

Against Phasehood Inheritance via C-Deletion

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Chomsky (2015) argues that the *that*-trace effect can be explained in terms of labeling. Subject extraction from *that*-clauses is impossible because without an overt subject at the labeling stage, T in English is too “weak” to serve as a label. On the other hand, subject extraction from \emptyset -clauses is made possible by the mechanism of phasehood inheritance via C-deletion, according to which C’s phasehood is inherited by T and is activated on T when C is deleted. That is, the subject in SPEC-TP is at the “derived” phase edge, hence accessible in the next phase. In this talk, I argue that phasehood inheritance via C-deletion should be eliminated. Assuming with Goto and Ishii (2020a, b, c, 2022) and Mizuguchi (2020) that the *that*-trace effect follows from determinacy (Chomsky 2019, Chomsky et al. 2019), I would like to suggest that subject extraction from \emptyset -clauses does not violate determinacy due to the bundling of C and T into a single head (Erlewine 2020).

References

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