

Preface

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The In-Situ Approach to Sluicing

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Preface

Sluicing is an interesting phenomenon, especially because it has been claimed to be island-insensitive despite the fact that it appears to involve overt *wh*-movement, with deletion applied to the following material. This has led the majority of generative researchers to believe that ellipsis does magic to eliminate the islandhood usually observed with regular *wh*-movement. The main purpose of this book is to argue that this is simply a myth.

Looking back on the current development of how sluicing has been analyzed in the field of generative grammar, I find that it has been greatly influenced by the more general issue of which operation is involved in deriving ellipsis constructions, PF deletion or LF copying. Chung, Ladusaw and McCloskey (1995) propose that the *wh*-remnant in sluicing is base-generated in Spec-CP under the LF copying mechanism. Under this approach, it is no wonder that this construction shows no island sensitivity. On top of that, they propose an ingenious device, called merger, which makes it possible to derive the indefinite restriction on the antecedent phrase corresponding to a *wh*-remnant in sluicing, but crucially this device works only under the LF copying mechanism. Chung, Ladusaw and McCloskey's (1995) approach, however, has faced a conceptual challenge once the PF deletion approach to ellipsis has been widely accepted since Chomsky (1995), who motivates this approach, basically following Tancredi's (1992) influential claim that deletion is simply an extreme case of deaccenting. Under this new trend of the PF deletion approach to ellipsis, Merchant (2001) has revived Chomsky's (1971) approach to sluicing in terms of "island repair by ellipsis."

The in-situ approach advocated in this book might be said to be an attempt to revive the kind of approach taken by Chung, Ladusaw and McCloskey (1995) without confronting the conceptual challenge mentioned above: Adopting the PF deletion mechanism, the in-situ approach to sluicing roughly proposes that the *wh*-remnant is base-generated in situ, hence capturing the island insensitivity of this construction. Further, this approach can incorporate the idea of the process of merger proposed by Chung, Ladusaw and McCloskey (1995) as an identification condition applying to the elliptic site of this construction. In this way, the in-situ approach to sluicing developed in this book owes much insight to Chung, Ladusaw and McCloskey (1995).

The work reported in this book started in 2007, when I supervised Hiroko Kimura's master's thesis on sluicing, which was so interesting and stimulating.

Without this coincidence, I would not have gotten much interested in this construction. Part of the material in this book was presented at a linguistics workshop held in Kanda University of International Studies in 2008 (Chapter 5), at the 5th Workshop of the International Research Project on Comparative Syntax and Language Acquisition in Nanzan University in 2009 (Chapter 6), at the 30th annual meeting of the Tsukuba English Linguistics Society held in University of Tsukuba in 2009 (Chapter 4), and at a workshop on theoretical linguistics held in Osaka University in 2014 (Chapter 4). I will not give a full list of the people I should thank for their helpful comments and encouragement but to name a few: Kazuma Fujimaki, Nobuko Hasegawa, Norbert Hornstein, Duk-Ho Jung, Nobuhiro Kaga, Howard Lasnik, Masaharu Shimada, Yuji Takano, Hiroyuki Tanaka, Yukiko Ueda, Asako Uchibori, Myriam Uribe-Etxebarria, and Vidal Valmala. I am also indebted to the editors for their helpful comments on an earlier version, which have led to substantial improvement in the final version. Finally, I would like to thank all my friends and my family; without their moral support, I would not have accomplished this work.