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Dative-marked Arguments as Binders in Polish

This presentation aims to account for peculiar binding properties of dative arguments in Polish, objects and dative Object Experiencers (OEs). It has been observed that although Polish reflexive pronouns are strictly (nominative) subject oriented, they can be bound by dative experiencers (Bondaruk & Szymanek 2007; Miechowicz-Mathiasen & Scheffler 2007; Witkoś 2007, 2008). At the same time, EXP_{DAT} , unlike nominative subjects, are also proper antecedents for both reflexive and pronominal possessives. This mixed behaviour poses a puzzle for the traditional and novel formulations of Binding Theory (Chomsky 1981, 1986; Manzini & Wexler 1987; Rappaport 1986; Willim 1989; Reinders-Machowska 1991; Reuland 2011), which assume complementarity between anaphors and pronominals in their local domains and plainly states that the subject is the privileged binder in Slavic. We base our analysis on the idea that morphologically deficient elements move to a functional category to compensate for the missing structure (Béjar & Rezac 2003; Franks 2017, 2018) and an approach to binding proposed recently in Safir (2014) and Nikolaeva (2014), following Hestvik (1992) and Avrutin (1994). The latter proposal implements the concept of Index Raising (IR), where the undifferentiated anaphoric/pronominal element (henceforth the index) is (covertly) moved and adjoined to v or T . The distribution of the two spell-out forms of the index (as either anaphoric or pronominal elements) is determined by two factors: the landing site of the index and the case position of the antecedent.