A Minimalist approach to Reprise Fragments

James Griffiths
Universität Konstanz
jamesegriffiths@gmail.com

Güliz Güneş
Universiteit Leiden
g.gunes@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Anikó Lipták
Universiteit Leiden
a.k.liptak@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Tag
Datum
Zeit
Raum

Although *reprise fragments* (RFs) such as (1B′) have received much attention in monostratal generative frameworks (e.g. Ginzburg & Cooper 2004), RFs remain unexamined from a Minimalist perspective.

(1)   A: Pass me the monkey-wrench.
      B: Pass you {the MONKEY-WRENCH / the WHAT}?
      B′ : {the MONKEY-WRENCH / the WHAT}?

Adopting the orthodox Minimalist assumption that all fragments are derived from full-fledged utterances via PF-deletion/ellipis (cf. Merchant 2001 et seq.), which entails that the RF in (1B′) is derived from the reprise question in (1B), **this paper will**:

(i)   describe the major characteristics of RFs in English (a *wh*-movement language) and Hungarian (a focus-movement language) and demonstrate that they pose problems for Merchant's (2004) 'Move & Delete' (M&D) analysis of fragmentary responses.

(ii) offer a preliminary Minimalist analysis that treats both standard and reprise fragments as in-situ phrases in these languages.

Through investigating RFs in English and Hungarian, it will be shown that, although the M&D approach to clausal ellipsis is too restrictive for modelling English RFs, a naïve 'in-situ' approach (e.g. Abe 2016) is too lenient for modelling Hungarian RFs. We demonstrate that the correct balance is struck when the in-situ approach to deletion is coupled with a QUD-based licensing condition on clausal ellipsis which views all ellipsis-licensing QUDs as syntactically-derived, regardless of whether they are explicitly uttered or merely inferred (following a suggestion in Reich 2000).

References: • Abe, J. (2016): Make Short Answers Shorter. *Syntax* 19: 223–255. • Ginzburg, J. & R. Cooper. (2004): Clarification, ellipsis, and the nature of contextual updates in dialogue. *Ling. & Phil.* 27: 297–365. • Merchant, J. (2004): Fragments & ellipsis. *Ling. & Phil.* 27: 661–738. • Reich, I. (2002): Association with Focus, Islands & Choice Functions: A Binding Approach. P*roceedings of Choice Functions & Natural Language Semantics*, 167–188.