A Superlative Argument for Syntactic Movement in Fragment Answers

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1. Introduction

2. Accounts

Syntactic movement account (Merchant 2004, a.o.): the fragment goes through A movement to the left periphery in the syntax and the rest of the sentence is deleted in the PF.

3. Relative Reading with NP Internal Focus (RIN)

4. From Superlative to Fragment Answers

Szabolcsi (1986) observes that wh-question allows the RIN. (9) shows that fragment answers allow the RIN but the full answer counterpart does not.

5. Alternative Sources?

This study shows that certain interpretative facts of superlatives are straightforwardly accounted for under the syntactic movement of fragment answers but not the PF movement or the In Situ approach to fragment answers.

Note that the data presented here do not argue against the no deletion approach in Ginzburg & Sag 2000, Starostin 2006 Jacobson to appear.

References