There have been attempts to classify existential clauses (ECs) into different types since at least Milsark (1979). Some of them are structurally oriented, others more semantically based, and still others a mixture of different criteria. Some classifications are concerned with the whole construction as such while others are interested in a specific element within the construction (e.g., the existential verb). In this study we propose a distinction between entity- and event-existentials, with respect to the semantic features of the existent. Since most studies have been concerned with entity-existentials, our discussion will be focused on event-existentials, with some reference to the former when necessary. We will discuss the sub-classes within event-existentials and the co-relationship between this distinction and the two kinds of analyses of the coda in EC (i.e., NP analysis and small clause analysis); and their respective semantic features (i.e., definiteness effect and impersonality).

About the Speaker

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