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On the blooming descriptive content of (some) expressives

A number of recent influential works in linguistic semantics have advocated an integration of descriptive and expressive content within the same framework of compositional meaning derivation. In particular, for quite a number of expressions it has led to a proposal that these are conventionally associated with both a descriptive and an expressive meaning component. In this talk, I will defend a more parsimonious analysis of the meaning of some of those expressions. My particular attention will go to the role of expressives as intensifiers, as in "John is damned tall".