

## *self-intensification*

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This talk will consider one subset of usages of the *self*-form in English, previously dubbed the "adnominal emphatic reflexive", exemplified by the underlined in the following examples:

- (1) The president himself admitted that the stimulus package was imperfect.
- (2) The representatives of the White House were easily identifiable by the colors of their ties. The Chief of Staff had on a purple tie, the Vice President was spotted with a red tie and the President himself wore a blue tie.
- (3) The court jester ridiculed the Queen herself.

Such usages present a puzzling challenge not only to the larger picture question of how to craft a unified analysis of *self*-forms in general, but also to the question of what exactly these forms are contributing semantically. This talk will be concerned with the question of what the semantic contribution of the adnominal *self*-form is, and it will cover several approaches to a semantic analysis of the adnominal emphatic reflexive in English, as well as presenting some new data supporting my analysis.

The previous approaches to the semantics of adnominal emphatic reflexives are divided into two camps: the identity function with focus semantics approach (exemplified by Eckardt 2001) and the focus-sensitive operator approach (exemplified by König and Siemund 2000). Both approaches take as their point of departure the fact that the semantic contribution of the adnominal emphatic reflexive seems not to affect the assertive part of a sentence's semantics. The minimal pair below illustrates this:

- (4) John himself came to the party last night.
- (5) John came to the party last night.

Both (4) and (5) make the same assertion — that John came to the party last night. What the adnominal emphatic reflexive seems to be adding in (4) is some kind of presupposition that John's coming to the party last night was unexpected.

Previous authors have also noted that in addition to this "surprise" reading that adnominal emphatic reflexives have, they also have a "non-surprise" reading, given an appropriate context.

- (6) Many of the members of the royal court were easily identifiable by the traditional court costume. The archbishop had his mitre, the lords all donned robes and the king himself wore a crown.

The challenge, then, has been to come up with a broad enough semantic analysis to capture both of these possible interpretations of the adnominal emphatic reflexive. The analysis I will be arguing for in the talk will be in some ways similar to both of two most successful previous approaches, but it differs crucially in that it allows for adnominal emphatic reflexives to occur with non-individual denoting generalized quantifiers. Previous authors not only have failed to acknowledge such occurrences, but specifically design their analyses to block them. My claim in this talk will be that there is nothing inherently infelicitous about such occurrences, as other authors have argued, but rather that such occurrences require a rich enough context to license them. Such an example appears below:

(7) Every year, the Graduate School hosts a chili cookoff between all of the different departments at Brown. It is required that every member of each department participate in the cooking, and in order to be eligible for the chili competition, every department chair himself must come up with the recipe used.