Negative Polarity Items
Corpus Linguistics, Semantics, and Psycholinguistics

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ESSLLI 2008, Hamburg
A Quick Guided Tour through CoDII

CoDII: The Collection of Distributionally Idiosyncratic Items
(www.sfb441.uni-tuebingen.de/a5/codii/)

- Idea: Provide empirical foundations for studies of lexical items with distributional idiosyncrasies
- How:
  - structured collection in standardized data format
  - linguistic documentation
  - example queries for corpus search
- Perspective:
  - different classes of items: NPIs, PPIs, bound words,...
  - different languages
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Currently available / under construction:

1. Bound words in German (CoDII-BW.de)
2. Bound words in English (CoDII-BW.en)
3. Positive Polarity Items in German (CoDII-PPI.de)
4. Negative Polarity Items in German (CoDII-NPI.de)
5. Negative Polarity Items in Romanian (CoDII-NPI.ro)
CoDII: A Brief Detour

CoDII-BW.de and CoDII-BW.en:

Bound words = cranberry words = unique lexemes = …

- English: to make headway, by dint of, to play footsie with somebody
- German: in Anbetracht von (in view of), der große Zampano (the big doer), noch und nöcher (a lot)
CoDII: Back to NPIs

For each NPI there are 4 information blocks:

- general information
- syntactic information
- licensing contexts
- NPI class

Let’s go and investigate!
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Homework Assignment, Day 2

Task:
Describe the six NPIs in your native language that you identified in the previous assignment in a simplified CoDII entry:

Method:
- Choose three of the following 4 licensing environments of NPIs:
  - clausemate negation
  - n-word (nobody, never,...)
  - not every
  - doubt, refuse  (example: Mary doubts that John has any friends)
- include syntactic information on your NPI in the entry (category, structure)
- add real world examples from a Google search for each licensing environment (indicate if you cannot find any)

Mail your results by tomorrow 11am to
fr@sfs.uni-tuebingen.de