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Keynote Address

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Title: Distorted Argument Realization in Agent Incorporation

Abstract: While the universal patterns of argument realization are fairly well established, exceptional cases have been occasionally pointed out that violate them and yet are completely grammatical (Kageyama 2006), as in the peculiar passives in English (e.g. *This spoon has been eaten with*) and impersonal reflexives in Spanish (e.g. *Aquí se habla inglés*). In fact, those “exceptions” are far more widespread than is commonly assumed. In this talk, I provide another such aberrant case from the realm of morphology, namely agent-incorporating compounds like [*Oxford Daigaku shusai*] *no symposium* lit. ‘[Oxford University host]-GEN symposium’ = ‘a symposium hosted by Oxford University’. Although contravening the universal principle of excluding external arguments from inside verbal compounds (Fabb 1998), compounds of this type are productively created in both Japanese and Korean. It is shown that these compounds are not derived by passivization but are motivated by the need to create individual-level or “property” predications. More generally, the canonical patterns of argument realization pertain to stage-level or “eventive” predications, whereas the exceptional cases that do not obey them are specifically designated to represent property predications. Furthermore, detailed examination of Japanese and Korean reveals that two types of agent compounding are operative, one on the lexical Qualia Structure and the other on the syntactic structure. This is a strong demonstration of the modular view of morphology in which word formation is distributed in the lexicon and in syntax, rather than being restricted to a single component of grammar. We conclude by suggesting that eventive predications and property predications constitute two separate domains of grammar in which different principles of argument realization are at work.

