

Les emplois absolus de la préposition *depuis*

Injoo Choi-Jonin et Véronique Lagae

Abstract: The French preposition *depuis* can be used to express a temporal as well as a spatial starting point. This paper focuses on its absolute use, i.e. the possibility of omission of its complement, which is restricted to its temporal meaning. Two types of analyses have been put forward to deal with the absolute use of prepositions: adverbial re-categorization on one hand and post-prepositional ellipsis or zero anaphora on the other hand. This corpus-based study demonstrates that both perspectives fail to account for the absolute use of *depuis*. Indeed, considering its distribution, semantics and discourse properties, it is shown that *depuis* should be more accurately analyzed as an anaphoric connective when used without a complement.

Key words: French, preposition, absolute use, *depuis*, anaphoric connective