

Embeddability of biased negative polar questions in Japanese

Junko Shimoyama, joint work with Daniel Goodhue (University of Maryland)

In this presentation, we explore properties of negative polar questions with positive epistemic bias in Japanese (see, for example, Sudo 2013, Hara, Kawahara & Feng 2014, Ito & Oshima 2016, Hirayama 2018, among others). We start with the working hypothesis that the negative morpheme in this construction is generated and interpreted in a syntactically high position (Krifka 2017, Goodhue 2018), and we will see how far we can get with this hypothesis and what puzzles arise. One puzzle involves the role that prosody plays (or does not play) in obtaining the interpretation of our interest, and another involves the question of embeddability of the construction in question (Yoon 2013).