In French copula constructions, the clitic proform *le* is used for 'adjectival coreference' (reference to a state explicitly mentioned by an adjective in the preceding context) (Sandfeld 1965, Kayne 1975, Sportiche 1995).

(1) Jean est intelligent. Oui, il l'; est.
\[ \text{Jean is intelligent yes he CL is} \]
\[ \text{Jean is intelligent. Yes, he is.'} \]

In contrast, French depictive constructions only allow non-clitic proforms (*ainsi* 'like that') while *le* is ungrammatical (Sandfeld 1965, Kayne 1975). In depictive constructions, the non-clitic proform *ainsi* is used for 'adjectival coreference' (unlike in copula constructions). We therefore argue that the absence of non-clitic proforms in the 'adjectival coreference' function in copulas is not rooted in the non-clitic proforms themselves. Instead, non-clitic proforms are blocked from the 'adjectival coreference' function in copulas by the combination of (i) the existence of a clitic proform (namely *le*) and (ii) the 'favor clitic' principle (Jones 1996).