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**Course : Language & Thought (CS263A)**  
**Topic : Favorite Paper Proposal**

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**Paper Details :**

Paper URL : <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1858699>  
Authors : Marie-Catherine de Marneffe, Christopher D. Manning and Christopher Potts  
Title : "Was it good? It was provocative." Learning the meaning of scalar adjectives  
Journal : ACL '10 Proceedings of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics  
No. pages : 167-176  
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**Abstract :**

The paper focuses on the interpretation of answers to a particular class of polar questions: ones in which the main predication involves a gradable modifier (e.g., highly unusual, not good, little) and the answer either involves another gradable modifier or a numerical expression (e.g., seven years old, twenty acres of land).

Interpreting such question-answer pairs requires dealing with modifier meanings, specifically, learning context-dependent scales of expressions that determine how, and to what extent, the answer as a whole resolves the issue raised by the question. I find this aspect of the paper interesting. I feel it is a good paper to discuss in class as this is related to semantic natural language parsing.