Discussion of the different accounts of the domain problem

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Purpose of the discussion

- Identify points of similarity between all three or some of the theories in the treatment of the Archi data

- Identify potential strengths and weaknesses

- Consider predictions and tasks for fieldwork

- Involving the different theoretical communities

PART 1: Attributive adjectives and possessive pronouns

- Minimalism account is the only one which addresses the potential issue of participial structures versus simple adjectives.

- Is there a prediction that this distinction will have a surface reflex in the agreement between the head noun and the adjective?

- Fieldwork: what could be the tests for checking this distinction?

PART 1: Attributive adjectives and possessive pronouns

- Contrast between the possessive structure and the attributive structure

[$_{DP}$ [$_{D}°$ [$_{FP}$ [$_{AP}$ [difficult]] [$_{NP}$ [disease]]] $_D$]]

'bad disease' [simple adjective]

[$_{DP}$ [$_{NP}$ [$_{CP}$ Op$_i$ [$_{TP}$ t$_i$ [vP 1sg [$_{VP}$ be t$_i$] [$_{NP}$ brother$_i$]] $_D$°]]

|__Agree__|

'my brother' [possessive

Attributive adjectives and possessive pronouns

- The radically lexical approach of LFG has the virtue of making it clear what the properties of the lexical items should be. (This entails a question about how the morphology works, of course.)

- Fieldwork: can we test for the 'open question' of whether the adjective has its own NG features?

PART 1: Attributive adjectives and possessive pronouns

- The HPSG constraint (5) on constituent structure has the potential virtue of unifying the treatment of agreement of possessives and the attributive adjectives.

- Why does it follow, though, that the lexical descriptions won't need to say anything about agreement?

- Fieldwork: do we need to look at all sisters of N' heads?

PART 1: Other conceptual issues Attributive adjectives and possessive pronouns

- Use of CONCORD feature in the HPSG and LFG treatments of the attributive adjectives appears to be similar.

- How does the Gender/Number probe treatment in the Minimalism account compare with the constraint (5) in the HPSG account?

  – one skips the DP/PP to determine the agreement for the phrase

  – the other specifies a general constraint on the phrase

PART 2: Clauses

- LFG analysis suggests the use of path definitions so that the agreement controller is whatever is marked with the absolutive.

- This naturally leads to the question of what will happen with bi-absolutive constructions (where the auxiliary agrees with the patient, and the lexical verb agrees with the logical subject).

- Question: what other mechanisms will be required to account for this?

PART 2: Clauses

- In the LFG analysis the dative pronoun in (27) and the postposition in (30) are treated in the same way: concordial agreement with the absolutive argument.

- The lexical entries specify that the absolutive argument is what is agreed with.

- Question: does it not miss a generalization to state this in the lexical entry?

PART 2: Clauses

- The Minimalism account gives the same underlying structure for the transitive and unergative intransitive clauses (with vP).

- Unaccusative clauses have no vP.

- Given these assumptions does it follow that the bi-absolutive construction must involve more than one clause?

- Fieldwork: tests for unaccusatives/unergatives in Archi

Part 2: Clauses

- The Minimalism account attributes explanatory power to the fact that inherent case (e.g. ergative/dative) is invisible to agreement? (i.e. that's why there is no agreement with the ergative)

- Question: what is the substantive difference between this claim and the specification of absolutive in the lexical entry as the agreement case?

Part 2: Clauses

- The HPSG account has a nice general constraint in (13) which ensures that clausal agreement is with the absolutive argument.

- To what extent does the specifications of the ARG-ST list correlate with the notions of structural and inherent case?

PART 3: Predictions and fieldwork tasks

- In addition to the issues raised, are there further suggestions for fieldwork tasks?