

Negative Polarity Items

Corpus Linguistics, Semantics, and Psycholinguistics

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Negative Polarity Items

- (1) a. Pat did not see any student in the hallway this morning.
b. *Pat saw any student in the hallway this morning.
- (2) a. Nobody saw any student in the hallway this morning.
b. *Everybody saw any student in the hallway this morning.
- (3) a. Kim never saw any student in the hallway.
b. *Kim saw any student in the hallway this morning.
- (4) a. Few lecturers saw any student in the hallway this morning.
b. *Some lecturers saw any student in the hallway this morning.

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Negative Polarity Items

- (5) a. John didn't drink a drop (of alcohol) last night.
b. #John drank a drop (of alcohol) last night.
c. #Few students drank a drop (of alcohol) last night.
- (6) a. Nobody had the slightest inkling about where to go.
b. *Few visitors had the slightest inkling about where to go.
- (7) a. Frank isn't much of a soccer player.
b. *Manfred is much of a soccer player.
- (8) a. This sentence will not parse in a million years.
b. #This sentence will parse in a million years.

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Course Structure

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- 2 Tuesday: Corpus linguistics 1: qualitative studies
- 3 Wednesday: Corpus linguistics 2: quantitative studies
- 4 Thursday: Psycholinguistics 1
- 5 Friday: Psycholinguistics 2 and general perspective

Homework Assignments: Monday through Thursday

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Course Material

- the course page (with restricted area)
- electronic NPI bibliography
- CoDII: 'Collection of Distributionally Idiosyncratic Items'
- background literature with links (electronic reader)
 - ▶ **theoretical linguistics:** Chierchia (2006), von Stechow (1999), Hoeksema (2000), Krifka (1995), Zwarts (1998)
 - ▶ **corpus linguistics:** Hoeksema (1997), Lichte (2005), Lichte & Soehn (2007), Sinclair (2004)
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NPIs from a linguistic perspective