

## 1. Description of topic and aims of visit

The objective of this study is to explore the utility of a constraint-based approach to the meaning and use of quantified expressions. In particular, we have been working on the integration of numerical granularity (as discussed by Krifka 2009 i.a.) into the constraint-based model developed by Cummins and Katsos (in preparation).

Prior to this visit, our collaboration had resulted in the articulation of specific research questions concerning the interpretation of single-bounded numerical expressions such as ‘more than  $n$ ’ and ‘fewer than  $n$ ’ (as discussed by Geurts and Nouwen 2007, Geurts et al. 2010, Cummins and Katsos 2010, and others). We had also conducted experimental work to address these hypotheses.

The purpose of this visit was to discuss the detailed statistical analyses of these experimental findings, and agree the substance of the presentation of this research at the Euro-XPrag workshop in Leuven (10-12 June). We also prepared further experimental materials in order to address outstanding aspects of the research questions, and considered how and when to prepare our findings for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

The objective of our collaboration remains to evaluate the constraint-based model and its predictions, and determine whether it represents a significant step in adequately modelling the meaning and use of numerically quantified expressions.

## References

Cummins, C. and Katsos, N. (in preparation). Constraints on the use of numerically quantified expressions.

Cummins, C. and Katsos, N. (2010). Comparative and superlative quantifiers: Pragmatic effects of comparison type. *Journal of Semantics*, doi: 10.1093/jos/ffq006.

Geurts, B., Katsos, N., Cummins, C., Moons, J. and Noordman, L. (2010). Scalar quantifiers: Logic, acquisition, and processing. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 25(1): 130-48

Geurts, B. and Nouwen, R. (2007). “At least” et al.: the semantics of scalar modifiers. *Language*, 83: 533-59.

Krifka, M. (2009). Approximate interpretations of number words: a case for strategic communication. In Hinrichs, E. and Nerbonne, J. (eds.), *Theory and Evidence in Semantics*. Stanford: CSLI Publications. 109-132.

## 2. CV

### Chris Cummins

Nationality: British  
Date of birth: 29 July 1983  
Affiliation: Research Centre for English and Applied Linguistics (RCEAL), University of Cambridge  
Status: PhD student. Supervisor: Dr Napoleon Katsos.

#### Educational background:

2008-            PhD student, Research Centre for English and Applied Linguistics, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Napoleon Katsos. Topic: 'The interpretation and use of numerically quantified expressions'.  
2007-8           MPhil (Distinction), Research Centre for English and Applied Linguistics, University of Cambridge.  
2001-5           BA (Hons., Class I), Trinity College, University of Cambridge.  
Part I: Mathematics  
Part II: Linguistics

#### Awards:

2008            University of Cambridge Domestic Research Studentship (tenable 3 years).  
2007            Trinity College Internal Graduate Studentship (tenable 1 year).  
2004            Trinity College Senior Scholarship.  
2002            Trinity College Junior Scholarship.

#### Relevant publications and conference presentations:

Cummins, C. and Katsos, N. (2010). Comparative and superlative quantifiers: Pragmatic effects of comparison type. *Journal of Semantics*, doi: 10.1093/jos/ffq006.

Geurts, B., Katsos, N., Cummins, C., Moons, J. and Noordman, L. (2010). Scalar quantifiers: Logic, acquisition, and processing. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 25(1): 130-48

Cummins, C. and Katsos, N. (2009). Numerically quantified expressions. Oral presentation at Experimental Pragmatics Conference – 'XPrag 2009', Lyon.