Rebinding and derivational ellipsis licensing

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Re-binding refers to a configuration where a variable within an elided phrase has its binder located outside the ellipsis site (Takahashi and Fox 2005). Two representative rebinding configurations are discussed in the literature. One involves a rebound variable as a trace of A'-movement, while the other involves a rebound variable interpreted under a sloppy reading. Interestingly, re-binding involving movement shows an ameliorating effect when a focus element is present between the rebound variable and its potential binder. In contrast, sloppy readings are not salvageable, even with an intervening focus in a re-binding configuration. This study investigates the reason for this discrepancy and argues that "referential binding," unlike non-referential variable binding, must satisfy both structural parallelism—constrained by phase—and semantic parallelism. Furthermore, I discuss the implications of this analysis for argument ellipsis.