What information structure tells us about individual/stage-level predicates

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Abstract

The goal of this paper is to explore the lexical-syntactic structure of copulative constructions and argument small clauses within the framework proposed by Gallego & Uriagereka (2011) for the Individual-Level/Stage-Level distinction (Carlson 1988, Kratzer 1995) and implement their theory by claiming that there is a crucial correlation between IL/SL constructions and their information structure. I argue that IL subjects are topics (and hence this is a categorical construction, following Kuroda 1972, Milsark 1977 and Raposo & Uriagereka 1995), whereas in SL constructions the topic may either be the subject or a silent spatiotemporal argument (their construction being thetic). I show the topic nature of IL subjects in contexts of specificity and subextraction. I ultimately derive the IS of IL/SL constructions from their lexical-syntactic structure and identify the type of topic here as an Aboutness-Topic (in the sense of Frascarelli & Hinterhölzl 2007, Lambrecht 1994, Erteschik-Shir 1997).

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ESUMEN. Of these, only the former conforms to the traditional WHAT INFORMATION STRUCTURE TELLS US ABOUT INDIVIDUAL / STAGE - LEVEL PREDICATES 3Milsark (1977) or alternatively, ser and estar occur in categorical constructions, whereas only estar is selected in thetic constructions (Maienborn 2005). Individual-Level / Stage-Level. 2 Followers. Papers. People. Depictive secondary predicates in Spanish and the relative/absolute distinction. This study accounts for the unacceptability of individual-level gradable adjectives as (depictive) secondary predicates on the basis of two factors: a) the semantics of gradable adjectives – specifically, the way their comparison classes more. SEPVs simply denote states without boundaries, which we argue to correspond to IL predicates. Finally, we show how these two denotations follow without further assumptions from the structures proposed for SEPVs and OEPVs in previous work, specially Pesetsky (1995), making it unnecessary to postulate that the distinction is of lexical nature. Bookmark. Download.