

The Syntax of Participants

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Pursuing insights in earlier work, Ross (1970) and Emonds (1969), we formulate an attempt to understand what we call the Syntax of Participants (SOP). SOP is concerned with a variety of linguistic phenomena that occur at the interface of syntax and pragmatics: sentential particles, allocutive agreement that marks politeness, interjections, and so forth. These share the trait of referencing either the speaker or the hearer, or both. For example, the allocutive agreement in certain Basque dialects agrees with the hearer, thus it is always 2nd person, despite the fact that there is no 2nd person entity in any of the argument positions (Oyharçabal 1993). The allocutive is a regular form of agreement, hence it must enter into a probe-goal relation. Using a modern version of Ross's Performative Analysis proposed by Speas and Tenney (2003) and Haegeman and Hill (2011), we show that the goal of the allocutive is the representation of the Hearer in Ross's performative structure and what Speas and Tenney more recently call the Speech Act Phrase (SAP). Cross linguistically SOP phenomena are highly restricted in distribution, being available only in root clauses. We explore the idea that in fact their distribution reflects Emonds's original conception of the Root: the highest S in a tree, an S immediately dominated by the highest S or the reported S in direct discourse. If this is correct, what Emonds (1969) identified was the distribution of the Speech Act Phrase.