

Ciyang Qin (University of Edinburgh)

The syntactic and semantic landscape of emotive clause-embedding predicates: English and beyond

Abstract: Emotive clause-embedding predicates such as *like* and *hope* exhibit different selectional patterns: Whereas *like* can take both declarative and interrogative clauses (1), *hope* can only take declarative clauses (2).

(1) Al likes {that Bo won / which player won}.

(2) Al hopes {that Bo won / *which player won}.

There are various proposals and ongoing debates in the literature about the following questions:

(i) For predicates that can take both declarative and interrogative clauses, how are the meanings of these two constructions related?

(ii) Do selectional patterns of clause-embedding predicates correlate with their semantic properties? If so, which properties are relevant and why?

In this talk, I will present novel English and crosslinguistic data showing that the empirical landscape is broader than previously assumed, and propose a more fine-grained classification of the selectional patterns of emotive predicates together with their correlated semantic properties.