

The English It Cleft

The English it-Cleft Cleft and Pseudo-Cleft Constructions in English Information Structure in a Cross-Linguistic Perspective Cleft Constructions in Japanese Syntax Information Highlighting in Advanced Learner English New Perspectives on Irish English Non-prototypical Clefts in French Exhaustivity, Contrastivity, and the Semantics of Mandarin Cleft-related Structures The Grammar of Focus Cleft Structures Frequency, Forms and Functions of Cleft Constructions in Romance and Germanic Corpus Triangulation The Handbook of Language Contact Pragmatic Organization of Discourse in the Languages of Europe Experimental Approaches to Pragmatics "A" Dictionary of the English Language "A" Dictionary of the English Language A Dictionary of the English Language Clefts and Their Relatives The Dynamics of Language Use Amanda Patten Peter Collins M. Kizu Marcus Callies Bettina Migge Lena Karssenberg Ying Liu Georges Rebuschi Katharina Hartmann Anna-Maria De Cesare Sofia Malamatidou Raymond Hickey Giuliano Bernini Valentina Cuccio Robert Gordon Latham R. G. Latham Samuel Johnson Matthew Reeve Christopher S. Butler

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this book examines the structure and function of the english it cleft configuration from within the framework of construction grammar it defends a straightforward extraposition from np analysis on which the cleft clause is a restrictive relative modifying the initial it and claims that all types of it cleft involve nominal predication support for this analysis comes from three main areas a the central role of definiteness in the creation of specificational meaning b the existence and makeup of predication and proverbial it clefts and c the early historical it cleft data in addition the book contains a sizeable diachronic component drawing data from the penn parsed corpora of historical english and from the international corpus of english great britain this investigation informs and advances what is an otherwise simple account of the english it cleft explaining how and why the configuration has developed an assortment of peculiar construction specific properties over time

first published in 1991 this book examines the communicative properties of cleft and pseudo cleft constructions in contemporary english the book argues that these properties cannot be ignored in any attempt to provide an adequate grammatical description of the constructions furthermore they provide a source of explanations for the patterns of stylistic variation displayed by clefts and pseudo clefts the book reports findings from a corpus based study of clefts and pseudo clefts in modern british english

the present volume draws together contributions from a number of scholars with an interest in empirical cross linguistic description most of the papers were first presented at the symposium information structure in a cross linguistic perspective held in oslo in november december 2000 the descriptions are functionally oriented and their common focus is how information structure in a broad sense can be compared across languages information structure has been approached in a variety of ways by the authors so as to give a broad picture of this fundamental principle of text production involving the way in which a speaker writer chooses to present a message in terms of given new information focus cohesion and point of view central to much of the research is the problem of establishing criteria for isolating linguistic constraints on language use from cultural linguistic conventions in text production the linguistic comparison includes english german and or one of the scandinavian languages with sidelights to other languages most of the papers are text or corpus based and the ongoing work on parallel corpora in scandinavia is reflected in several contributions

cleft constructions occur across languages and are much analyzed in relation to syntax semantics and pragmatics mika kizu working in a principles and parameters framework with some consideration of the minimalist program provides the first coherent account of cleft constructions in japanese she claims that the construction is analyzed on a par with topic constructions and some types of relative clause one of the most interesting properties the syntactic phenomenon of connectivity is closely examined

this book presents the first detailed and comprehensive study of information highlighting in advanced learner language echoing the increasing interest in questions of near native competence in sla research and contributing to the description of advanced interlanguages it examines the production and comprehension of specific means of information highlighting in english by native speakers and german learners of english as a foreign language presenting triangulated experimental and learner corpus data as corroborating evidence the study focuses on learners use of discourse pragmatically motivated variations of the basic word order such as inversion preposing and it and wh clefts an underexplored field in sla research to date the book also provides a critical re assessment of the study of pragmatics within sla it has largely been neglected to date that l2 pragmatic knowledge includes more than the sociopragmatic and pragmalinguistic abilities for understanding and performing speech acts thus the book argues for an extension of the scope of inquiry in interlanguage pragmatics beyond the cross cultural investigation of speech acts it also discusses pedagogical implications for foreign language teaching and will be of interest to applied linguists and sla researchers language teachers and curriculum designers

this volume brings together current research by international scholars on the varieties of english spoken in ireland the papers apply contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches and frameworks to a range of topics a number of papers explore the distribution of linguistic features in irish english including the evolution of linguistic structures in irish english and linguistic change in progress employing broadly quantitative sociolinguistic approaches pragmatic features of irish english are explored through corpus linguistics based analysis the construction of linguistic corpora using written and recorded material form the focus of other papers extending and analyzing the growing range of corpus material available to researchers of varieties of english including diaspora varieties issues of language and identity in contemporary ireland are explored in several contributions using both qualitative and quantitative methods the volume will be of interest to linguists generally and to scholars with an interest in varieties of english

this monograph is the first large scale corpus analysis of french il y a clefts while most research on clefts focusses on the english prototypical it cleft and its equivalents across languages this study examines the lesser known il y a clefts of both presentational eventive and specificational type and provides an in depth analysis of their syntactic semantic and discourse functional properties in addition to an extensive literature review and a comparison with italian c'è clefts and with french c'est clefts the strength of the study lies in the critical approach it develops to the common definition of clefts several commonly used criteria for clefts are applied to the corpus data revealing that these criteria often lead to ambiguous results the reasons for this ambiguity are explored thus leading to a better understanding of what constitutes a cleft in this sense the analysis will be of interest to specialists of romance and non romance clefts alike

exhaustivity contrastivity and the semantics of mandarin cleft related structures investigates the semantics of the cleft and cleft related structures in mandarin which over several decades have presented analytical challenges for semantic theory the goal of this book in broad terms is three fold i to figure out what clefting adds to the semantics of a sentence ii to set apart the meaning and the discourse function of each type of cleft related structure and iii to provide a uniform analysis of mandarin clefts and their related structures more specifically it addresses the following questions i what is the semantics of mandarin clefts ii what do exhaustivity and contrastivity contribute to the meaning of clefts iii what are the semantic or pragmatic factors that determine the variation of clefts related structures and canonical sentences and iv cross linguistically speaking how do mandarin shi de cleft and its related structures differ from similar constructions such as english it cleft french c'est cleft and german es cleft this book will be informative for linguists who are working on cleft constructions and focus on sensitive structures cross linguistically and those interested in experimental semantics and pragmatics

the grammar of focus has been studied in generative grammar from its inception it has been the subject of intense detailed cross linguistic investigation for over 20 years particularly within the principles and parameters framework it is appropriate at this point therefore to take stock appraisal at this particular point is all the more legitimate because it comes at a time of general evaluation of the results of the profound activity that has characterized the principles and parameters framework this general assessment has produced a radical new direction within that framework the volume starts off with an introductory chapter that aims to provide an outline for the assessment to be followed by an overview of the evolution of the study of focus in generative grammar and a recapitulation of the principal issues associated with focus these issues are

taken up in the remaining chapters of the book where various grammatical means of marking focus as well as grammaticalization of focus marking are analyzed in a wide variety of languages

the phenomenon of clefts is beyond doubt a golden oldie it has captivated linguists of different disciplines for decades the fascination arises from the unique syntax of clefts in interaction with their pragmatic and semantic interpretation clefts structure sentences according to the information state of the constituents contained in them they are special as they exhibit a rather uncommon syntactic form to achieve the separation of the prominent part either focal or topical from the background of the clause despite the long lasting interest in clefts linguists have not yet come to an agreement on many basic questions the articles contained in this volume address these issues from new theoretical and empirical perspectives based on data from about 50 languages from all over the world this volume presents new arguments for the proper derivation of clefts and contributes to the ongoing debate on the information structural impact of cleft structures theoretically it combines modern syntactic theorizing with investigations at the interface between grammar and information structure

the volume describes the frequency the forms and the functions of different cleft construction types across two language families the romance languages with discussion of italian french and spanish data and the germanic languages with focus on english german swiss german and danish

despite the recognition that corpus based translation research would benefit from the triangulation of corpora little has been done in the direction of actually employing combined corpus data and methods in the field this book aims to address this gap by providing a much needed detailed account of corpus triangulation where different corpora e.g. parallel comparable synchronic diachronic and/or different methods of analysis e.g. qualitative quantitative can be used to increase our understanding of the phenomena where translation plays a key role the book also demonstrates clearly how the proposed methodology can be fruitfully employed to investigate different linguistic features through its systematic application to empirical data the first part of the book introduces the innovative framework for corpus triangulation which is based on a new and comprehensive corpus typology while the second part applies the methodological framework to two case studies examining the language of translation and the relationship between translation and language change the book advances current translation studies in terms of methodology innovation and offers a model on which future studies investigating the network of relationships surrounding translated texts can be based

the handbook of language contact offers systematic coverage of the major issues in this field ranging from the value of contact explanations in linguistics to the impact of immigration to dialectology combining new research from a team of globally renowned scholars with case studies of numerous languages an authoritative reference work exploring the major issues in the field of language contact the study of how language changes when speakers of distinct speech varieties interact brings together 40 specially commissioned essays by an international team of scholars examines language contact in societies which have significant immigration populations and includes a fascinating cross section of case studies drawing on languages across the world accessibly structured into sections exploring the place of contact studies within linguistics as a whole the value of contact studies for research into language change and language contact in the context of work on language and society explores a broad range of topics making it an excellent resource for both faculty and students across a variety of fields within linguistics

the volume is a collection of papers reporting the results of investigations on the interaction of discourse and sentence structure in the languages of europe the subjects discussed in the book include morphosyntactic characteristics of spontaneous spoken texts different patterns of word order in a pragmatic perspective the coding of the pragmatic functions topic and focus in sentences with non canonical word orders e.g. dislocations clefts the range of functions of verb subject order in declarative clauses and the notion of theticity prosodic patterns of de accenting of given information deixis and anaphora coding of definiteness and article systems the book provides the empirical basis for the comparative survey of major phenomena found in the languages of europe which have pragmatic relevance beside traditional areas of investigation at the interface between syntax and pragmatics such as dislocations new areas are explored such as the prosody of given information data are considered within a functional typological approach

cleft constructions have long presented an analytical challenge for syntactic theory this monograph argues that clefts and related constructions cannot be analysed in a straightforwardly compositional manner instead it proposes that the locality conditions on modification for example by a restrictive relative clause must be reformulated such that they account for the apparent compositionality of dp internal modification whilst also permitting discontinuous modification of the type which is independently needed for constructions such as relative clause extraposition the empirical focus of the book is on clefts in english and russian which have a similar interpretation but considerably divergent syntactic structures the author argues that despite these syntactic differences both types of cleft are mapped to their semantic interpretations in the same manner this

monograph will be essential reading for those working on cleft constructions and copular sentences more generally and will be of interest to those working on the syntax semantics interface

this book brings together a collection of articles characterized by two main themes the contrastive study of parallel phenomena in two or more languages and an essentially functional approach in which language is regarded first and foremost as a rich and complex communication system inextricably embedded in sociocultural and psychological contexts of use the majority of the studies reported is empirical in nature many making use of corpora or other textual materials in the language s under investigation the book begins with an introductory section in which the editors provide surveys of the state of the art in both functional and contrastive linguistics the other five sections of the volume are devoted to i a cognitive perspective on form and function ii information structure iii collocations and formulaic language iv language learning and v discourse and culture

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