

Resumption in Igbo

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This paper investigates the syntax and morphology of resumption in Igbo (Benue-Congo). We argue that Igbo has two different types of resumptive pronouns (RPs) in \bar{A} -dependencies: (i) RPs that terminate base-generation dependencies, and (ii) RPs that occur at the bottom of movement dependencies. While similar splits have been claimed to exist in a few other languages before, established with a limited data set, Igbo provides comprehensive evidence from a variety of movement tests. A further argument for this split comes from morphological mismatches that only arise with type-(ii) RPs. The phi-mismatch in Igbo is more complex than those reported so far in the resumption literature because the preservation/loss of phi-information depends on the kind of antecedent (pro/noun, coordination). We argue that the Igbo resumption data can be best captured in a spell-out approach to resumption à la Pesetsky (1998), Landau (2006); RPs surface in order to fulfil non-syntactic requirements on pronunciation. To model the morphological mismatch, we adopt the partial copy deletion approach to mismatches in resumption proposed in van Urk (2018). However, rather than deleting a fixed amount of structure, we propose that the influence of the antecedent type on the mismatch favours a dynamic definition of the deletion domain.

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