Chapter 1

Introduction

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Grammatical agreement is modeled in HPSG using reentrancies, allowing for straightforward, explanatory accounts of locality conditions, variation in features across different agreement configurations, agreement mismatches, and agreement with coordinate phrases.

1 Introduction

This section defines agreement (as systematic grammatical covariation), sets out the range of common agreement features (person, number, gender, case, and a few others), reviews agreement targets and controllers, and lists some problems raised by agreement, including: locality in agreement; semantic versus grammatical agreement; agreement mismatches; markedness.

2 Agreement as unification

Here I explain how agreement is modeled as unification in a constraint-based grammar and review the arguments favoring such an analysis over the treatment of agreement as the movement of features or other operations as in transformational approaches.

3 Locality in agreement

In HPSG, agreement piggy-backs on the process of valence saturation. This simple assumption is sufficient to explain the broad patterning of distribution of

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agreement, in contrast to the transformational approach where complex locality conditions must be stipulated. We also review an HPSG analysis of putative 'long-distance agreement' in Passamaquoddy.

4 Varieties of agreement: CONCORD and INDEX

HPSG analyses are presented for different types of agreement: predicate-argument agreement, nominal-internal concord, pronoun-antecedent matching. The distinction between concord and index agreement is introduced and motivated.

5 Agreement and coordination

This section looks at agreement with coordinate phrases, especially where there conjuncts differ in their agreement features.

6 Conclusion

In conclusion, we are right and they are wrong.

Abbreviations

Acknowledgements