
Negative Polarity Items in Quantified Contexts

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Abstract

We report the results from an acceptability study and an EEG study on negation sensitive items in quantified contexts in Swedish, investigating to what extent different negative quantifying expressions license polarity sensitive material. Four quantifiers were tested in addition to main clause negation (MCN) and a positive condition without any negation. While the acceptability study showed that the quantifiers occupy different positions on a scale of negativity, between the positive condition and MCN, in the EEG study, the quantifiers patterned with MCN. In processing thus, even lower degrees of negativity are enough for successful processing of negation sensitive material.

Keywords: acceptability, EEG

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