

The semantic components of *pakkey*

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In this talk, we look at the expression of “only” in Korean, focussing on NP-*pakkey* plus negation, as in (2), which can be compared with the simple “only” using *man*, as in (1):

- (1) ecey-nun Mina-man samwusil-ey ka-ss-ta
yesterday-TOP Mina-*only* office-to go-PAST-DECL
‘Yesterday, only Mina went to the office.’
- (2) ecey-nun Mina-pakkey samwusil-ey ka-ci anh-ass-ta
yesterday-TOP Mina-*pakkey* office-to go-COMP NEG-PAST-DECL
‘Yesterday, only Mina went to the office.’ (‘No one except Mina went to the office.’)

Taking different tests from previous research on Korean, or on *dake/sika* in Japanese (see References), we investigate whether the negation in (2) is true negation or whether it is constructionally absorbed in the “only” meaning. This issue can be addressed by contrasting (1) and (2) with regard to their entailment properties, and interactions with negative polarity items. We will argue that *pakkey* has an important component of negation and of “exception” in its meaning, building on the account of exceptives in García Álvarez (2009).

References

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