17. Pragmatically marked structures

English employs special constituent orders and cleft constructions to convey pragmatically marked information such as contrast. Special constituent orders are treated briefly in section 4.1. In this section we will discuss clefts. There are two types of clefts in English. These we will refer to as *it* clefts and *the one* clefts.

17.1. *It* clefts

It clefts consist of a predicate nominal clause in which the subject is the inanimate pronoun *it* and the predicate noun is a full NP modified by a relative clause:

(153)   IT   COP   NP   REL CL

It   is   John   who   won.

INAN ser:NOPAS Juán   quien ganar:PAS

'Fue Juán quien ganó.'

Notice that the subject pronoun functions as a 'dummy' subject; it does not refer to the head nominal of the relative clause. If it did, then in example 153 the subject would have to be *he* '3SG:MASC:NN'. In fact, this is ungrammatical:

(154)   *He is John who won.

It clefts can be formed on any nominal that can be relativized (see section 16.1), regardless of it's role within the relative clause. The following are some further examples:

CLEFTED OBJECT:

(155)   It   was   the peasant-s   who(-m)   the soldiers-s threaten-ed.

INAN ser:PAS DEF campesino-PL quien(-NN) DEF soldado-PL amenazar-PAS

'Fueron los compesinos a quienes amenazaron los soldados.'

CLEFTED LOCATIVE:

(156)   It   was   under the house that the cat scurri-ed.

INAN ser:PAS debajo DEF casa REL DEF gato correr-PAS

'Fue debajo de la casa donde corrió el gato.'

CLEFTED POSSESSOR:

(157)   It   will   be   the man   whose   name   is   John.

        INAN AUX:FUT ser DEF hombre de:quien nombre ser:NOPAS Juán

        'Será el hombre de quien su nombre es Juán.'

17.2. *The-one* clefts

The second kind of cleft construction in English can be termed '*the-one*' clefts. These clefts also consist of a predicate nominal and a relative clause. However, in this case the head noun of the relative clause is always *the one* 'singular' or *the ones* 'plural'. Also, the modified NP is the subject of the clause, and a full NP that is coreferential with the head is the predicate nominal:

(158)   THE ONE[coref]   REL CL   COP   NP[coref]

        The one   who came   was   John

        DEF uno   quien venir:PAS ser:PAS Juán

        'El que vino fue Juán.'

Again, nominal in just about any role within a relative clause can be clefted:

CLEFTED OBJECT:

(159)   The one-s who(-m)   George despise-d were   the Artesian-s.

        DEF uno-PL quien(-NN) Jorge   odiar-PAS ser:PAS DEF Artesiano-PL

        'Los que Jorge odiaba eran los Artesianos.'

CLEFTED LOCATIVE:

(160)   The one in   which I   live   is   nice.

        DEF uno LOC cual   1SG vivir:NOPAS ser:NOPAS bueno

        'Donde vivo es bueno.'

CLEFTED POSSESSOR:

(161)   The one whose   name   I   ca-n't   remember is   here.

        DEF uno de:quien nombre 1SG poder-NEG recordar   ser:NOPAS aquí

        'El que no puedo recordar su nombre está aquí.'

Both *it* clefts and *the one* clefts are used in highly contrastive discourse contexts. For example, the following dialog illustrates a typical situation in which a cleft construction might function:

(162)   A: Did   Sally make   the salad?

       AUX:PAS Saly hacer:NOPAS DEF ensalada

      '¿Hizo Saly la ensalada?'

      B: No. GEORGE made the salad.   SALLY made the HAMburger-s.

        no Jorge   hizo DEF ensalada Saly   hizo DEF hamburguesa-PL

      'No. JORGE hizo la ensalada; SALY hizo las hamburGUESAS.'

Contrastive stress on *George*, *Sally* and *hamburgers* indicates low level contrastiveness. Speaker B 'corrects' speaker A. This is followed by a further correction by speaker C:

(163)   C: You-'re   BOTH wrong.   It   was   FRED who   made the salad

      2-ser:NOPAS:PL ambos equivocado INAN ser:PAS Fred   quien hizo   DEF ensalada

      'Ambos se equivocan. Fue FRED quien hizo la ensalada.

The fact that *Fred* is clefted by speaker C indicates a higher degree of contrastiveness. A *the-one* cleft would also be acceptable in this context. Prince (1978) provides a thorough treatment of *it* clefts, *the-one* clefts and other variations, including their functions in discourse.