

Deletion of a speech verb as a pragmatic-driven phenomenon: Some evidence from Spanish

A basic presupposition in pragmatics involves the need of a speaker: “Every utterance is produced by one speaker.” I propose that this pragmatic idea is on the base of a deletion process in Spanish syntax. The target of this process is the speech verb directly related to the speech act. I explore this process in three apparently unrelated cases: (1) Deletion of a speech verb when modified by a Speaker Oriented Adverb as, for instance, Sp. *francamente* (‘frankly’) (Jackendoff 1972); (2) deletion of the speech verb in all prepositional uses of Sp. *según* (‘according to’) (Alarcos 1999); and (3) deletion of a speech verb in (certain type of) peripheral conditionals (Hageman 2003) as It occurs, for instance, in the sentence Sp. *Si no te veo, que tengas un buen viaje* (‘If I don’t see you, have a good trip’).