

**Indexical binding and agreement in French:
what do they reveal about copular clauses?**

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This talk focuses on French relative clauses embedded within copular clauses such as in (1).

(1) Je suis le seul qui suis sur mes gardes.

‘I am the only one who is (lit. am) on my guard.’ (i.e., noone else is on their guard)

We observe that (1) licenses both first person agreement on the verb (*suis* ‘am’) and a sloppy reading of the first-person pronoun (idiomatic reading), which are not straightforwardly derived by standard theories of indexicality and agreement.

I propose an analysis of these facts relying on the interaction between several independently needed ingredients such as the semantic import of agreement, the presuppositionality of person features, and the interactions between focus and presuppositions, binding and presuppositions, as well as superlatives and focus.

I further discuss how the interplay between all these factors within our target sentences sheds new light on the analysis of copular sentences, specifically regarding the underestimated role of superlative syntax/semantics in some of them.