

Focusing and destressing: two sides of the same coin?

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This paper addresses the theoretical question whether contrastive focus marking and givenness marking is two sides of the same coin, as suggested by Schwarzschild (1999) and more recently by Wagner (2006, 2010). I present some theoretical arguments against this unified position, supporting earlier proposals along these lines by Neeleman and Reinhart (1998), Neeleman and Szendrői (2004), Féry and Samek-Lodovici (2006), Krifka (2006) and Reinhart (2006). I will also present new empirical evidence bearing on this issue.