

Search and Merge in Minimalism (発表者決定済み)

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This workshop aims to approach the essence of Search and Merge assumed in the Minimalist Program through questions like the following: (i) What can (or cannot) Merge subject to Resource Restriction (or Minimal Yield) (Chomsky 2021) produce? (ii) What are factors that degrade Merge-generable sentences (Culicover and Winkler 2022; Truswell 2011; Ernst 2022)? (iii) How should the island effects as represented by Condition on Extraction Domain (Huang 1982) be explained in the recent framework? What does the Left Branch Condition (Ross 1967/1986; Corver 1992; Bošković 2005, 2008, 2018) imply for Labeling by Minimal Search? (iv) Is Search involved or not in nominal phrases? If so, how is it involved? And what are its empirical consequences? (v) How is Search done in Labeling by Minimal Search (Chomsky 2013)? What does the notion of strength in Labeling by Minimal Search (Chomsky 2015) mean? What is the relationship between Minimal Search and agreement (nominal concord) phenomenon, if any? (vi) Why does External Merge not follow Minimal Search, but only Internal Merge? (cf. Chomsky 2021)? To begin with, what is Minimal Search? What is Free Merge? What is the difference between Search and Minimal Search? If Search is involved in Merge, how exactly is it involved? If so, is Search subject to any conditions? What is the theoretical prediction in that case? Thus, the objective is to ask various questions about Search and Merge and to get to the nature of them. We look forward to hearing valuable questions from the audience.

Mapping Out the Dynamics of Variation in Ellipsis Mismatches (発表者決定済み)

Organizer: Yosuke Sato (Tsuda University: contact email: yosukes@tsuda.ac.jp)

The workshop is designed to bring in novel evidence to bear on current issues regarding “possible mismatches under ellipsis”, centering on debates between syntactic vs. semantic identity conditions on ellipsis, the size of elliptic sites, the operational distinctions underlying various elliptic phenomena, and implications of ellipsis mismatches and their origins for the nature of PF-LF correspondences in a minimalist setting. The contributors to this workshop are Yuta Sakamoto, Kensuke Takita, Taichi Nakamura, and Yosuke Sato, all of whom have worked on ellipsis and ellipsis mismatches in Japanese and other languages rather extensively over the past five years or so.

The workshop starts with Sato’s overview of the documented evidence highlighting possible limits of variation in antecedent-ellipsis mismatches in various dimensions, including voice, finiteness, tense, modality, polarity, illocutionary force, and argument structure. Sakamoto, drawing on Matsuo’s (1998) observation, presents new Japanese data showing that aspectual mismatch is disallowed under Argument Ellipsis (AE) to support the LF-Copy theory of AE, and argues for a unified analysis of Japanese AE and English Antecedent-Contained Deletion. Takita revisits Antecedent-Contained Sluicing discovered by Yoshida (2010). His proposed reanalysis of this ellipsis pattern from the previously unexplored angle of labeling will lend support to a syntactic identity-based approach to this construction over Yoshida’s semantic identity-based approach. Nakamura’s talk will also shed light on current debates between semantic and syntactic approaches to elliptical mismatches, but through a new perspective of argument structure mismatches under gapping in English and Japanese. He proposes that the range of acceptable causative/inchoative mismatches in gapping in English vis-à-vis Japanese is best captured by a syntactic identity condition to the effect that the target of gapping must be properly contained within the structure of the antecedent. Sato addresses the fundamental question why there is an elliptical mismatch, to begin with, and argues that PF-deletion domains are fundamentally misaligned with identity calculation domains in natural language. He will establish a new generalization that PF-deletion of an XP requires identity within YP, sister to X, based on his detailed catalogue of possible and impossible mismatches in various typologically different languages. and deduces this PF-LF mismatch generalization from a Non-Simultaneous Transfer Model.

The contributors to the workshop all hope that their presentations at the workshop will contribute greatly to mapping out current issues concerning ellipsis mismatches and highlight novel directions for future research into the nature of ellipsis, linguistic interfaces, and the overall architecture of grammar.