
The name-informing and the distancing use of sogenannt ('so-called'). A pragmatic account

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Name-mentioning constructions involving *sogenannt* are instances of pure quotation (Davidson 1979; Quine 1981). They adopt two distinct interpretations, a name-informing interpretation, see (1a), and a distanced interpretation (1b):

- (1) a. Der Doktor diagnostizierte eine sogenannte “Sepsis”.
b. Das sogenannte “Hotel” erwies sich als üble Absteige.

In the paper, we will propose a unitary semantic analysis for *sogenannt*, in which the expression is treated as polysemous. The *so* in *sogenannt*, in its function as a demonstrative anaphor, will be argued to operate as a pointer to the lexical shape of a name, thus binding the Name argument of the underlying verbal root of *sogenannt*. The varying interpretations arise as the result of an interplay between *sogenannt*'s primary semantic content and pragmatic factors. In particular, we will claim a relevance-based implicature to be effective in a *sogenannt*-construction with highly conventionalized nouns like *Hotel*, giving rise to the distanced interpretation we observe in cases like (1b). Distancing *sogenannt*-constructions will be analyzed as an instance of verbal irony. As such, they echo a preceding utterance of the mentioned name (Wilson 2013). Crucially, *sogenannt*-constructions will be claimed to convey not-at-issue content (Tonhauser 2012): (i) the speaker asserts himself/herself to oppose the semantic appropriateness of the mentioned name and (ii) evaluates the denotatum negatively. A careful investigation of the empirical facts will shed light on the tenability of this claim.

References: • Davidson, D. (1979): Quotation. In: *Theory and Decision* 11(1), 27–40. • Quine, W.O. (1981): *Mathematical Logic* (Revised Edition). Harvard University Press. • Tonhauser, J. (2012): Diagnosing (Not-)At-Issue Content: In: *Proceedings of SULA* 6, 239–254. • Wilson, D. (2013): Irony Comprehension: A Developmental Perspective. In: *Journal of Pragmatics* 59, 40–56.

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