

Towards a uniform analysis of `any'

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Universal `any' and Negative Polarity Item `any' are uniformly analyzed as counterfactual donkey sentences (in disguise). Their difference in meaning will be reduced to the distinction between *strong* and *weak* readings of donkey sentences. It is shown that this explains the *universal* and *existential* character of Universal- and NPI-`any', respectively, and the positive and negative contexts in which they are licensed. Our uniform analysis extends to the use of `any' in command and permission sentences. It will be shown that our analysis predicts that whereas its use in permission sentences is licensed and gives rise to a universal reading, command sentences are predicted not to license the use of `any'.