

EPP-Satisfaction; Problematic Constructions Across Null Subject Languages

Evi Sifaki
e.sifaki@roehampton.ac.uk
Roehampton University

8 November, 2005
University of Cyprus

Aim: to look into a number of constructions derived primarily from Null-Subject Languages/NSLs¹ that are problematic for the satisfaction of the E(xtended) P(rojection) P(rinciple), as this was formulated throughout syntactic theory (i.e. from the Principles and Parameters to Minimalism) and to further consider the theoretical questions that arise in view of these structures (i.e. reconsidering the featural status requirement EPP represents). Evidence is brought in from:

- (a) English subjectless constructions.
- (b) Impersonal constructions attested in Greek, Italian, Spanish, and Slavic languages (i.e. weather constructions as well as Italian *si*, Spanish *se*, and Polish *sie* impersonals), constructions in which the verbal morphology is ‘defective’, in the sense that it lacks some agreement properties necessary for the deletion of the EPP.
- (c) discourse-drop/topic-drop NSLs like Chinese and Japanese in which the verb systematically lacks person and number properties.

¹Data from English will be utilised simply to show that even though EPP was originally formulated to account for languages like English (cf. Chomsky 1982), yet even English displays constructions that raise questions for the satisfaction of the EPP as the ‘subject’ requirement .