

On the place of information structure in a grammar

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The question, ‘where does information structure go in the structure of a grammar’ is first and foremost an architectural question, and different grammar architectures give different answers. In this talk I will give one possible answer, based on Role and Reference Grammar [RRG] (Van Valin 2005), a monostratal (non-derivational) linking theory. In RRG there is a direct linking between the semantic representation of a sentence and its syntactic representation, and information structure plays a role in this linking. The steps in the linking algorithm mapping semantics into syntax will be specified, and it will be shown that that information structure notions can play a role at every step. Furthermore, aspects of the interaction between discourse context and information structure will be captured using a version of Discourse Representation Theory.