

## Information structure analysis of spoken discourse

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I discuss a number of issues related to the analysis of information structure in natural discourse (demonstrated on spoken German news data). I first review a classification of definite expressions according to the context types within which the referent of the definite is identified, and talk about the notions 'anaphora', 'presupposition', 'givenness' and 'bridging', which have received diverse and, in parts, inconsistent interpretations in the literature. I argue in favour of an analysis of definites as uniquely referring expressions whose potential anaphoricity arises merely as a side effect in those cases when the lexical material of the definite itself fails to denote a unique referent. In German or English, prosody plays a crucial role in signalling the different anaphoric properties of definites as well as other expressions.

Secondly, I present a refined version of a universal analysis procedure for Questions under Discussion and information structure (focus, focus domain, topic, contrastive topic, not-at-issue material). I discuss constraints that determine the formulation of the QUD (Q-A-Congruence, Givenness, Maximize-Anaphoricity, Parallelism). Finally, I address ways to analyze the complex information structure of co-ordinations and sentence embeddings, which lend themselves as test cases for theories concerning the prosody-pragmatics interface.