

September 27, 2019

7909 Maccabees, (5057 Woodward)

1:15-2:15 Linguistics Open House

2:30-4:00

Jason Overfelt

“The differential recoverability conditions of syntactic domains”



Abstract

Theories regarding the recoverability condition on ellipsis are usually built to recover an antecedent in one particular domain. The standard analysis requires recovering the antecedent from previously spoken material. A recent and influential alternative requires recovering the antecedent from some salient, possibly implicit, question meaning in the discourse. As a part of accounting for the contrast between the sentences in (1) and (2) below, this talk argues that ellipsis can in principle find an antecedent in either of these domains: previously spoken material or some salient question meaning.

- (1) a. Kim read the book but not ~~she read~~ the magazine.
- b. Kim read but not ~~she read~~ the magazine.
- (2) a. Kim read the book after ~~she read~~ the magazine.
- b. *Kim read after ~~she read~~ the magazine.

Bio: Jason Overfelt received his PhD from UMass Amherst before holding positions at Haverford College and the University of Minnesota. He is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics at Oakland University. Jason employs both traditional and quantitative methods to investigate issues in syntax and at the syntax-semantics interface. His research is primarily concerned with understanding the conditions on movement ellipsis. Jason also has a long standing interest in the language Tigrinya.