

Noun Phrase Ellipsis Revisited

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It is typically assumed that French and English examples as in (1) and (2) are to be treated in a unified fashion as involving noun phrase ellipsis (c.f. Lobeck 1991, 1995; Bernstein 1993; Sleeman 1996; Panagiotidis 2003; Alexiadou and Gengel 2009; Corver and van Koppen 2009, 2011).

- (1) a. FRENCH
Dix garçons sont entré dans la pièce.
Plusieurs — $?_P$ se sont assis.
- b. ENGLISH
Ten boys walked in the room.
Many — $?_P$ sat down.
- (2) a. FRENCH
J’ai vu les garçons dans la cour. [Les *(grands) — $?_P$] jouaient avec
[les *(petits) —].
- b. ENGLISH
I saw the boys play in the yard. The *(tall) ONES played with the
*(small) ONES.

I will propose that they should be analyzed as involving two different types of ellipsis: Those in (1) as involving the deletion of a partitive phrase containing a plural pronoun (Partitive Ellipsis), so that (1b) is underlyingly “many of them”; and those in (2) as involving a contrastive focus projection within the DP, where the modifier raises, and the use of one-anaphora (of category N) in English, where deletion of a noun phrase is found in French (following Corver and van Koppen 2009, 2011).

References

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