We concentrate here on the propositional uses in (4)-(7) 

(10) Lee {told me/believes} that Kim liked the movie

(12) J

Attitude towards a proposition

Giannakidou and Yoon (2011): Metalinguistic comparison as propositional attitude

Epistemic agent α holds an attitude R towards a proposition p

The degree to which α holds R towards p is less than a maximal degree

R is roughly the attitude "α is willing to assert p to degree d" 

α is normally the speaker, but can be shifted to the subject of a propositional attitude verb

Compare: Sugawara's (2012) analysis of adjectival -ish

(12) [-ish] = \lambda P \lambda d. \lambda x. \max (d | P (\langle x \rangle ) (d) = 1) < \alpha (s (P) \wedge (s (P) - \max (d | P (\langle x \rangle ) (d) = 1) < d_\alpha)

Both analyses: speaker is less than maximally committed to a proposition

Degrees of precision

- Morzycki (2011) — metalinguistic comparison as comparing degrees of precision
- Interpretation function relativized to degree d of precision
- Metalinguistic degree morphemes gain access to d by means of operator PREC

(13) [\text{PREC } \alpha]^d = \lambda d'. \lambda x. x < d \wedge [\text{small} (d - d')]

- ...ish makes explicit that the speaker is using a lower level of precision for the statement being made
- applies to a proposition p with open degree of precision argument, and returns set of alternatives

(14) [...] = \lambda x \lambda d. \lambda d'. \lambda x. \max (d' | P (d')(w)) < d \wedge \text{small} (d - d')

Speaker commitment as upper-bounded scale

Compare Sugawara (2012): adjectival -ish requires open or upper-bounded scale

(15) ??The room is dirty-ish.

Comparison with German schon

Unaccented modal particle schon has a similar effect
- only combines with propositions
- Zimmermann (2014): given the available facts q_1, ..., q_n in the (usually circumstantial) modal base MB, the number of facts supporting p is greater than the number of facts supporting ¬p
- compatible with attitude verbs
- ok with if clauses (unlike ...ish)

(16) Alex fand den Film schon gut. "Alex schon lieder die movie.

(17) Alex war schon die beste Kandidatin.

(18) Wenn er schon als Lehrer ununterbrochen redet, sollte er wenigstens in seiner Freizeit die Klappe halten. "If he schon talks a lot while teaching, he should at least shut up when he is not working."

(19) [(17)] = \lambda w. \lambda c. \max (\text{MB}_c (w)) \lambda \text{best-candidate} (\text{Alex}) \in w'; defined iff if \lambda c. \lambda \text{best-candidate} (\text{Alex}),

Comparison with sorts

(20) a. Gas is sorta expensive.

(21) I liked the movie...NOT.

- different function; similar form
- logical negation of a proposition (not meta-linguistic)
- resists embedding under if clauses and attitude predicates; can be used as an answer particle
- possibly speakers have innovated propositional ...ish on analogy to ...not

Further issues

- Scope ambiguities?

(22) Everyone liked the movie...ish.

(23) Alex was the best candidate...ish.

- Negation of metalinguistic comparatives

(24) It's not the case that Lee is more a semanticist than a philosopher.

(25) It's not the case that Lee is a semanticist...ish. (...ish > -only)

References


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