

On X-marking in Desire Reports

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In many languages, the morphology that is used to mark a conditional as counterfactual or unlikely (= "X-marking"; von Stechow & Iatridou (2017,2020,2022)) is also used in desire reports. In desire reports however, the role of X-marking is typically not to mark the desire as counterfactual or unlikely but to mark the object of desire as unattainable ("Conditional/Wish Generalization"; von Stechow & Iatridou (2022)). After presenting von Stechow & Iatridou's assessment of the phenomenon, I present a new account of X-marking in desire reports that is based on Heim (1992)'s idea that there is a hidden conditional in every desire report. I show that this account not only allows us to reduce X-marking in desire reports to X-marking in counterfactuals but also to explain certain facts about complementizer choice in desire reports that von Stechow & Iatridou leave unaddressed.