

The English It Cleft

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this book examines the structure and function of the english it cleft configuration from within the framework of construction grammar it defends a straightforward extraposition from np analysis on which the cleft clause is a restrictive relative modifying the initial it and claims that all types of it cleft involve nominal predication support for this analysis comes from three main areas a the central role of definiteness in the creation of specificational meaning b the existence and makeup of predicational and proverbial it clefts and c the early historical it cleft data in addition the book contains a sizeable diachronic component drawing data from the penn parsed corpora of historical english and from the international corpus of english great britain this investigation informs and advances what is an otherwise simple account of the english it cleft explaining how and why the configuration has developed an assortment of peculiar construction specific properties over time

first published in 1991 this book examines the communicative properties of cleft and pseudo cleft constructions in contemporary english the book argues that these properties cannot be ignored in any attempt to provide an adequate grammatical description of the constructions furthermore they provide a source of explanations for the patterns of stylistic variation displayed by clefts and pseudo clefts the book reports findings from a corpus based study of clefts and pseudo clefts in modern british english

cleft constructions occur across languages and are much analyzed in relation to syntax semantics and pragmatics mika kizu working in a principles and parameters framework with some consideration of the minimalist program provides the first coherent account of cleft constructions in japanese she claims that the construction is analyzed on a par with topic constructions and some types of relative clause one of the most interesting properties the syntactic phenomenon of connectivity is closely examined

the present volume draws together contributions from a number of scholars with an interest in empirical cross linguistic description most of the papers were first presented at the symposium information structure in a cross linguistic perspective held in oslo in november december 2000 the descriptions are functionally oriented and their common focus is how information structure in a broad sense can be compared across languages information structure has been approached in a variety of ways by the authors so as to give a broad picture of this fundamental principle of text production involving the way in which a speaker writer chooses to present a message in terms of given new information focus cohesion and point of view central to much of the research is the problem of establishing criteria for isolating linguistic constraints on language use from cultural linguistic conventions in text production the linguistic comparison includes english german and or one of the scandinavian languages with sidelights to other languages most of the papers are text or corpus based and the ongoing work on parallel corpora in scandinavia is reflected in several contributions

the volume describes the frequency the forms and the functions of different cleft construction types across two language families the romance languages with discussion of italian french and spanish data and the germanic languages with focus on english german swiss german and danish

beginning with 1962 references are not limited to material in the english language

this work first published in 1979 was a doctoral dissertation submitted to the department of foreign literatures and linguistics of the massachusetts institute of technology on june 22nd 1973 the ostensible central topic of this essay is a construction which is generally known as the pseudo cleft construction this essay aims to provide an overall picture of the construction and show why another treatment of it is necessary this book will be of interest to those pursuing the topic of copular sentences

what are the linguistic means for expressing different types of foci such as narrow information focus and contrastive focus in romance languages and why are there such differing views on such a presumably clear cut research subject bringing together original expert work from a variety of linguistic disciplines and perspectives such as language acquisition and language contact this volume provides a state of the art discussion on central issues of focus realization these include the interaction between prosody syntax and pragmatics the typology of word order and intonation languages the differentiation between focus and

related notions such as contrast and presupposed modality and the role of synchronic variation and change the studies presented in this volume cover a broad range of romance languages including french italian portuguese and different varieties of spanish moreover the book also offers new insights into non romance languages such as english german and quechua

this is the first of a series of 6 books dealing with case phenomena in different languages both indo and non indo european resulting from work by a team of 20 specialists at the university of leuven it is the first time such a large scale investigation into case has been undertaken and a remarkable feature of the project is the use of computer corpora of authentic material this bibliography presents the many dimensions involved in research into case and case related phenomena this includes not only morphological case markers but also the crossconstituent semantic and grammatical relations expressed by morphological case or by its various counterparts morpho syntactic processes such as transitivity and passivization and pragmatic and textual considerations in addition the bibliography reflects the implications of case research for other disciplines such as foreign language teaching and artificial intelligence more than 6000 publications are listed an extensive subject index provides easy access to all the topics and major concepts covered a language index and a guide to languages language families conclude the book the other volumes in the series include the dative 2 vols the genitive the nominative and accusative and non nuclear cases

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