

Modulation Maker: A Relevance-theoretic Account of After All and Datte

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Modulation Maker: A Relevance-theoretic Account of *After All* and *Datte*

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Relevance Theory has consistently dealt with *after all* as a discourse marker that encodes a procedural constraint of confirming an existing assumption. This is based on the framework that the procedure the marker encodes is activated in dichotomous representations, i.e. conclusion and evidence. However, given the concessive use of this marker, dichotomous analysis seems insufficient for the unitary account of it. In this paper, I claim that *after all* encodes a constraint of modulating assumptions, in which *after all* or *after all* utterances have various ways of resolving a contradiction between previous assumption and conclusion. These trichotomous representations are able to integrate the Japanese conjunction *datte*, which is commonly regarded as an equivalent counterpart of *after all*.

Viewing the procedural constraint as a modulator will account for the multiple uses of these two linguistic expressions whose discourse behavior can manifest entirely different characteristics, and demonstrate that the unitary account elucidates the little investigated puzzle that a single linguistic expression occurs in different contexts. The proposed modulation account of *after all*, for instance, helps facilitate the argument that both concession and justification share the common cognitive ground involving three assumptions: previous assumption, conclusion and evidence. Just like *after all*, *datte* has been generally claimed to connect two propositions with a justificatory relation. However, data show that the conjunction often expresses the communicator's emotive attitude, especially when uttered independently, and also occurs in the context of agreement (cf. Oki (2006)). These different phases manifested by a single conjunction can be also recognized as a modulation of two assumptions, i.e. the communicator's and the addressee's. Procedural approaches are more advantageous than coherent approaches or speech-act theoretic approaches in the sense that they can offer a fine-grained account of how each discourse marker or conjunction makes a distinctive contribution to utterance interpretation.