

Negative Polarity Items

Corpus Linguistics, Semantics, and Psycholinguistics

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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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A Quick Guided Tour through CoDII (continued)

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`