

The interplay between conceptual and referential aspects of meaning

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One of the defining traits of language is its capacity to mediate between concepts in our mind, which encapsulate generalizations, and the things they refer to in a given communicative act, with all their idiosyncratic properties. This talk examines the interplay between conceptual and referential aspects of meaning in relation to semantic composition, proposing a dual route to composition and supporting it with data from nominal modification [McNally and Boleda, 2017]. If time allows, I will further discuss data from a study on short-term meaning shift that also shows sensitivity to referential aspects (work under review).

References

[McNally and Boleda, 2017] McNally, L. and Boleda, G. (2017). Conceptual vs. Referential Affordance in Concept Composition. In Hampton, J. A. and Winter, Y., editors, *Compositionality and concepts in linguistics and psychology*, Language, Cognition, and Mind, pages 245–267. Springer International Publishing.

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