

Remarks on numerals and polarity

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I will discuss three projects on interaction between numeric quantification and polarity. The question of what this interaction amounts to can be decomposed into two sub-questions: 1) When do numerals (bare or modified) create a negative environment? 2) How do numerals behave in a negative environment? I will look at these questions from the perspective of three different cases: numeral zero, Germanic *kein/geen* negation, NPI distribution with modified numerals. I will argue that depending on ones analysis of the facts I discuss, one can narrow down the space of plausible theories of numeral semantics, NPI licensing and the structure of the plural domain. What I report is joint work with Rick Nouwen, Dominique Block and Stavroula Alexandropoulou.