Lee, Doo-Won. 2007. Structural Case-driven Object Shift of ECMed Nominals out of the CP. The Linguistic Association of Korea Journal, 15(1), 37-61. This paper argues that the surface position of the ECMed nominal in Korean should be [Spec, v*P] in the upper clause. This paper is against the arguments that the Korean ECM construction is a syntactic reflection of pragmatic force (i.e., Int effects in Chomsky’s (2001) term) (Jung 2001, Yoon 2004, among others). In fact, the overt object shift of the ECMed nominal is driven by its structural Case checking against the matrix v* (cf. Bogković 1997, 2002, in press a, Radford 2004). This paper also claims that while the object with inherent Case in the thematic position undergoes Case checking against v* by Agree (Chomsky 2000, 2001), the ECMed nominal with structural Case necessarily undergoes overt object shift in order to have its structural Case checked against v*. No instance of feature checking movement can feed another instance of feature checking movement (Bogković in press a, b). It makes sense that the ECM construction in Korean involves A-movement out of CP, which induces the [Spec, CP] to be an A-position (cf. Tanaka 2002, McCloskey 2000, Bogković in press a, b). It is also observed that the Korean ECMed nominal may further undergo a separated feature checking operation from its surface shifted position to another surface position; hence, no feature checking in intermediate positions in successive cyclic movement of the ECMed nominals.

Key Words: ECM, feature checking, object shift, structural Case

* This paper is an advanced version of the preliminary work in press. This was partially presented at Seoul Linguistics Forum-2005, Language Education Institute, SNU. Critical comments from three anonymous reviewers of this journal helped me refine a variety of controversial points. I appreciate them for their valuable comments. Thanks to them, the earlier versions of this paper have improved a lot. Needless to say, all the remaining errors and potential misinterpretation of data and facts are solely the author’s responsibility.
1. Introduction

It is recently observed in literature (Jung 2001 and Yoon 2004, among others) that the surface position of the ECMed nominal in Korean is \([\text{Spec}, v^*P]\) in the upper clause. If this is on the right track, the topmost concern in this paper will be what drives the overt object shift of the nominal in question caki-uy tongsayng-ul ‘self-GEN younger brother-ACC’ out of the embedded clause in the so-called ECM construction in (1):\(^1\)

(1) a. \([\text{CP} \text{Chelswu-ka} [\text{CP} \text{caki-uy tongsayng-i}]
\text{ttoktokha-ta-ko} \text{mit-ess-ta}]
\text{smart-DC-COMP believe-PST-DC}
\text{Chelswu believed that his younger brother was smart.}’

b. \([\text{CP} \text{Chelswu-ka} \text{caki-uy tongsayng-ul} [\text{CP} \text{t}]
\text{Chelswu-NOM self-GEN younger brother-ACC}
\text{ttoktokha-ta-ko} \text{mit-ess-ta}]
\text{smart-DC-COMP believe-PST-DC}
\text{Chelswu believed his younger brother to be smart.}’

This paper will be against Jung’s (2001) and Yoon’s (2004) arguments that the Korean ECM construction is a syntactic reflection of pragmatic force (i.e., Int effects in Chomsky’s (2001) term). That is, it will be shown that the object shift of the ECMed nominal is not triggered by the EPP on \(v^*\) contra Chomsky (2001). Also, it will be observed that A-movement out of CPs is in principle possible in the Korean ECM construction (cf. Ormazabal 1995, Epstein and Seely 2006, \(v^*\)).

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1) An anonymous reviewer points out how in (1b), where the accusative-marked nominal undergoes ECM, the Case feature on T in the embedded clause can be checked, which may be a non-trivial issue in Korean ECM constructions. However, in this paper, where the overt object shift of the ECMed element is focused, this matter will be open, though it is an interesting and arguable issue.