

## **Licensing of minimizer NPIs**

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Minimizer NPIs (Negative Polarity Items) such as 'lift a finger' and 'sleep a wink' have subtle licensing behaviors that are difficult to generalize. Some have noted that these pattern like strong NPIs such as 'in years', in that they are infelicitous in mere DE (Downward Entailing) environments, and call for anti-additive environments. Others have noted that they are more akin to weak NPIs such as 'any' and 'ever', in that they actually can be licensed in mere DE environments, albeit in a limited capacity. In this study, we probe experimentally the distribution and the licensing condition of minimizer NPIs and demonstrate their gradient yet systematic availability in DE environments. Inspired by our results and the account of Eckardt and Csipak (2013), we then propose a pragmatic account of minimizer NPIs that can adequately capture their gradient acceptability in these environments.