts.

I think she is right as far as sentences of the form $!A \vee !B$ are concerned, but there is a difference between such a disjunction of two separate performatives — See to it that the sentence A gets true, or see to it that B gets true (depending on ...) — and a sentence of the form $!(A \vee B)$ — to be read as “See to it that the sentence A or B gets true”.

This is one of the points I will try to make in this talk, in which I will discuss several ways to deal with free choice in a dynamic set up.