

Adjunction, Set-Merge & Two-peaked Structure

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Summary:

This presentation aims to elucidate the nature of adjunction. In order to capture the argument-adjunct distinction, Chomsky (2004) offers two structure-building operations, Set-Merge and Pair-Merge: the former is responsible for the argument structure and the latter the adjoined structure. In contrast to the view of Chomsky (2004), it is shown that Pair-Merge can be eliminated from a theory of syntax and Set-Merge suffices to derive what Pair-Merge captures. I claim that the presented analysis can provide an account to a longstanding unsolved problem with respect to adjunction: labeling in the adjoined structure seems to be impossible. To be concrete, a syntactic object consisting of XP and adjunct phrases cannot receive any label under the labeling algorithm of Chomsky (2013) since the phrase is the {XP, YP} structure. The discussion also briefly takes up the comparison between my view and Oseki's (2015) proposal, and concludes that the former seems to be superior to the latter. Finally, I tackle unexplained adjunct islands in Chomsky (2004), which are mainly cited from Truswell (2007).

References:

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