

Information Structure as a Syntactic Property

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It is well known that information structure intersects with grammatical properties of language. There is less consensus on whether information structure is directly syntactically represented, or whether it is instead an extra-syntactic phenomenon (cf. Horvath 2010, Kratzer and Selkirk 2020). In this talk I describe a cluster of properties across Bantu languages that can be captured via a middlefield projection dedicated to information structure. Crucially, the implementation of this analysis requires topic and focus features to participate in Agree operations, as has been suggested by a variety of researchers recently (e.g. Mursell 2021, Kratzer and Selkirk 2020, Ostrove 2018).