

Severing uniqueness from answerhood

Bernhard Schwarz (McGill University)

reporting on joint work with Aron Hirsch (HUJI) and Michaela Socolof (McGill)

Questions with singular wh-phrases carry a presupposition of uniqueness, e.g. “Which member resigned?” presupposes that only one member resigned. An influential proposal due to Dayal (1996) derives this uniqueness presupposition from a condition on how questions are answered. Focusing on questions with disjunction, this talk argues that the source of uniqueness in wh-questions is independent of the source of answerhood conditions.