

What is said and evaluation

Isidora Stojanovic (IJN Paris, France)

The aim of this exploratory talk is to examine how value-judgements that a speaker may convey by some utterance affect what is said by that utterance. I shall look at minimal pairs of sentences whose contents are (arguably) truth-conditionally equivalent, yet which we naturally perceive as saying different things, as for instance “The Dean’s [brave/reckless] decision to hire junior faculty only has been heavily criticized”. I shall also look at how, more generally, presupposed content affects what is said. I shall end with a discussion of the differences between evaluative presuppositions and other, more familiar kinds of presupposition (e.g. with possessive definite descriptions and clefts), and examine how these differences may impact our intuitions about what is said.