

“What if she thinks I am you?”: Agreement in identity sentences

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Agreement in copular clauses is a central issue for the syntactic analysis of copular clauses. At the same time, copular clauses are one central domain of investigation for distinguishing different mechanisms of Agree especially in relation to the discussion of the Person Case Constraint (=PCC). One of the central questions is whether or not the agreement effects found in PCC contexts are the same as those in copular clauses as some analyses of the PCC predict that they are while other approaches do not necessarily predict this. In a recent paper, Coon & Keine (2021) propose that Agree targets all available NPs (feature gluttony) and can lead to conflicts in agreement, both for PCC effects as well as agreement in copular clauses based on their work on German identity sentences. In this talk, we present new data on agreement in German copular clauses arguing that this data does not support their proposal fully; while feature gluttony might well underlie PCC effects, and our data suggests that feature gluttony does not apply in German identity sentences.

Coon, Jessica & Stefan Keine. 2021. Feature Gluttony. *Linguistic Inquiry* 52(4). 655–710.