

Presupposing expressive meaning: the case of Hebrew *xatixat*

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Introduction

xatixat _____

a damn _____



**Negative evaluation
of their complement**

Introduction

1) a. **yosi hu xatixat smolani**

Yosi is (a) piece.of leftist

'Yosi is a *xatixat* leftist'

b. **John is a damn leftist**

Yosi/John is a leftist
(descriptive)

Negative evaluation of leftists
(expressive)

Introduction

xatixat _____

Restricted set of
complements

No Immediacy

≠

a damn _____

Any predicate as
complement

Immediacy
(Potts, 2007a)

Introduction

xatixat _____

≠

a damn _____

Presupposition (or CI): an expressive index exists

Expressive: introduce an expressive index

Background

The expressive dimension (Potts 2007a,b; Gutzmann 2011)

Expressive meaning

- is represented with separate semantic types
- arises while descriptive meaning is computed

Background

The expressive dimension

Expressive language

- changes the context of interpretation
- by manipulating expressive indices
- without affecting descriptive meaning

Background

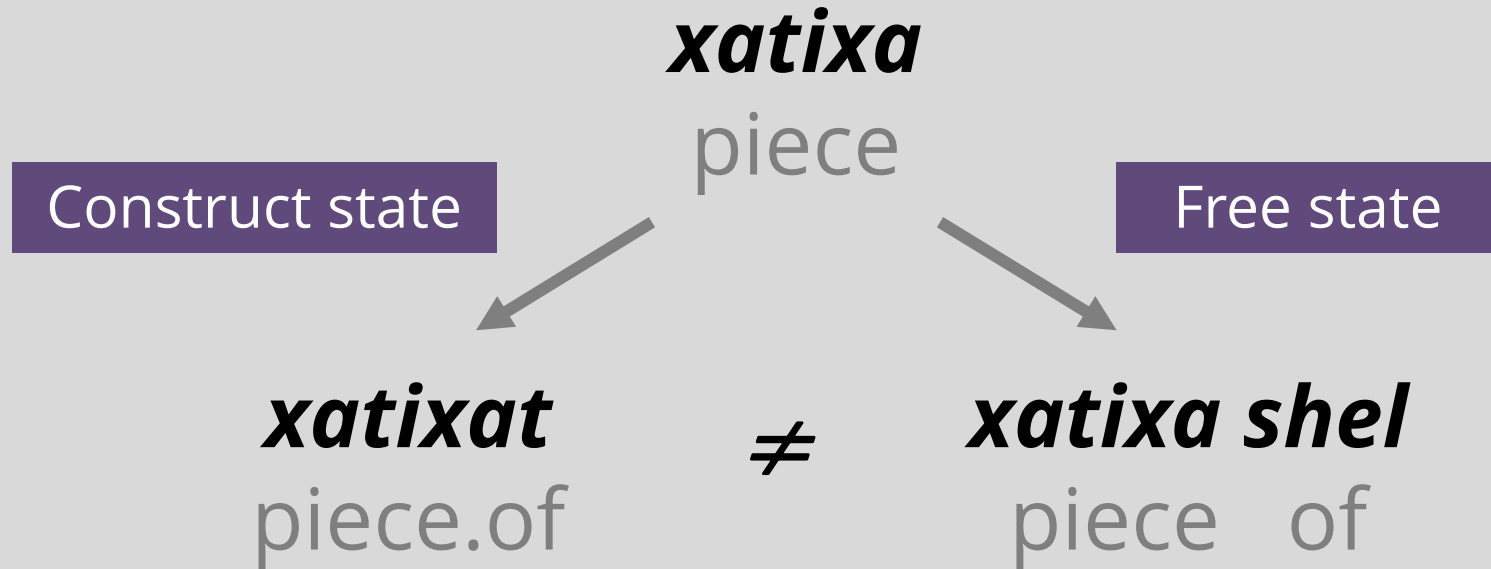
2) John is a damn **leftist** or ...

leftist: $\langle e, t \rangle$

damn: $\langle \langle e, t \rangle, \varepsilon \rangle$

damn(leftist): $\langle e, t \rangle \bullet \varepsilon$

Data: *xatixat*



Data: *xatixat*

3) a. **xatixat smolani**

piece.of leftist

b. **#xatixa shel smolani**

piece of leftist

c. **#pisat smolani**

slice.of leftist

Data: *xatixat*

4) a. **piece of shit**
(English)

b. **a shtik drek**
(Yiddish)

c. **pezzo di merda**
(Italian)

≠

5) a. **xatixat xara** 'shit'

b. **xatixat tinok** 'baby'

c. **xatixat efes** 'zero'

d. **xatixat mexoar** 'ugly'

e. **xatixat mecik** 'annoying'

(Linzen, 2009)

Data: complement

6) a. **yosi hu smolani**

Yosi is (a) leftist

b. **yosi hu xatixat smolani**

Yosi is (a) piece.of leftist

'Yosi is a (xatixat) leftist'

7) a. **John is a leftist**

b. **John is a damn leftist**

Data: complement

8) **#hayu li tikvot gdolot**

there.were to.me hopes great

bishvilo, aval hu raca

for.him but he wanted

lihiyot xatixat balshan

to.be (a) piece.of linguist

'I had high hopes for him, but
he wanted to be a linguist'

9) a. I had such high
hopes for him, but he
wanted to be a damn
linguist

Data: complement

8) #hayu li tikvot gdolot

there.were to.me hopes great

bishvilo, aval hu raca

for.him but he wanted

lihiyot xatixat balshan

to.be (a) piece.of linguist

'I had high hopes for him, but
he wanted to be a linguist'

9) b. hayu li tikvot gdolot

there.were to.me hopes great

bishvilo, aval hu raca

for.him but he wanted

lihiyot balshan mushtan

to.be (a) linguist pissed.PASS

Data: complement

10) a. **xatixat nekeva** 'female'

b. **xatixat homo** 'gay'

c. **xatixat aravi** 'Arab'

d. **xatixat zaken** 'old'

e. **xatixat shoter** 'officer'

(Linzen, 2009)

11) a. **#xatixat zaxar** 'male'

b. **#xatixat streyt** 'straight'

c. **#xatixat israeli** 'Israeli'

d. **#xatixat gavoha** 'tall'

e. **#xatixat rofe** 'doctor'

Data: immediacy

12) a. **yosi hu xatixat . . .**

Yosi is (a) piece.of

b. **\$%^*!**

c. **stam, hu beseder**

not really he (is) alright

'Just kidding, he's alright'

13) a. **John is a damn . . .**

b. **\$%^*!**

c. **just kidding, he's alright**

Data: immediacy

14) **shaposhnikov, ata yodea she-ata**

shaposhnikov you know that you (are)

xatixat * metupax. ma?!**

(a) piece.of well-groomed what

ani lo macliyax leha'aliv otxa

I no succeed to insult you

'Shaposhnikov, you know you're *xatixat*
[gibberish] well-groomed. What?! I can't
manage to insult you'



Analysis

***xatixat* is not an expressive**

- it can't introduce a new expressive index
- it doesn't change the context when uttered

Analysis

***xatixat* presupposes (or gives rise to a CI)**

- a negative evaluation
- of its complement
- by the contextual judge

Analysis

12)a. **xatixat xara** 'shit'

b. **xatixat mexoar** 'ugly'

Presupposition satisfied

c. **xatixat smolani** 'leftist'

Presupposition
accommodation

d. **#xatixat balshan** 'linguist'

Presupposition
failure

Analysis

13)a. John is a damn **leftist**

b. John is a damn \$%^*!

c. **yosi hu xatixat smolani**

Yosi is (a) piece.of leftist

'Yosi is a (*xatixat*) leftist'

d. **yosi hu xatixat \$%^*!**

Expressive index
is introduced

Expressive index
is "already there"
(or not)

Conclusions

xatixat

- contributes to the expressive dimension in an indirect manner
- in contrast to expressives (and the received view on expressive meaning)

References

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Toda raba!

thanks much

‘Thank you very much!’
