

## To Liliane, with appreciation

Shigeru Miyagawa

I first met Liliane in Japan when she came to give a talk at Kanda University of International Studies. With Memo Cinque and others, we toured Tokyo together and quickly became friends. And the friendship blossomed into professional collaboration, including co-organizing a LSA panel on MCP and jointly giving a plenary talk at GLOW.

Around the time that we met, I had completed the manuscript for *Why Agree? Why Move?*, which was published as a Linguistic Inquiry monograph in 2010. I proposed Strong Uniformity, an instantiation of Chomsky's (2001) Uniformity Principle; SU states that every language shares the same set of grammatical features, and each language manifests these features in some fashion. When one makes a sweeping proposal of this sort, one quickly digs holes to fall into; a sign of a promising theory is that you can dig out of at least some of them.

A particularly embarrassing hole that I dug for myself was the prediction that Strong Uniformity made that a language such as Japanese has  $\phi$ -feature agreement at C. This is embarrassing because Japanese is known as a prototypical agreementless language. Everyone knows this! But predictions are predictions – I either show that it is borne out despite all appearance to the contrary, or abandon the project. In attempting to address this problem, Liliane's work on the MCP came into sharp focus. I was trying to argue that the politeness marking in Japanese (-*mas*-) is second-person agreement at C, because it "agrees" with the hearer, and it occurs at C Miyagawa (1987). The politeness marking is an MCP. But it is one thing to stipulate that the politeness marking is  $\phi$ -feature agreement, something else altogether to show that it is a credible way to view it as such. The big breakthrough came when Liliane invited me to give a presentation at the 2010 Ghent workshop on clause-typing and main clause phenomena. In searching for a topic to discuss, I discovered data from Basque (courtesy of Karlos Arregi) that gave credence to the idea that the politeness marking in Japanese is 2nd person agreement, and it is at C.

The so-called allocutive agreement in certain Basque dialects agrees with the

hearer, thus it is always 2nd person, despite the fact that there is no 2nd person entity in any of the argument positions Oyharçabal (1993). The allocutive is a regular form of agreement, as shown by the fact that it competes for position with the “regular” 2nd person agreement. Its function is politeness (formal/colloquial), and it occurs at C. In fact, Oyharçabal, who wrote the article on allocutive agreement, refers to an earlier article of mine (Miyagawa 1987) and observes that the allocutive agreement in Basque has essentially the same distribution as the politeness marking in Japanese. I remember that Liliane was quite excited about the data, which gave me confidence that I’m onto something. I got to publish this work in the collection of papers from the workshop (*Main Clause Phenomena: New Horizons*, 2012) that was co-edited by Liliane. The phenomenon of allocutive agreement is novel in generative grammar, and a number of linguists picked it up after the publication of the book and produced interesting studies using a variety of languages. One of them was Vera Zu, who completed a Ph.D. dissertation on the topic in 2017 that substantially extended the idea of allocutive agreement beyond Basque and Japanese. Encouraged by the discovery of allocutive agreement, I myself went on to write a second LI monograph, *Agreement beyond phi*, which was published in 2017.

Liliane and I collaborated on two big projects, both stemming from our mutual interest in main clause phenomena. We co-organized a Linguistic Society of America panel in 2013 which was held in Boston, and invited Jim Huang, Luigi Rizzi, and Raffaella Zanuttini to join us. In 2016, we gave a joint plenary talk at GLOW 39 held at the University of Göttingen. In that talk, Liliane went over some of the major achievements of her enormous project on main clause phenomena dating back to the early 2000’s, while I introduced the notion of allocutive agreement and its implications for linguistic theory. It was one of the most enjoyable talks I’ve ever given, and certainly one that I learned a great deal from thanks to Liliane.

I cherish my friendship with Liliane, and I am deeply grateful to her for bringing me into her world of linguistic study that she helped to pioneer. It has certainly been rewarding for me, not the least of which is because I got to work with her.

## References

- Miyagawa, S. 1987. LF affix raising in Japanese. *Linguistic Inquiry* 18. 362–367.  
Oyharçabal, B.n. 1993. Verb agreement with non arguments: On allocutive

- agreement. In J.I. Hualde & J. Ortiz de Urbina (eds.), *Generative studies in Basque linguistics*. 89–114. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Zu, V. 2017. *Discourse participants and the structural representation of the context*: New York University dissertation.