

Goals & Credit Requirements

- GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

The seminar aims at integrating theoretical insights from the literature on the syntax, semantics, and information-structural functions of clefts with ongoing experimental research on the semantics and discourse function of clefts: corpus studies, EKP-experiments, self-paced reading, eye-tracking, etc.

The more general goals are

- i. the stimulation of a research-centred discussion on a number of open problems concerning *it-clefts* (gain for the lecturers)
- ii. the preparation of experimental material that can also be used for submission to conferences, workshops and/or be turned into papers (gain for the students)

- CREDIT REQUIREMENTS:

- i. Constant attendance and active participation in class
- ii. Do the mandatory reading(s) for each lecture
- iii. Formulation of three questions on one target article per lecture (via Moodle)**
- iv. term project (group work)**
- v. Project presentation in class and presentation of results in written form.**

- SUGGESTIONS FOR TERM PROJECTS:

- Eye-tracking study on exhaustiveness effects in clefts
- EKP-study on exhaustiveness effects in clefts as presuppositions or (generalized) conversational implicatures
- typological study on the syntax and semantics of clefting in a language of your choice
- self-paced reading study
- corpus study on existence of *it*-clefts with additive focus particles
- corpus study on frequency and kinds of *es*-clefts in German
- loud reading experiment on the default intonation of clefts
- ...