

Jay Atlas *Horn-Atlas Debate on 'Few N', 'A Few N', and 'Only PN'*

In a series of papers Larry Horn and I debated the licensing of Negative Polarity Items by downward monotonic quantifiers, while discussing the case of 'Only Larry', which Horn claimed was downward monotonic, and Atlas claimed was non-monotonic yet still licensed Negative Polarity Items. Horn conceded that Atlas was correct and began the construction of a new approach to the licensing of Negative Polarity Items, while Atlas continued to wonder whether there were other non-monotonic quantifiers that licensed Negative Polarity Items.

I have proposed that 'Few N' is another such non-monotonic quantifier. In this paper I review the theoretical background of the debate, discuss some of the subtle linguistic judgments required, and discuss some of Horn's most recent criticisms.