

The non-local licensing of n-words in Serbian

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The topic of this talk is the licensing of n-words (negative indefinites) in Serbian embedded “subjunctive-like” clauses by the higher negative verb. The basic assumption is that this kind of licensing happens under syntactic agreement. It will be argued here, however, that while the structure of these clauses *can* be restructuring environments (lacking the CP layer) as previously argued (cf. Progovac 1994, Stjepanović 2001), they can also be full CPs with special temporal properties. Syntactically, in these clauses the movement of the embedded nominative subject to the Spec of CP extends the search domain of the higher probe with the relevant neg feature. The facts also point to the conclusion that the relation between the n-words and their licensor (sentential negation) is not a spec-head relation as has been argued by Progovac (2005) and Bosković (2007). The current account builds on the work by of Pesetsky and Torrego (2001) and Hiraiwa (2005) regarding the syntactic conditions for establishing Multiple Agree relation between the probe and its goal(s).