

Discourse particles

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Abstract

The course studies the semantics of *discourse particles* (a.k.a. *modal particles*), a class of expressions that includes English *man*, German *ja* and *wohl*, Japanese *yo* or Hungarian *vajon*. Discourse particles are well known for contributing to the expressive component of sentence meaning, instead of the propositional content. We review current formal theories about the nature and content of this contribution, focussing on particles appearing in interrogatives, and in lesser studied languages like Hungarian.