Compositionality without word boundaries

Anna Szabolcsi

In the past ten-fifteen years various theories have converged on the view that words are not distinguished building blocks in syntax or morphology. If that is correct, then we do not expect word boundaries to be either lower bounds or upper bounds for compositional semantics. In fact, there are already many interesting analyses in the semantics literature that decompose or extend words in the above sense. The talk presents case studies in quantification that further illustrate the benefits of that approach, and highlights some questions that it confronts us with.