

Kilu von Prince (The future is what the universe wants)

Most recent work on imperatives has focused on understanding their relation to assertions – for instance, by relating them to deontic assertions (Kaufmann, 2012); by describing them in terms of different discourse objects designed either for the common ground or for a to-do-list (Portner, 2005); or by describing them as different types of commitments, either to beliefs or to preferences (Condoravdi & Lauer, 2012). The Oceanic language Daakaka offers an intriguing empirical window into this discussion in that the same TAM expression marks directives, clauses embedded under control verbs, and, in combination with an assertion marker, assertions about the future. In von Prince (2011), I proposed that the potential marker creates a set of histories ($\langle\langle s, t \rangle, t \rangle$), which had to be added to a to-do list, and that the assertion marker *ka* changed the type of a corresponding utterance to $\langle s, t \rangle$, so that the result could be added to the common ground. In this talk, I would like to explore how well these assumptions hold up in the light of new observations from Daakaka and whether they may bring us closer to understanding the relation between assertions and directives.