Licensing ellipsis:
Under which conditions can ellipsis take place?

Key words: Ellipsis, licensing, syntax, Generative Grammar

Main research question:
Ellipsis is subject to two major conditions: recoverability and licensing.

- **Recoverability**: An elided phrase needs a salient antecedent.
  
  (1) a. Jasmin is drinking tea, but Ryan isn’t drinking tea.
  
  b. *Jasmin is drinking tea and Ryan is eating a apple.

- **Licensing**: Not just any phrase with a salient antecedent can be deleted.

(2) * Morgan is drawing a giraffe, but Alice isn’t drawing a [giraffe].

Goal of this thesis: Exploring and formulating the licensing conditions on ellipsis.

Approach: Examining different elliptical constructions, starting from Dutch and English and comparing them to other (mostly Indo-European) languages.

Results:
Main claim: Ellipsis is licensed through an Agree-relation between a licensing head and an E-head selecting the elided phrase (E for ellipsis).

Restrictions:
- Agree is a local relation: no interveners, not too much distance.
- Which head is the licensor differs across languages and from construction to construction, as does the size of the ellipsis site.

Innovation: Ellipsis licensing is not subject to adjacency (head-complement).

Lobke Aelbrecht – CRISSP – promotores: Guido Vanden Wyngaerd
Jeroen van Craenenbroeck

lobke.aelbrecht@hubrussel.be