

Adnominal *self*-intensification

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Abstract This talk will investigate the syntax, semantics and pragmatics of a construction that has become known as the adnominal emphatic reflexive (ER), underlined in the examples below:

- (1) Richard Lewis threw a giant party last night and lots of people showed up. We weren't really expecting Larry to show up since he doesn't usually care for parties, but the party was so huge, Larry himself came to the party last night.
- (2) Susie organized a dinner party and demanded that everyone bring a homemade dish. Richard brought a quiche, Funkhauser made a delicious chocolate cake, and Susie herself cooked lasagna.

The adnominal emphatic reflexive has received some attention in theoretical linguistics as researchers have been interested in what, if any, unified analysis of *self*-forms can be posited to account for the many uses of the *self*-forms: argument reductive reflexives, picture noun reflexives, adnominal ERs and adverbial ERs.

- (3) Argument Reductive:
Larry washed himself.
- (4) Picture Noun:
Larry showed Cheryl a picture of himself.
- (5) Adnominal ER:
Larry himself came to the party last night.
- (6) Adverbial ER:
Larry wrote the whole damn screenplay himself.

The paper being presented at the talk will focus solely on the adnominal ER in English, i.e. uses as that in (5). In particular, we will be concerned with providing a lexical entry for the adnominal ER that captures a wide variety of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic facts.

This paper will also present some new data concerning the use of the adnominal ER in quantificational contexts, which were previously believed to be inherently pragmatically infelicitous environments. I argue that given enough of a rich context, adnominal ERs are actually quite felicitous in all quantificational contexts.

The analysis I ultimately propose is novel in that it, unlike previous analyses, does not rely on focus semantics to derive the pragmatic contributions of the adnominal ER. In the talk, I will motivate this move, showing that a reliance on focus semantics will necessarily yield false predictions.