

Ellipsis with Focused Antecedents

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Recently Sugisaki (2012) and Ikawa (2012) noted that a *wh*-phrase cannot serve as an antecedent for nominal argument ellipsis in Japanese. This phenomenon is puzzling in two respects. First, Takahashi (2008) shows that Japanese nominal ellipsis can have a quantificational reading with a quantificational antecedent, which makes a *wh*-antecedent somewhat exceptional. Second, a *wh*-phrase can be phonologically reduced in its second occurrence, and its inability to elide under identity is quite puzzling. While Sugisaki and Ikawa give a feature/agreement-based account, I will explore the possibility that it is a part of a bigger picture of ellipsis with focused antecedents. In particular, I will suggest that the modern reincarnation of Hamblin semantics of *wh*--interrogatives makes it possible to regard this phenomenon as a part of what Han and Romero (2004) calls Focus Deletion Constraint (FDC), which provides that constituents containing focus-marked material and excluding its associated focus operator cannot delete.