



慶應言語学 コロキウム

慶應義塾大学言語文化研究所
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Silently Structured Silent Argument

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*参加費無料・事前申込不要(会場にて参加者カードへの記入が必要となります)

In this two-day colloquium, I investigate the nature of null arguments in radical pro-drop languages where null arguments are claimed to be derivable via the process called argument ellipsis, which directly elides arguments. Specifically, I examine whether null arguments in such languages involve internal structure by testing extraction possibilities out of them on the basis of the hypothesis that the possibility of extraction indicates the presence of internal structure in anaphora sites, showing its theoretical implications and consequences.

Day 1: Cross-linguistic Investigations into Silent Arguments

In the first half, I review the previous literature on several analyses of null arguments in radical pro-drop languages, providing novel evidence that they should be derivable via argument ellipsis. In the second half, based on novel data from Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, and Turkish, I show that null arguments in these languages exhibit a hitherto unnoticed pattern of extraction out of anaphora sites, a pattern that does not follow from either Hankamer and Sag's (1976) surface anaphora such as VP-ellipsis or deep anaphora such as do it anaphora. Specifically, I demonstrate that null arguments in the languages in question uniformly disallow overt extraction out of them, while they uniformly allow covert extraction (more precisely, extraction that does not affect word order).

Day 2: Silent Arguments = Overtly Empty but Covertly Complex

Having established the overt/covert extraction asymmetry out of null arguments in the relevant languages, I show that the extraction pattern in question has several consequences for the PF-deletion versus LF-copying debate in the literature on ellipsis. To be more specific, I argue that the extraction asymmetry under consideration is best analyzed by the LF-copy analysis, which provides ellipsis domains with internal structure only in covert syntax/LF. Furthermore, I demonstrate that the LF-copy analysis of argument ellipsis has consequences for the proper analysis of a number of phenomena, including wh-in-situ, control, and the timing of null operator movement. Lastly, I would like to address the issue of what determines the availability of argument ellipsis in a language.