What Javanese tells us about types of ellipsis in polar answers
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A 'repetition' affirmative answer to a polar question that includes a TAM auxiliary in Javanese (Austronesian) descriptively consists of the corresponding TAM auxiliary alone, as in (1)-A1. An alternative answer is with the subject plus the auxiliary, as in (1)-A2. (Other possibilities are a clause with basic word order S-Aux-V-O, or with a yes/no particle.)

(1) Q: Kuna'ah **iso**   ngelangi   toh?   A1: **Iso**.   A2: Kuna'ah **iso**.
         Kuna'ah CIRC.POS AV.swim   FOC   CIRC.POS   Kuna'ah CIRC.POS
         'Can Kuna'ah swim?'   'Yes.' (Lit. 'Can.') 'Kuna'ah can.'

The goal of this talk is to provide an account of Javanese polar answers in (1), thereby distinguishing types of ellipsis towards building a typology of derivation strategies of 'repetition' polar answers. I argue that A1 'auxiliary' answers employ IP-DOMAIN ELLIPSIS, wherein the auxiliary moves to Foc^0 in the left-periphery to lexically support and spell out the polarity feature [+Pol], and PolP, the highest XP in the IP-domain, is elided (cf. Holmberg 2016 for Finnish). In contrast, I argue that A2 'subject+aux' answers are derived by a MATCHING ELLIPSIS ANALYSIS (cf. Thoms and Walkden 2019), wherein the auxiliary remains in its base position, and the lower vP is elided under identity with the higher base-generated vP, while the higher vP is elided (under identity with the vP of the polar question) and a null operator links the two vPs. My proposal that these two answer types diverge in their ellipsis strategies in Javanese (i) widens the typology of ellipsis types in polar answers; (ii) widens the empirical diversity of 'matching' ellipsis; and (iii) suggests that information structural mapping is crucial to teasing apart these ellipsis types, as VP-ellipsis is possible in the language, but not a strategy used in this environment.

References

Holmberg, Anders. 2016. *The syntax of yes and no*. Oxford: OUP

Thoms, Gary & George Walkden. *vP*-fronting with and without remnant movement. *Journal of Linguistics* 55:161-214.