

Raising and Major Arguments

In this presentation, I will first establish that the construction known as Subject-to-Object Raising in Korean (and Japanese) involves the raising not of the embedded subject (Grammatical Subject), but the embedded Major Subject (in construction with a Sentential Predicate), to a derived Major Object position. This analysis has the merit of explaining, among others, the restrictions on embedded clauses that take part in SOR as well as the fact that embedded non-subjects can be raised only when they can be independently expressed as a Major Subject.

After establishing that embedded Major Subjects raise, I turn to an investigation of why embedded subjects that are not Major Subjects (that is, Grammatical Subjects) cannot undergo raising even in the absence of a structurally higher Major Subject. I compare syntactic accounts of this restriction (based on locality violations) and non-syntactic accounts of this restriction. I show that while non-syntactic factors might be involved, there is still a need for syntactic principles to rule out the raising of embedded non-Major Subjects. I conclude the presentation with the implications of the analysis for the movement vs. base-generation debate on Korean/Japanese SOR and for the unification/separation of Raising and Control. The role of Major Arguments in the grammar of Korean and Japanese will also be discussed.