

Another look at NPIs in Japanese

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Abstract

Negative polarity items (NPIs) are licensed under the scope of negation, and hence occur only in negative contexts. In this presentation, I will show that NPIs in Japanese fall into two types — one which is licensed with reference to its A-position (i.e. this type of NPI is licensed in a position in which it appears after A-movement) and the other which can be licensed via reconstruction into its theta-marking position. On the basis of the NPI data, it is further shown that in Japanese, subjects are moved into Spec-TP via A-movement when they are marked with nominative case, but not when they receive oblique marking.