Scrambling and Japanese Sentence Structure

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Abstract

Hale (1980, 1983) suggests that Japanese language belongs to a non-configurational language and in contrast, Saito and Hoji (1983) and Whitman (1986) claim that Japanese is a configurational language. A non-configurational language has a flat structure whereas a configurational language has a hierarchy structure with a VP-node. This thesis incorporates the theory of Neeleman and Van de Koot (2006a) and proves that scrambling has only one type of movement, A’-movement, and that other structures including structures which are supposed to be derived by A-movement could be base-generated, though many claim that scrambling has both A-movement and A’-movement. This means that Japanese is a configurational language in that there is a VP-node and at the same time it could be a non-configurational language in that scrambled structures except A’-movement are base-generated.
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