

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/la.149.01pre>

Page ix of

The Syntactic Licensing of Ellipsis

Lobke Aelbrecht

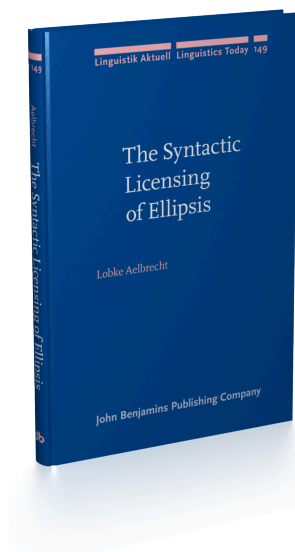
[Linguistik Aktuell/Linguistics Today, 149]

2010. xii, 230 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights



Preface

This book is about one of the most intriguing parts of natural language, namely about what is left unsaid. Ellipsis has received some attention over the past few years, but still remains ill-understood. What has become clear is that this phenomenon is subject to two main restrictions: an elided constituent has to be recoverable from the context and it has to be syntactically licensed as well. The first requirement has been the topic of many works recently, with the main point of discussion being whether ellipsis needs a syntactically identical antecedent, or whether recoverability is a semantic issue only (see Fox 1999, 2000; Merchant 2001; van Craenenbroeck 2009). Secondly, it is obvious that not every syntactic environment licenses ellipsis, even when the content of the ellipsis site is recoverable in every sense (Lobeck 1995; Johnson 2001). A striking example of such syntactic restriction can be observed in the distribution on VP ellipsis: for reasons yet to be discovered, there is only a restricted number of languages displaying this type of ellipsis. How the syntactic licensing of ellipsis takes place, however, is a question not too many researchers have tried to find an answer to yet, especially not within the Minimalist framework. With the present study I hope to contribute to the discussion on ellipsis, and most importantly, on the syntactic licensing requirement on this phenomenon.