

Hedde Zeijlstra

*On the PPI properties of speech acts and certain modals*

In this talk I demonstrate that elements that carry a feature that has the illocutionary force of a speech act operator are also PPIs (cf. Han 2001). Evidence here comes from the interplay between morpho-syntactic clause types and semantic/pragmatic speech acts: features in the head of CP that have the illocutionary force of a speech act may not be outscoped by negation and are therefore PPIs as well – negation can only apply to propositional content. I provide evidence for this claim by providing a unified solution for two puzzling phenomena concerning the syntax and semantics of sentence-initial negation: the ban on True Negative Imperatives (TNIs) that is attested in many languages and the ban on sole negative markers in sentence-initial position in V-to-C languages. In the second part of this talk, I address the question why such features are PPI-like, and I explicitly address the question as to whether their PPI-status may also be derived under modal approaches to imperatives.