

"Island introducing reflexives in Kannada"

How is a long-distance reflexive related to its antecedent? The theoretical literature is replete with alternative answers to this question, with some arguing that this relation is established by local binding after covert syntactic movement of the reflexive pronoun and others arguing that this relation is established in the semantics or discourse representation. One of the primary arguments against the covert movement hypothesis has been that long-distance reflexives do not show island effects. This argument is specious, however, since even covert wh-movement of arguments fails to show island effects. A better test for covert movement would be to determine whether long-distance reflexives introduce islands for adjunct wh-phrases (which do generally show island effects). In this paper, I show that long-distance reflexivization in Kannada is island-introducing with respect to adjunct wh-phrases. This leads to the conclusion that long-distance reflexivization involves A-bar movement (either covert or overt).