Two Kinds of Focus Markers in Sinhala

Hideki Kishimoto (Kobe University)

Sinhala is a language in which a particle is utilized to mark focus. In Sinhala, focus is marked by a focus particle appearing in clause internal position, but this particle can also appear in clause-final scope position, in which case focus is not delimited. In this presentation, I will argue that the focus particle located in clause-internal position appears in the same focus position as a clause-final focus particle to serve as an operator at the LF level. Sinhala has two kinds of focus-marking constructions, which are distinguished according to whether or not focus particles have interrogative functions. On the basis of the presence or absence of a blocking effect for A'-extraction from the focus constructions, I will argue that an interrogative focus marker is located in a higher operator position than a non-interrogative focus marker.