(Un)expected secondary content in Finnish: Additives and scalars

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This research investigates the meaning of focus-sensitive additive and scalar clitics and particles in Finnish. Additives and scalars are crosslinguistically regarded as contributing presuppositional/non-at-issue information, which is often viewed as 'secondary information.' In Finnish, additive and scalar particles (myös ‘too/also’ and jopa Código/edes negate ‘even’) show parallel patterns with different parts-of-speech, but the meaning contribution of additive and scalar clitics (-kin/-kAAn; positive/negative) differ strikingly depending on whether they are attached to nouns/adjectives vs. verbs. On nouns and adjectives, the clitic [-kin/-kAAn] has an additive too/also-meaning and a scalar even-meaning. Strikingly, when the clitic occurs on verbs, it can make reference to the entire event (unlike scalar particles jopa/edes, which, when associated with focused verbs, provide information about the verb likelihood, not the whole event). Moreover, with verb-modifying clitics the likelihood scale is not ordered as it is with noun-modifying clitics.

I propose an analysis for noun-attached clitics, identify differences between verb- and noun-attached clitics, and propose a possible source for these differences. I suggest that differences in the non-at-issue meaning conveyed by noun-attached vs. verb-attached clitics stem from verb-attached clitics providing secondary information not about the verb but rather about the entire event. Furthermore, the verb/noun asymmetry poses some challenges for traditional analyses of even which derive its behavior from likelihood scales (see also Greenberg, to appear), but are in line with approaches emphasizing the discourse management function of additive/scalar expressions (e.g. Zimmermann 2014).