Factors for null object resolution in European Portuguese

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04.07.2022

A *null object* is an object of a transitive verb that has been omitted. The sentence in (1) would be grammatical if the direct object is recoverable from the linguistic or pragmatic context (Raposo, 1986).

(1) European Portuguese (Raposo, 1986, 373)

A	Joana	viu	*e* na	TV	ontem.
DEF	Joana	watch.PERF.1SG	on.DEF	TV	yesterday

“Joana watched it yesterday on TV.”

For European Portuguese, it has been argued that *animacy, definiteness* and *specificity* are important for the (overt and null) pronominal realization of objects. Inanimate, indefinite, and non-specific entities tend to be omitted, while animate, definite, and specific ones have to be realized as clitics (Schwenter, 2014).

The matter of how other types of factors might influence null pronoun resolution has received less attention. In this talk, I will present and discuss various semantic, discourse-pragmatic, and grammatical factors relevant for the anaphoric resolution of null objects based on the literature that is mainly concentrated on null subjects or full pronouns.

References

Raposo, E. (1986). On the null object in European Portuguese. In O. Jaeggli & C. Silva-Corvalán (Eds.), *Studies in Romance Linguistics* (p. 373-390). Dordrecht: Foris.

Schwenter, S. (2014). Two kinds of differential object marking in portuguese and spanish. In P. Amaral & A. M. Carvalho (Eds.), *Portuguese/spanish interface* (p. 237-260). Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.