

ARBEITSGRUPPE

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EINLADUNG ZUM GASTVORTRAG

Die Arbeitsgruppe Informationsstruktur (<https://linginfo.uni-graz.at/de/>)
an der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz lädt Sie herzlich
zum folgenden Vortrag im Rahmen des Kolloquiums LingInfo ein.

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It's not what you expected!

The surprising nature of cleft alternatives in French and English

Montag, 17. Juni 2019, 10:00-11:30 Uhr,
SR 47.11 (Rudolf Ritter von Scherer), Heinrichstraße 78A, 1.OG, Graz

While much prior literature on the meaning of clefts – such as the English form ‘It is X that Z’ – concentrates on the nature and status of the exhaustivity inference (‘nobody/nothing other than X Z’), we report on experiments examining the role of the doxastic status of alternatives on the naturalness of *c’est*-clefts in French and *it*-clefts in English. Specifically, we study the hypothesis that clefts indicate a conflict with a doxastic commitment held by some discourse participant. Results from naturalness tasks suggest that clefts are improved by a property we term ‘contrariness’ (along the lines of Zimmermann, 2008). This property has a gradient effect on felicity judgments: the more strongly interlocutors appear committed to an apparently false notion, the better it is to repudiate them with a cleft.

Die Teilnahme ist kostenlos, keine Anmeldung erforderlich.