

# The Antecedence Conditions on Ellipsis Aren't Proprietary

Kyle Johnson

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

On standard accounts of ellipsis, the conditions that determine whether an antecedent for the ellipsis is identical enough or not are specific to the ellipsis construction. In Merchant's famous proposal, for instance, an elided phrase must be "ellipsis given" by another phrase, where "ellipsis given" is a strengthened version of Schwarzschild's condition on deaccented material but hold just of elided material. In order to explain why this proprietary antecedence condition holds just of elided material, Merchant builds it into the syntactic licensing conditions on ellipsis. The head that allows its complement to elide also specifies that its complement must be ellipsis given. I will show in this talk that the head which licenses ellipsis cannot also specify what the antecedence conditions are. Instead, the antecedence conditions on ellipsis must come from more general principles of anaphora: they are not specific to ellipsis. I will show this by providing an account of amalgams, where the licenser for ellipsis allows its complement to be spoken in an unorthodox position rather than elide. The licenser in these constructions, then, does not invoke an antecedence condition because there is no antecedent.