AG 10: Expressives and other kind of non-truth-conditional meaning

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Expressives and other expressions and constructions that – although having conventional rather than conversational meaning – do not contribute to truth conditions and which therefore fall outside the simple picture that the distinction between semantics and pragmatics is solely drawn by the notion of truth, recently gain more and more attention in both semantic and pragmatic research. The focus of this recent development lies in extending the formal tools of semantic analysis to cover such non-truth-conditional though conventional aspects of meaning as well.

Especially expressives attract a lot of interest (e.g. Kaplan 1999; Kratzer 2004; and Potts 2007 and the comments in the same volume). Beside expressives, another important class of non-truth conditional meaning that is recently addressed with different formal tools are particles (Gutzmann 2007; Karagjosova 2004; Zeevat 2005). However, there are still many unsolved questions about both their meaning and their form. For instance, it remains unclear how ordinary truth-conditional content and rather 'use-conditional' expressions can be integrated into a single compositional approach. Furthermore, there is the question what non-truth-conditional expressions do contribute, e.g., whether they contribute felicity conditions on utterances, or whether they affect the context of utterance. How do they help to shape the overall form of the discourse and how do they relate to other pragmatic phenomena like conversational implicatures, presuppositions, and speech acts? How is their special semantic status and their particular pragmatic function reflected in their phonetical, morphological, and syntactic structure?

This workshop provides a forum form researchers of all subfields of linguistics to address these closely connected questions. Although the main focus of the workshop lies on formal approaches to the semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of non-truth-conditional aspects of meaning, morphological and phonological research may shed some light on these questions, too. Furthermore, typological and experimental approaches may provide empirical evidence that can help to decide between competing theoretical approaches.

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