

Implications of Constraints on Null Constituents for Analyses of the Right Dislocation

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Under the assumption that the clause-final fragment in Right Dislocation (RD) (which we shall call the Appendix) in Japanese and Korean arises as a result of ellipsis that follows movement, previous investigations of restrictions in RD have focused on finding evidence for (or against) movement in the distributional and interpretive properties of the Appendix, such as movement locality and connectedness effects. In this talk I turn my attention to some restrictions that have not taken center stage so far in analyses of RD and explore the implications of these restrictions.

Predicates, with or without their arguments, cannot occur as Appendices in RD (D-H Chung 2009, 2011). And while adnominal modifiers can be Appendices, Head nouns (or their projections) cannot (Simon 1989, Sells 1999). A similar restriction is found in coordinate structures, where initial conjuncts can occur as Appendices but final conjuncts cannot. I review previous analyses that have been put forth to account for these restrictions, and argue that a selective synthesis coupled with an understanding of the discourse-pragmatic conditions on RD allows us to make sense of these restrictions. The conclusions reached also have implications for the move-and-delete analysis of the Appendix in RD constructions.