

Long-distance Scrambling in Japanese Reconsidered

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Saito (1989) has discovered, and defended ever since, the “semantically vacuous (SV)” nature of scrambling in Japanese. Miyagawa (2005, 2006) argues against the SV nature of scrambling in Japanese, and claims in essence that it is illusory and long-distance scrambling (LDS) in Japanese is a movement that is same as the A'-movement such as Wh-movement in English. Miyagawa also claims, contra Saito, that LDS does not freely undergo radical reconstruction. In addition, Miyagawa argues, building on Fox's 2000 Scope Economy (SE), LDS in Japanese is regulated by economy considerations, and when SE is met, LDS in Japanese can yield interpretive effects (making otherwise unavailable scope relation possible), arguing that this provides further argument against the SV nature of scrambling.

In this presentation, I will scrutinize Miyagawa's 2005, 2006 analyses of LDS in Japanese in detail and show that, contrary to his claim, SV nature of scrambling as discovered by Saito (1989) is upheld, and LDS is a movement that is different from Wh-movement (Yamashita 2007). Likewise, I argue that LDS freely undergoes radical reconstruction (Yamashita 2008b). I will claim, however, that the economy approach Miyagawa puts forth is on the right track, and extends such an approach (Yamashita 2008a, b).

Selected References

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