

Concession on Different Levels of Linguistic Connection: Typology of Negated Causal Links

AGNIESZKA LATOS

Abstract

This paper attempts a classification of concessive relations, often referred to as ‘anti-causal’ constructions¹, from a functional perspective. The focus of the paper is the distribution of concessive constructions on different levels of discourse. The theoretical starting-point of the analysis is the model of adverbial entity types elaborated by Hengeveld (1989, 1990, 1993, 1997, 1998) and further developed by Crevels (2000) within the Theory of Functional Grammar. In accordance with the commonly accepted distinction between ideational and interpersonal functions of a language – which has a long tradition in linguistics, identifiable for instance with Bühler (1934), Halliday (1970) or Prandi (2004) – distinct concessive types have been identified and described.



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¹ There are basically two senses in which the term *concession* is used at present: (i) ‘anti-causal’ relation based on the *if p, then not q* assumption, and (ii) discourse-pragmatic relation based on the Cardinal Concessive schema, involving the sequence of three actions: claiming, acknowledging and countering; the latter account of concession has been developed in the field of spoken language analysis (see, for instance, Couper-Kuhlen & Thompson 2000 or Barth-Weingarten 2003).