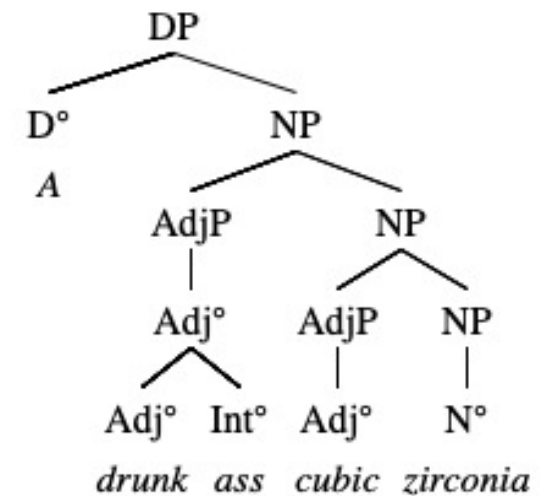


WRITING ABOUT THE ASS-INTENSIFIER

MINDS – MIND THE STRUCTURE

24.02.2022



INTRODUCTION

- Jonas Bengtson
- Major: Scandinavian Languages and Literature (Danish)
- Minor: English
- Currently working on my Master's thesis
- Presenting today: My exam paper for the course Current Topics in English Linguistics
 - The title: Post-Intensifying. The Case of the Ass-Intensifier and Its Similar but Dissimilar Danish Counterpart



THE START

- The *ass*-intensifier:
 - "That is a big-ass lollipop" (Bengtson 2021, 33)
- Pop culture sparked interest
 - I noticed a language change, i.e. *ass* not meaning *posterior*
 - Also, interest rose from the fact that we do the same thing in Danish: "Du har en røvantik indstilling til den sag" (Bengtson 2021, 44)
- Asked Ken if this was a topic appropriate for an exam

MY CLAIM

- I argue "that the intensifier has two distinct meanings in English and that intensification by a grammaticalized version of a lexical item for posterior is not exclusively an English phenomenon, showing a cross-linguistic link" (Bengtson 2021, 32)
- The two meanings: 1) The *ass*-intensifier attached to adjective phrases
 - "A drunk ass cubic zirconia is not as good as a lump of coal" (Bengtson 2021, 36)
- 2) The *ass*-intensifier attached to a noun in compounds
 - "You can dry up them crocodile ass tears, too!" (Bengtson 2021, 41)

METHOD AND STRUCTURE

- Examined the *ass*-intensifier by method of corpus-based study (COCA and KorpusDK)
- A typical example of observing a linguistic phenomenon and then analysing and describing it

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Background (Theory, context)
- 3. The *ass*-intensifier in English and Danish (Analysis)
- 4. Where do we go from here? (Discussion)
- 5. Conclusion

PROBLEMS - CHALLENGES

- The two meanings of the *ass*-intensifier
 - Are they similar or different? Should they be studied separately? Do they pose a problem to the idea of studying *the ass*-intensifier?
 - Went back and forth on the analysis of the intensifier in noun intensification – discussion was key
 - It was a challenge to figure out what was going on and connect the two meanings
 - Finding something I didn't necessarily want to find
 - The solution: Study the examples with an open mind and rethink my initial explanation

IN SHORT

- A basic flowchart:



QUESTIONS?

