

Anaphoricity, exhaustification, and questions in free focus

The sensitivity of focus to context has often been analyzed in terms of anaphoric relations between sentences and surrounding discourse. Data from Wagner (2006) and Katzir (2013) challenge earlier anaphoric accounts, but recent work by Schwarzschild (2020) and Goodhue (2022) proposes to overcome the challenge within an anaphoric framework and highlights potential advantages of maintaining anaphoricity. I argue against these recent proposals and in favor of a non-anaphoric view in which the felicity profile of focus arises from the ability of focus to feed exhaustification and question formation.