
Projection variability of complement clauses across different operators

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Abstract

We examine how the content of embedded complement clauses projects across different entailment-canceling operators for various clause-embedding predicates. We measured projection for 20 predicates across four operators: polar questions, negation, modals, and conditionals. Results reveal projection variation by operator and by-predicate variation in the effect of operator on projection. Existing theoretical accounts of projection (e.g., Heim 1983; van der Sandt 1992; Abrusan 2011; Schlenker 2021) do not capture the observed variability. Our findings highlight the importance of considering interactions between predicates and operators and generate important questions for future research on projection.

Keywords: projection, projective content, discourse interpretation

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