Reflexivity in SFA

# Introduction

## Following Reinhart and Reuland, we will assume that the distribution of pronouns is to do with marking reflexive predicates rather than the referential properties of different pronouns

## We will further adopt their definition of a reflexive pronoun, assuming this to be a condition of the input

### a reflexive pronoun is one for which two of its arguments are associated with the same root element

#### see arg1 & arg2 = John

## such a predicate is marked in the input by a functional CU ([refl])

## so the input will consist of at least two root CUs, one for the predicate and one for the argument, and three functional CUs, one each for the argument markers and one for the reflexive marker

# Basics

## given such an input, we need to account for some basic realisation possibilities

## presumably the argument root can only be realised once and this will be spelled out with the arg1 marker

### so these need to be adjacent

## the second argument marker will be realised in its relevant position, but not adjacent to an argument root

### this will need to be spelled out in some way and we will assume that it is the pronoun which spells it out

#### we take a pronoun to be the spelling out of an argument marker that is not associated with any particular root

#### so the input for John saw him would be

##### see arg1 = John arg2 =

## according to the basic principles of sentence organisation we have

### arg1 precedes arg2

### root associated with arg1 is adjacent to arg1

### predicate root is in second position in argument domain

#### John arg1 saw arg2

# Vocabulary insertion

## John arg1 can be spelled out as John

## saw can be spelled out as saw

## arg2 can be spelled out as him

# for a reflexive predicate

## all the above hold

## but the reflexive CU must be positioned in a place where it gets spelled out with Arg2

## it seems that this is spelled out on the last argument, so presumably it follows the argument domain:

### John arg1 saw arg2 [refl]

## but this cannot be correct as the reflexive marker does not always end up on the last argument

John revealed himself to the audience

## what we need is to define a domain of all the argument CUs of a particular predicate associated with the same root – call this the reflexive domain

## the reflexive marker is placed after the last element of this domain (it follows the reflexive domain)

### reveal arg1 & arg2 = John arg3 = Bill [refl]

### Darg = arg1, arg2, arg3

### Drefl = arg1, arg2

### John arg1 reveal arg2 [refl] Bill arg3

# logophoric pronouns

## assume a functional CU [log] which appears in logophoric situations

## the vocabulary item self is also marked for this feature and so is used to spell it out

## we won’t go into the syntax of this

# subjects of non-finite clause

## what we need is for the argument CU of the non-finite predicate to be part of the argument domain of the governing predicate

## we can do this by brute force definition – which would not be any more explanatory than R&R’s approach

## alternatively we can attempt to formulate and approach to such constructions in which two predicates can partially merge into one complex predicate

## here is the outline of such an approach

### each argument is associated with an abstract event CU, the combination of which is interpreted as a single predicate

#### this is a little like the ‘light verbs’ of current generative syntax

### thus we have

#### arg1 ev1 arg2 ev2 ...

#### ev1 is agentive/causative

#### ev2 is resultative

#### ev1 and ev2 are interpreted as Pred and are realised by the verb

##### we need to consider how the different bits and pieces of the verb are organised in the expression and how they get realised by one lexical item – there are a number of possibilities

### in multi-clause situations we have

#### arg1 ev1i arg2 ev2i arg1 ev1j arg2 ev2j

#### suppose that in the relevant situation ev1j is taken to be part of the predicate associated with ev1i and ev2i, forming a complex predicat

#### in this case arg1 or ev1j would be part of the argument domain of the predicate associate with ev1i and ev2i

#### if it is associated with the the same root as another argument in this domain, it will form a reflexive domain with it

#### hence the reflexive marker will be placed last in this domain