

GOVERNMENT CONFLICTS AND THEIR RESOLUTION – SOME MUSINGS

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ABSTRACT

The government relation is, in its pristine form, a one-to-one relation between the governor and the governee. But there are various challenges to this purely bijective property, one of the more well-known being case marking in free relative clauses, where the *wh*-word appears to be case-governed both by the relative clause predicate and by the matrix predicate. In many cases matching is required but in some cases a mismatch does not necessarily lead to ungrammaticality but is resolved by one case suppressing the other, that is, by one case-government relation superseding the other. Interestingly, such case adaptations occur also when there is not, strictly speaking, a conflict. For example the head of a headed relative clause may receive one case (from the matrix predicate) while the *wh*-word receives another case from its case governor in the relative clause. While there is no conflict here, case adaptation sometimes nevertheless take place. This is called case attraction. In my talk I will try to sort out some of the similarities and differences between the two situations and raise some questions as to what this means for the notion of government.