Scalar and non-scalar negative polarity items: prosody, syntax and semantics

Anastasia Giannakidou

In this talk I discuss how prosodic intensification distinguishes scalar from non-scalar NPIs in Greek and Korean. At the prosody-semantics interface, intensification triggers scalar structure and exhaustification, while non-emphatic NPIs remain neutral and make non-scalar statements. The implication of this analysis is that not all NPIs are scalar, including non-emphatic variants of English any— and that the prosody-semantics interface needs to be addressed seriously in studies on scope and polarity.