

The German adverb of quantity 'größtenteils': quantification over parts

In this talk, I analyze the semantic contribution of the German adverb of quantity 'größtenteils', which is comparable to that of English 'for the most part' in that both adverbs intuitively quantify over parts of a totality/whole (i.e., they are partitive quantifiers). Beyond this initial observation, there is currently no consensus in the literature on how the partitive quantification expressed by adverbs of quantity is encoded in the semantics of the adverb (e.g., Beck & Sharvit 2002, Nakanishi & Romero 2004, Hinterwimmer 2020). In the course of the talk, I will present data targeting different aspects of the quantificational behavior of 'größtenteils', including the type of entity that may contribute the whole/parts and the question whether quantification with 'größtenteils' is distributive. Based on these findings, I will discuss the applicability of different extant analyses to 'größtenteils' and present a proposal for how to capture the data so far.