

Semantic Reflex of Morphological Case

Naomi Harada (ATR)

In this work, I discuss semantic effects of Case alternation in Japanese. Crosslinguistically, Case seems to affect the interpretation of sentences with regard to eventuality. By examining the semantics of nominative-accusative alternation in desiderative constructions, I derive what appears to be the "exhaustive listing" (that is, obligatory wide) reading of the nominative object in a subset of desiderative sentences from interactions of configurational theta theory, semantics, and discuss how they correlate with linearization/morphological Case licensing processes at PF. More specifically, noticing that only ditransitive verbs under the desiderative morpheme show the exhaustive listing reading of the nominative object, I claim that there is an extra VP-shell for the VP headed by this class of predicate, and the object can be assumed to be generated above the innermost VP. Since all the structures build in CHL are sent to LF without any adjustment under the assumption made in the work, the specifier of the innermost verbal projection survives at LF and can accommodate Pro. Binding of Pro by the nominative object leads to Categorical judgments, resulting in the narrow focus reading of the object.