

# Speech Reports and Evidence

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We often refer to what other people have said. And we do so for a variety of reasons, and using a variety of linguistic constructions. This ranges from the use of free indirect discourse to vividly represent entire dialogues to the use of reportative evidentials to hedge one's commitment to a proposition by indicating that that proposition is based on hearsay evidence. In this talk I position evidential speech reports within the entire landscape of speech reports. I do this by proposing a classification of speech reports along two dimensions: at-issue vs. not-at-issue and eventive vs. non-eventive. A number of linguistic tests are proposed to tease apart the four different combinations. Sketching the landscape along these dimensions leads to new insights, for instance on the nature of quotative evidentials and reportative moods. I conclude that not all report constructions that are usually called 'evidential' in the literature are indeed evidential.