
Ideophones as iconic mixed items

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Abstract

This paper builds on experimental work on the at-issue status of sentence-medial adverbial ideophones in German, conducted by Barnes et al. (2022), which showed that such ideophones were default non-at-issue, and provides a semantic analysis of ideophones in German as iconic mixed items, combining both arbitrary descriptive meaning and iconic depictive meaning. As such these ideophones are similar to expressive mixed items, such as *mutt*. This analysis can be applied to other combinations of arbitrary descriptive and iconic depictive meaning, such as in quotations, classifier predicates and so called ‘Spezialgebärdensprache’ or ‘idiomatic signs’.

Keywords: ideophones, iconicity, at-issue, issueness, mixed items

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