

## **A semantic investigation of “orientationals”**

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Abstract. In this talk, we investigate a class of expressions in natural language whose role is to denote that an object is inverted with respect to what is taken as its canonical orientation, such as upside down in The book is upside down. We call the items of this class “orientationals”. In this presentation, we explore their interpretation and their structure focusing on data from Brazilian Portuguese, in comparison with data from Dutch and English. Our aim is to understand and describe how the interpretation of orientationals fits into the larger semantics of spatial expressions. We propose a unified semantic analysis for these expressions based on the notion of spatial vectors, that can represent in a general way how sides of objects can be oriented.