

Particles in Arguments

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Many semantic and pragmatic investigations of German connectives claimed that *da* (corresponding to English causal *since*) and *denn* (one variant of *because*) are predominantly argumentative in meaning. But does this show up in the data? Do we find these connectives more often in argumentative texts than in others? The talk presents the results of various corpus studies aiming to uncover usage tendencies of connectives and certain modal particles across different text types. Moving from large *raw* corpora on to smaller ones that are annotated with syntactic information, different kinds of patterns can be found and hypotheses tested. Finally, our ongoing effort in producing a richer data resource is sketched: the multi-level annotated Potsdam Commentary Corpus. It will assist, for example, in systematically exploring the relations between rhetorical structure and connective/modal usage (*viz.* the corresponding *Penn Discourse TreeBank* project) but also in the quest for patterns of information structure on the textual level.