



A short bibliography on existential sentences and the Definiteness Effect

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Introductions to existential sentences

Bentley, D., 2018. Copular and existential constructions. In A. Dufter and E. Stark (eds.). *Manual of Romance Morphosyntax and Syntax* (Vol. 17). Walter de Gruyter.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110377088-009>

McNally, L., 2011. Existential sentences. In C. M. Klaus von Heusinger & P. Portner, eds. *Semantics: An International Handbook of Natural Language Meaning volume 2*. Berlin: de Gruyter, pp. 1829–1848.

McNally, L., 2016. Existential Sentences Crosslinguistically: Variations in Form and Meaning. *Annual Review of Linguistics*, 2(1), pp.211–231.

Three important PhD theses on existentials:

Milsark, G., 1974. *Existential sentences in English*. PhD dissertation, MIT.

McNally, L., 1992. *An Interpretation for the English Existential Construction*. PhD dissertation, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA. [Published as McNally, L. (1997). *A Semantics for the English Existential Construction*. London: Routledge.]

Francez, I., 2007. *Existential Propositions*. PhD dissertation, Stanford University.



On the DE

Fischer, S., Kupisch, T. & Rinke, E. eds., 2016. *Definiteness effects. Bilingual, Typological and Diachronic Variation*, Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

- Silvio Cruschina. Pseudo-Existentials and Definiteness Effects in Italian
- Susann Fischer. Existentials Vs. Unaccusatives: the Definiteness Restriction in Romance.
- Manuel Leonetti. Definiteness effects: the interplay of Information Structure and pragmatics.
- Xavier Villalba. Definiteness effect, pronouns and information structure in Catalan existentials.
- Tanja Kupisch. Definiteness Effects in German-Turkish Bilinguals Acquiring English as Third language
- Neal Snape and Setsu Sekigami. Japanese Speakers' L2 Acquisition of the English Definiteness Effect
- Marina Zielke. The Acquisition of Definiteness Effects in the L2 European Spanish of L1 German and L1 Turkish Speakers

Classic papers

Abbott, B., 1993. A pragmatic account of the definiteness effect in existential sentences. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 19(1), pp.39–55.

Abbott, B., 1997. Discussion note: Definiteness and Existentials. *LANGUAGE*, 73(1), pp.103–108.

Heim, I., 1987. Where does the Definiteness Restriction Apply? Evidence from the Definiteness of Variables. In E. Reuland & A. Ter Meulen, eds. *The Representation of (In)definiteness*. MIT Press, pp. 21–42.

Keenan, E.L., 2003. The Definiteness Effect: Semantics or Pragmatics? *Natural Language Semantics*, 11(2), pp.187–216.

Milsark, G., 1977. Toward An Explanation of Certain Peculiarities of the Existential Construction in English. *Linguistic Analysis*, 3, pp.1–29.

Rando, E. & Napoli, D.J., 1978. Definites in There-sentences. *Language*, 54, pp.300–313.

Ward, G.L. & Birner, B.J., 1995. Definiteness and the English existential. *Language*, 71(4), pp.722–742.

Zucchi, A., 1995. The ingredients of definiteness and the definiteness effect. *Natural Language Semantics*, 3(1), pp.33–78.



A cross-linguistic view

Bentley, D., 2014. Subject canonicity and definiteness effects in Romance there-sentences. *Language*, 89(4), pp.675–712.

Creissels, Denis. "Existential predication in typological perspective." Ms., *Université Lyon* (2014). <http://www.deniscreissels.fr/public/Creissels-Exist.Pred.pdf>

Cruschina, S., 2015. Patterns of variation in existential constructions. *Isogloss. A journal on variation of Romance and Iberian languages*, 1(1), pp.33–65.

Freeze, R., 1992. Existentials and Other Locatives. *Language*, 68(3), p.553.

Hu, J. & Pan, H., 2008. Focus and the basic function of Chinese existential you-sentences I. Comorovski & K. von Heusinger, eds. *Existence: semantics and syntax*, (3), pp.133–145.

Huang, C.-T.J., 1987. Existential sentences in Chinese and (in)definiteness. In E. J. Reuland & A. G. B. ter Meulen, eds. *The representation of (in) definiteness*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press,