

Partitive pronouns in intransitive contexts and the role of complexity

PARTE Lectures, 25 November 2022

*Petra Sleeman
ACLC, University of Amsterdam*

In the literature it is often assumed that partitive pronouns can only be used in combination with elliptical objects of transitive or unaccusative verbs. In this paper it is investigated, by means of a Grammaticality Judgment Task, if native speakers of Dutch accept the use of the partitive pronoun with three types of intransitive verbs, in combination with an elliptical quantified adverbial NP. It is shown that most of the participants were quite ready to accept the partitive pronoun in these cases, in some contexts more than in others. Various explanations for the variation between the speakers are considered and one more specific suggestion is made to account for the data, also based on a comparison with other constructions. Interspeaker variation will be related to the complexity of the syntactic analysis of the constructions.