

On the discourse coherence level, a subject is more likely to be dropped when it is the preferred center of the preceding utterance (mean weight = .716), and when it is in a Continue transition (.819) or a Smooth-shift (.561).

Previous syntactic work has provided us with important background for the study of overt vs. null subjects in languages such as Hebrew, which do not fall neatly into either the “Prodrop” or “non-Prodrop” categories. Studies like ours illustrate the importance of corpus-based studies, in which factors such as style and formally defined discourse coherence are taken into account.

KEYWORDS: PRODROP, DISCOURSE, HEBREW

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