A Labeling Approach to Ellipsis: Implications for the Timing of Deletion

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Synopsis:

The presentation aims to show that general cases of ellipsis provided by Lobeck (1990, 1995) can be captured in terms of Labeling Algorithm of Chomsky (2013). Specifically, we claim that "(un)labelability" leads to a principled account of why ellipsis in general involves the deletion of the complement. In so doing, it will be demonstrated that the generalization with respect to ellipsis comes from a requirement for labeling under Minimal Computation imposed by the third factor (Chomsky 2005). The discussion takes up not only N'-deletion, VP-deletion and sluicing but also Japanese particle-stranding ellipsis (see e.g. Sato 2012). We also focus on the relationship between ellipsis and deaccenting, and conclude that these phenomena can be formally related with each other in terms of Minimal Computation. The presented approach leads to a theoretical implication that ellipsis is structural deletion and occurs at Transfer in tandem with Agree and labeling.

References:

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