

Intervention Effects in Focus

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In this talk, I will review some of the recent analyses of LF intervention effects (and to some extent, wh-interrogatives in general) that make appeal to the notion of ‘focus’. Specifically I will ask the following questions.

- Is the relevant notion of ‘focus’ semantic (= the elicitation of a set of alternatives) or pragmatic (= new information)?
- Is the effect of scrambling in intervention effects syntactic (= the reversal of a c-command relation) or prosodic (= the expansion of a post-focal reduction domain)?
- Can prosodic reduction be regarded as a manifestation of locality in a way similar to syntactic locality?

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