Sluicing? It's Just One of Copular Constructions

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Jo, Jung-Min. 2005. Sluicing? It's Just One of Copular Constructions. *The Linguistic Association of Korea Journal, 13*(2), 143-167. This paper provides a cross-examination of Cleft and Sluicing constructions in Korean. In particular I claim that Cleft construction is not the direct source for deriving Sluicing construction. Instead, two constructions are only indirectly related in that they share the same base structure, which is the copula-accompanying full *kes*-clause. I claim that the two constructions diverge due to the differences in the derivation involved. Despite the similarities between the two constructions in sharing the base structure, some contrasts are expected to arise due to the derivational differences and the organization of the grammar assumed. In particular, I show that contrasts with regard to the occurrence of Nom/Acc Case markers before the copula and the multiple sluiced or clefted elements follow from the derivational differences involved. Also I suggest that speaker variations with regard to Nom/Acc Case markers before the copula in Cleft and Sluicing constructions arise from the status of the relevant morphological constraint as a preference condition.

**Key words:** Sluicing, Cleft, Copula, Focus, Topic, Scrambling, PF-deletion, *kes*-clause

1. Introduction

This paper examines so-called ‘Sluicing’in Korean, which is a Focus construction involved with ellipsis, as shown in (1).

(1) (Chelswu-ka nwukwu-eykey chayk-ul cwu-ess-ta-ko
C-Nom someone-Dat book-Acc give-Past-Decl-Comp
tul-ess-nuntey)
heard
Due to its similarity to English Sluicing construction as English translation suggests, sentences like (1) have been analyzed as Korean (and similarly, Japanese) counterpart of Sluicing (see Takahashi 1994, J-S Kim 1997). I point out some empirical and theoretical problems of previous analyses of this construction and propose an alternative account in this paper.

2. Previous Analyses and Problems


(2) John-i sakwa-lul meke
   J-Nom apple-Acc eats
   (kuliko) BANANAi-to/*-lul [VP --John-i t mek] ya
   and banana-Foc/-Acc J-Nom eat is
   'John eats apples, and BANANAS too' (J-S Kim 1997: 53)

Kim claims that Pseudogapping involves Focus movement followed by VP-deletion. Kim extends this analysis to Sluicing in Japanese as shown in (3a), claiming that Sluicing involves PF deletion of TP or VP after Focus movement. (3b) is my rendition of his analysis to Korean Sluicing as Kim assumed that the same analysis also holds for Korean.