
Question expectedness as a measure of at-issueness?

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Abstract

We present the result of an experiment designed to investigate a novel atissueness measure: the more the question answered by content c of utterance U is expected in the preceding context, the more c is at-issue. Unlike previous measures (e.g., Syrett and Koev 2015; Tonhauser et al. 2018), our measure considers the context, rather than U , and directly builds on question-based definitions of at-issueness (c is at-issue iff c answers the question addressed by U ; e.g., Potts 2005; Simons et al. 2017). Although the measure overall did not yield the expected results, a by-item analysis suggests fruitful avenues for refinement.

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