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Title. Resumptive Pronouns

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This project attempts to formulate a contrastive analysis of resumptive pronouns in English in Farsi. This entails descriptions of formal features that pertain to resumptive pronouns in each language, and subsequent comparison of the structures. General points of difference seem to indicate that English resumptive pronouns are of a ‘syntactically inactive’ variety, while those of Farsi are ‘syntactically active.’ In (restrictive) relative clauses, Farsi supplies resumptive clitic pronouns along positions of the accessibility hierarchy (AH) which follow that of direct object, while being optional for relativization of the direct object. In English, resumptive pronouns are generally excluded in relative clauses (i.e., do not co-occur with any of the positions on the AH), with the exception of positions that possess extractability constraints, i.e., syntactic islands. Resumptive pronouns also seem to surface in English during discourse, particularly as the pronoun in questions gets farther from the head to which it refers – this latter variety of resumptive pronouns, however, surface as a result of processing constraints rather than extractability.