

Aspects of Case-Marking in Japanese: An LFG Perspective

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In this talk I will discuss data where surface case-marking on an argument does not transparently correspond to the argument's surface position, and consider the analysis of such data within Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG). The data will be drawn mainly from complex constructions in Japanese. LFG uses the concept of 'constructive case' (Nordlinger 1998), whereby case indicates not only properties of an argument, but of the syntactic context containing the argument. In turn, this may obviate the need to have standard case features such as [CASE NOM], [CASE ACC] in the morpho-syntactic representation of Japanese (Spencer & Otaguro 2005).