

Conventional Implicature and Expressives

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In recent years conventional implicature has received a great deal of attention in linguistics as a kind of nonasserted meaning distinct from presupposition and conversational implicature. In this talk, I will review the notion in conjunction with examples and provide a critical discussion of one approach to conventionally implicated meaning, that of Potts (2005). For Potts, conventional implicated meanings are those that satisfy certain criteria; he provides a logic that derives the behavior of these items. I then show that there are certain limitations on the logic that present problems for the analysis of some linguistic objects that are intuitively conventionally implicating. I extend the Potts logic in such a way that these objects can be analyzed. The talk finishes by noting some objections that have been raised to the Potts theory, and discussing an alternative conception of conventional implicatures as a special type of projective meaning.