

The English It Cleft

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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

this work first published in 1979 was a doctoral dissertation submitted to the department of foreign literatures and linguistics of the massachusetts institute of technology on june 22nd 1973 the ostensible central topic of this essay is a construction which is generally known as the pseudo cleft construction this essay aims to provide an overall picture of the construction and show why another treatment of it is necessary this book will be of interest to those pursuing the topic of copular sentences

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