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# An empirical study on the wide scope of topical singular indefinites in German

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## Abstract

**Short summary** By means of a forced choice experiment with sentence continuation task, the present study aims to test Endriss' (2009) theory postulating that (singular) indefinites take wide scope when marked as aboutness topics. The results showed highly significant effects of sentence structure and intonation as topic marking devices that make indefinite wide scope more available or even preferred in German sentences with scope ambiguity. With this study, I hence provide the first empirical evidence highlighting the pragmatic influence of information structure and prosody on scope interpretation.

**Keywords:** information structure, prosody, wide scope, experimental semantics, experimental pragmatics

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