

Argument Ellipsis, Radical Pro-Drop, and (the Absence of) Agreement

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This paper presents further supporting evidence for Japanese/Korean argument ellipsis and explores its theoretical consequences. It is demonstrated in the first part that argument ellipsis is attested in a wide range of phenomena. This discussion leads to the examination of the precise characteristics of argument ellipsis. Then, adopting Oku's (1998) LF copying analysis, the paper shows that DP argument ellipsis is possible only in languages without obligatory agreement. Finally, it is suggested that the same LF copying mechanism is responsible for radical pro-drop. The paper, thus, relates three major properties of Japanese and Korean; argument ellipsis, radical pro-drop, and the absence of overt agreement.