

Eric Potsdam

Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018

Matherly Hall 0018

## Exceptives and Ellipsis

This talk investigates the syntax of the exceptive construction as exemplified by the Connected Exceptive in (1a) and the Free Exceptive in (1b).

- (1) a. Everyone except Mary laughed.                   CONNECTED EXCEPTIVE  
b. Everyone laughed, except Mary.                   FREE EXCEPTIVE

I propose that Free Exceptives are an ellipsis construction. Data and argumentation come from both English and the Austronesian language Malagasy, which behave the same in relevant respects. I first show that the Free Exceptive in (1b) is not derived from (1a) via extraposition of the exceptive phrase *except Mary* to the end of the clause. Free Exceptives show a much greater syntactic and semantic freedom, which is surprising if the two were derivationally related. Instead, Free Exceptives are an ellipsis construction in which the exception is the result of clausal ellipsis, as shown in (2) from Malagasy. Evidence comes from a variety of sources including unreduced exceptives, coordination, multiple exceptions, Binding Theory, and locality effects.

- (2) Tonga ny vahiny rehetra omaly, afa-tsy Rasoa ~~no~~ ~~tsy~~ ~~tonga~~ ~~omaly~~  
arrived DET guest all yesterday except Rasoa FOC NEG arrived yesterday  
'All the guests arrived yesterday, except Rasoa (didn't arrive yesterday).'

If Free Exceptives, at least in some languages, are derived via clausal ellipsis, they have implications for a wide range of issues discussed in the ellipsis literature. Such data can be used to help determine the structure of missing material and can inform our understanding of the variable island sensitivity seen in ellipsis constructions.