

What Do Conditionals Commit Us To? Ontological Dimensions of Hypothetical Meaning Across Languages

This paper examines the ontological categories recruited in the construction of conditional meaning across languages. We ask: What kinds of entities—events, situations, modal alternatives, modal worlds, truthmakers—are invoked in conditional constructions, and how do these ontological commitments vary typologically? By bringing ontological analysis into direct dialogue with cross-linguistic typology, this paper seeks to advance our understanding of how languages conceptualize possibility and hypothetical thought.