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On Predicational and Presentational Sentences
in English

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This thesis is an attempt to characterize predicational
and presentational sentences in English. I claim that there
are at least three factors to consider in characterizing them:
(i) the order of theme and location in the sense of Jackendoff
(1972), (ii) the anaphoricity of an NP which is predicated of
or presented, and (iii) the nature of predicates. Among these
the first factor is emphasized. The basic notions of predi-
cation and presentation are defined in terms of this factor.
These notions capture the determining characteristics of
predicational and presentational sentences. Those cases which
are not characterized correctly by these notions alone can
adequately be handled by taking the factors (ii) and (iii)
into consideration.

To support the analysis, rightward NP movement which is
involved in deriving presentational constructions is examined
in some detail. I argue that the previous analyses of the
presentational constructions are inadequate in that they miss
an important generalization about them. It is shown that
there is a kind of semantic constraint imposed on rightward
NP movement in general and that the constraint follows
naturally from the proposed analysis.