

## WHAT DO FRENCH INANIMATE ANAPHORS REALLY SHOW?

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In their article “Anaphor Binding: What French Inanimate Anaphors Show,” Charnavel and Sportiche (C&S) (2016) examine the distribution of two French anaphoric expressions: (a) the nonpossessive anaphor *lui-même* (feminine: *elle-même*; lit. ‘him/her/it-self’), and (b) the possessive anaphor *son propre* (lit. ‘his/her/its own’) when it induces focus alternatives on the possessor (henceforth, possessor *son propre*).<sup>1</sup> On the one hand, C&S observe that, when these anaphors take an *animate* antecedent, their distribution is unaffected by the distance separating them from their antecedent: both anaphors can be linked to a local animate antecedent or to a more distant animate antecedent occurring in a different clause.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, C&S argue that, when these anaphors take an *inanimate* antecedent, they

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Special thanks go to my language consultants for their time and patience. The judgments from French reported in the squib were collected through informal surveys with 8 native speakers of French (2 from Toulouse, 2 from Nantes, 2 from Paris, and 2 from Normandy). Those surveyed were presented with paradigms of sentences (e.g., minimal pairs), one at a time, displayed roughly as shown in this squib, and were asked to provide an acceptability yes/no judgment for each sentence. Overall, there was very little variation in acceptability judgments across the speakers surveyed. In terms of notation, I use “\*” to indicate that those surveyed uniformly rejected a sentence as acceptable and “?” to indicate a nonperfect yet high rate of rejection (at most two yeses). The absence of those symbols indicates a null or quasi-null rate of rejection (at most one no).

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<sup>1</sup> As discussed in Charnavel 2011, 2012 and C&S 2016, the anaphors *lui-même* and *son propre* tend to be emphasized in natural speech production and to have a contrastive flavor, especially in environments where they compete with their structurally simpler pronominal counterparts *son/lui*. In *lui-même*, the stress falls on *même* and induces alternatives on the associated pronoun, while *son propre* can yield different readings depending on its focus properties: in possessor *son propre*, the stress falls on *propre*, inducing focus alternatives on the possessor (e.g., ‘John used his OWN bike, not SUE’S’); by contrast, in possessum *son propre*, the stress falls on the head noun, inducing focus alternatives on the possessed (e.g., ‘John used his own BIKE, not his CAR’). This squib is concerned with the possessor readings of *son propre* since only those readings are argued in C&S 2016 to exhibit a correlation between binding locality and animacy status. All examples below are thus to be read in contexts that make the relevant alternatives salient.

<sup>2</sup> It is worth noting that *lui-même* and *son propre* are not the only anaphoric expressions allowing long-distance uses in French. As Pica (1984a,b, 1986) shows, the third person reflexive *soi* (lit. ‘self’) also has long-distance uses. The distribution of *soi*, however, is very different from that of *lui-même* and *son propre*: (a) the reflexive *soi* only takes animate antecedents, (b) it can only be used in generic statements, and (c) its long-distance uses are constrained by the Tensed-S Condition. In particular, Pica observes that, in a way similar to the Icelandic reflexive *sig*, French *soi* can be linked to a long-distance antecedent only if the embedded clause in which it occurs does not count as tensed (e.g., tenseless small clauses, sentences in subjunctive mood).

behave like “true anaphors” subject to locality restrictions that preclude any long-distance use. According to C&S, this generalization is supported by the existence of contrasts like those in (1) and (2).<sup>3</sup>

- (1) a. [Cette auberge]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> fait de l’ombre à son<sub>i</sub>  
 this inn.F.SG makes of shadow to its.3.M.SG  
 (propre) jardin.  
 (own) garden.M.SG  
 ‘[This inn]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> gives shade to its<sub>i</sub> (own) garden.’
- b. [Cette auberge]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> bénéficie du fait que [les touristes  
 this inn.F.SG benefits of.the fact that the tourists  
 préfèrent son<sub>i</sub> (\*propre) jardin à  
 prefer its.3.M.SG (own) garden.M.SG to  
 ceux des auberges voisines].  
 those.3.M.PL of.the inns neighboring  
 ‘[This inn]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> benefits from the fact that [the tourists prefer  
 its<sub>i</sub> (\*own) garden to those of the neighboring inns].’  
 (adapted from C&S 2016:43, (12a,c))
- (2) a. [Cette loi]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> a entraîné la publication d’un livre  
 this law.F.SG has caused the publication of-a book  
 sur elle<sub>i</sub>-(même).  
 on it.3.F.SG-(self)  
 ‘[This law]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> has led to the publication of a book about  
 itself<sub>i</sub>.’
- b. [Cette loi]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> est si importante que les journalistes  
 this law.F.SG is so important that the journalists  
 prédisent la publication d’un livre sur elle<sub>i</sub>-(\*même)  
 predict the publication of-a book on it.3.F.SG-(self)  
 et sur son<sub>i</sub> auteur.  
 and on its.3.M.SG author.M.SG  
 ‘[This law]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> is so important that [the journalists predict  
 the publication of a book about it<sub>i</sub> (\*self) and about its<sub>i</sub>  
 author].’  
 (adapted from C&S 2016:49, (25a), (26a))

In the (a) sentences, the anaphors *son propre/lui-même* and their inanimate antecedents belong to the same clause, and these sentences are natural. By contrast, in the (b) sentences, the same anaphors occur in an embedded clause while their inanimate antecedents occur in the matrix clause, and these sentences are degraded. Crucially, no such contrasts in acceptability are found when these anaphors take animate antecedents instead, as illustrated in (3) for *son propre*.

<sup>3</sup> Throughout this squib, whenever relevant, I will indicate the animacy status of antecedents and intervening subjects using the superscripts *I* for *inanimate* and *A* for *animate*. Subscript indices are used to indicate the speaker’s belief state: two expressions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are coindexed just in case  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are intended by the speaker to have the same denotation. Interlineal glosses use the following abbreviations: 3=3rd person, F/M=feminine/masculine, SG/PL=singular/plural.

- (3) a. [Ce politicien]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> fait de l'ombre à son<sub>i</sub>  
 this politician.M.SG makes of shadow to his.3.M.SG  
 (propre) projet politique.  
 (own) project.M.SG political  
 '[This politician]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> overshadows his<sub>i</sub> (own) political project.'
- b. [Ce politicien]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> bénéficie du fait que [les  
 this politician.M.SG benefits of.the fact that the  
 électeurs préfèrent son<sub>i</sub> (propre) projet  
 voters prefer his.3.M.SG (own) project.M.SG  
 politique à celui de son<sub>i</sub> adversaire].  
 political to that.3.M.SG of his.3.M.SG opponent.M.SG  
 '[This politician]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> benefits from the fact that [the voters  
 prefer his<sub>i</sub> (own) political project to that of his<sub>i</sub> oppo-  
 nent].'

C&S discuss further examples suggesting that, unlike their animate counterparts, inanimate *son propre* and *lui-même* are licensed only if their antecedents occur in their “local” domain, defined here as the smallest XP (e.g., TP, AP, DP) with an intervening subject containing these anaphors. On the basis of their observations, they propose that the distribution of these inanimate anaphors be captured by means of the following generalization (see C&S 2016:46–47):<sup>4</sup>

(4) *Charnavel and Sportiche's (2016) generalization*

Inanimate *lui-même* and possessor *son propre* must be syntactically bound by their (inanimate) antecedent within a local domain corresponding to the smallest XP with an intervening subject containing them.

- a. [<sub>XP</sub> ... Antecedent]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> << lui<sub>i</sub>-même/son<sub>i</sub> propre ... ]  
 b. \* [<sub>XP</sub> ... Antecedent]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> << [<sub>XP</sub> Subject << lui<sub>i</sub>-même/son<sub>i</sub> propre ... ]]

C&S conclude that instances of French inanimate anaphors are always instances of plain anaphors and that, with some minimal amendment, Condition A of the binding theory (Chomsky 1986, 1993) offers an empirically adequate characterization of the conditions that regulate their anaphoric behavior. C&S further suggest that the locality restrictions imposed on these inanimate anaphors in turn support the idea that, in order to be exempt from Condition A, an anaphor must be linked to a “sentient” antecedent (i.e., one capable of thought, of having a point of view, of being an empathic target), in line with recent proposals according to which exempt anaphors are syntactically

<sup>4</sup> Following C&S, I will consider that a subject  $\alpha$  intervenes between inanimate *lui-même/son propre* and their c-commanding antecedent only if  $\alpha$  is an intermediate c-commander. The use of “<<” in the schematic examples is thus intended to represent the c-command relation. See C&S 2016 for a discussion of this characterization in the case of DPs with a subject.

licensed by the presence of a logophoric or perspective center (Charnavel and Zlogar 2016, Charnavel 2017a,b).

In this squib, I report on novel data that challenge C&S's conclusions by showing that inanimate *son propre/lui-même* are exempt from Condition A, but that their long-distance uses are subject to animacy-oriented blocking effects (Claim 1). Next, I show that animacy-oriented blocking effects also affect the distribution of animate *son propre/lui-même* (Claim 2). I will point out in conclusion how these blocking effects can be related to blocking effects of a similar kind previously described in the literature on long-distance anaphors.

### 1 Inanimate *son propre/lui-même*: Exemption from Condition A and Blocking Effects

The critical observation supporting Claim 1 is that long-distance uses of inanimate *son propre/lui-même* are in fact possible but sensitive to the properties of intervening subjects—specifically, to their animacy status. This new observation is illustrated by means of the contrasts in (5)–(8).

- (5) a. [Ce projet de recherche]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> a attiré [des this project.M.SG of research has attracted some sponsors]<sup>A</sup> qui veulent financer son<sub>i</sub> (\*propre) sponsors that want finance.INF its.3.M.SG (own) renouvellement. renewal.M.SG  
'[This research project]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> has attracted [sponsors]<sup>A</sup> that want to support its<sub>i</sub> (\*own) renewal.'
- b. [Ce projet de recherche]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> a généré [des this project.M.SG of research has generated some bénéfiques]<sup>1</sup> qui peuvent financer son<sub>i</sub> (propre) benefits that can finance.INF its.3.M.SG (own) renouvellement. renewal.M.SG  
'[This research project]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> has generated [benefits]<sup>1</sup> that can help support its<sub>i</sub> (own) renewal.'
- (6) a. [La Terre]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> est surtout affectée par l'activité the Earth.F.SG is mostly affected by the-activity [des astronautes]<sup>A</sup> qui voyagent autour d'elle,- of.the astronauts that travel around of-it.3.F.SG- (\*même). (self)  
'[The Earth]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> is mostly affected by the activity of [the astronauts]<sup>A</sup> that travel around it<sub>i</sub> (\*self).'
- b. [La Terre]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> est surtout affectée par l'effet [des the Earth.F.SG is mostly affected by the-effect of.the satellites]<sup>1</sup> qui tournent autour d'elle,-(même). satellites that revolve around of-it.3.F.SG-(self)  
'[The Earth]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> is mostly affected by the effect of [the satellites]<sup>1</sup> that revolve around it<sub>i</sub> (self).'

- (7) a. [Chaque ordinateur]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> requiert [des ingénieurs]<sup>A</sup>  
 each computer.M.SG requires some engineers  
 qui soient minutieux avec son<sub>i</sub> (\*propre)  
 that are cautious with its.3.M.SG (own)  
 système d'exploitation.  
 system.M.SG of-operation  
 '[Each computer]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> requires [engineers]<sup>A</sup> that are careful  
 with its<sub>i</sub> (\*own) operating system.'
- b. [Chaque ordinateur]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> requiert [des mises à jour]<sup>I</sup>  
 each computer.M.SG requires some updates  
 qui soient compatibles avec son<sub>i</sub> (propre)  
 that are compatible with its.3.M.SG (own)  
 système d'exploitation.  
 system.M.SG of-operation  
 '[Each computer]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> requires [updates]<sup>I</sup> that are compatible  
 with its<sub>i</sub> (own) operating system.'
- (8) a. [Chacun de ces deux termes]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> est associé à [un  
 each.M.SG of these two terms is associated to a  
 sémanticien célèbre]<sup>A</sup> qui a contribué à sa<sub>i</sub>  
 semanticist famous that has contributed to its.3.F.SG  
 (\*propre) description linguistique.  
 (own) description.F.SG linguistic  
 '[Each of these two terms]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> is associated with [a famous  
 semanticist]<sup>A</sup> that has contributed to its<sub>i</sub> (\*own) linguistic  
 description.'
- b. [Chacun de ces deux termes]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> est associé à  
 each.M.SG of these two terms is associated to  
 [certaines restrictions sémantiques]<sup>I</sup> qui sont  
 certain restrictions semantic that are  
 directement liées à son<sub>i</sub> (propre) statut  
 directly related to its.3.M.SG (own) status.M.SG  
 linguistique.  
 linguistic  
 '[Each of these two terms]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> is associated with [certain  
 semantic restrictions]<sup>I</sup> that are directly related to its<sub>i</sub>  
 (own) linguistic status.'

In the (a) sentences, an animate subject intervenes between the anaphors *son propre/lui-même* and their remote inanimate antecedents, exactly as in examples (1)–(2), and these sentences are perceived as degraded, exactly as before. However, in the (b) sentences, these anaphors are now separated from their antecedents by an inanimate subject, and these sentences are accepted by speakers. For completeness, I note that these contrasts between animate and inanimate interveners disappear when the relevant intervener occupies a nonsubject position or when the target antecedent is instead animate. These additional observations are illustrated in (9) and (10), respectively (similar observations hold for *lui-même*).

- (9) a. [Ce cours d'eau]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> amène [les nageurs]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> vers  
 this stream.M.SG of-water leads the swimmers toward  
 [un lieu]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> qui est à l'opposé de sa<sub>i</sub> (propre)  
 a place that is at the-opposite of its.3.F.SG (own)  
 source.  
 source.F.SG  
 '[This stream of water]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> leads [the swimmers]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> to [some  
 place]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> that is on the side opposite to its<sub>i</sub> (own) source.'
- b. [Ce cours d'eau]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> amène [les déchets]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> vers  
 this stream.M.SG of-water leads the waste toward  
 [un lieu]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> qui est à l'opposé de sa<sub>i</sub> (propre)  
 a place that is at the-opposite of its.3.F.SG (own)  
 source.  
 source.F.SG  
 '[This stream of water]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> leads [waste]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> to [a place]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> that  
 is on the side opposite to its<sub>i</sub> (own) source.'
- (10) a. [Ce politicien]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> pense que [les électeurs]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>  
 this politician.M.SG thinks that the voters  
 préfèrent son<sub>i</sub> (propre) projet politique à  
 prefer his.3.M.SG (own) project.M.SG political to  
 celui de son<sub>i</sub> adversaire.  
 that.3.M.SG of his.3.M.SG opponent.M.SG  
 '[This politician]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> thinks that [the voters]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> prefer his<sub>i</sub>  
 (own) political project to that of his<sub>i</sub> opponent.'
- b. [Ce politicien]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> pense que [l'économie de  
 this politician.M.SG thinks that the-economy of  
 marché]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> favorise plus son<sub>i</sub> (propre) projet  
 market favors more his.3.M.SG (own) project.M.SG  
 politique que celui de son<sub>i</sub> adversaire.  
 political than that.3.M.SG of his.3.M.SG opponent.M.SG  
 '[This politician]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> thinks that [the market economy]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> fa-  
 vors his<sub>i</sub> (own) political project over that of his<sub>i</sub> oppo-  
 nent.'

Taken together, these data establish that inanimate *son propre/ lui-même* can have long-distance uses, but that their long-distance anaphoric behavior is disrupted, and thus easily hidden, by certain intervention effects. Specifically, these anaphors can be separated from an inanimate antecedent by an inanimate subject, but the intervention of an animate subject triggers blocking effects. Given these new data, I propose that C&S's generalization be revised accordingly.

(11) *Inanimate son propre/ lui-même: Blocking effects*

Instances of inanimate *lui-même* and possessor *son propre* are licensed only if no animate subject intervenes between them and their c-commanding antecedent. Intervening animate subjects trigger blocking effects.

- a. [<sub>XP</sub> ... Antecedent<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> << lui<sub>i</sub>-même/son<sub>i</sub> propre ... ]  
 b. \*[<sub>XP</sub> ... Antecedent<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> << [<sub>XP</sub> Subject<sup>A</sup> << lui<sub>i</sub>-même/  
 son<sub>i</sub> propre ... ]]

- c. [<sub>XP</sub> . . . Antecedent<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> << [<sub>XP</sub> Subject<sup>1</sup> << *lui<sub>i</sub>-même/son<sub>i</sub> propre . . .* ]]

Having laid down this new generalization, let me now turn to some seemingly disproving data discussed by C&S. Specifically, C&S present a few examples of long-distance uses of inanimate *son propre/lui-même* like (12a–b) that do not involve the intervention of an animate subject and yet are perceived as unnatural or odd by native speakers, including those I consulted.<sup>5</sup>

- (12) a. [La Terre]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> subit le fait que [de nombreux  
the Earth.F.SG suffers the fact that of numerous  
satellites]<sup>1</sup> tournent autour d'elle<sub>i</sub>-((?)même).  
satellites revolve around of-it.3.F.SG-(self)  
'[The Earth]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> suffers from the fact that [many satellites]<sup>1</sup>  
revolve around it<sub>i</sub> ((?)self).'
- b. [Cette montagne]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> attire beaucoup de gens  
this mountain.F.SG attracts many of people  
parce que son<sub>i</sub> ((?)propre) sommet est  
by.this that its.3.M.SG (own) summit.M.SG is  
l'un des sommets les plus escarpés du pays.  
the-one of.the summits the most steep of.the country  
'[This mountain]<sub>i</sub><sup>1</sup> attracts many people because its<sub>i</sub>  
(?)own summit is one of the steepest summits in the  
country.'
- (C&S 2016:45, (18c); 43, (13b); judgments from my consultants)

Crucially, while the deviance of these sentences is expected on C&S's generalization, it remains beyond the descriptive scope of (11). I argue, however, that this limit is desirable, for the deviance of these sentences follows from independent factors. Specifically, I argue that these sentences are perceived as odd because they fail to provide a suitable context for the felicity conditions associated with the contrastive flavor of *son propre/lui-même* to be met (see footnote 1). That is, the general contexts induced by these sentences do not allow speakers to entertain a plausible, discourse-coherent alternative that could contrast with the intended referent of *son propre/lui-même*, hence the resulting infelicity.

Three arguments support this line of explanation. First, these sentences are also perceived as odd when the relevant inanimate antecede-

<sup>5</sup> Specifically, C&S's section 2, devoted to assessing the locality conditions on *son propre/lui-même*, includes 10 sets of examples that directly pertain to the contrasts discussed in this squib. Of these, 7 involve intervening animate subjects: (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), (20) (sets of examples in other sections also involve intervening animate subjects: e.g., (25)–(26), (63b)). For space reasons, I restrict the present discussion to a couple of examples from the 3 remaining sets (i.e., (5), (13), and (18)); however, as far as I can tell, all these examples suffer from the same kind of infelicity discussed in the main text.

dents are replaced with animate ones, as in (13), thus showing that the animacy status of the antecedents is irrelevant here.

- (13) a. [Marie]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> subit le fait que [de nombreux Marie.F.SG suffers the fact that of numerous enfants]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> s'agitent autour d'elle<sub>i</sub>-(??même). children wiggle around of-her.3.F.SG-(self) ' [Marie]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> suffers from the fact that [many children]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> are wiggling around her<sub>i</sub> (??self).'
- b. [Cette musicienne]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> attire beaucoup de spectateurs this musician.F.SG attracts many of spectators parce que son<sub>i</sub> (??propre) piano est by.this that her.3.M.SG (own) piano.M.SG is l'un des pianos les plus beaux du pays. the-one of.the pianos the most beautiful of.the country ' [This musician]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> attracts many spectators because her<sub>i</sub> (??own) piano is one of the most beautiful pianos in the country.'

Second, the inanimate anaphors in (12) become felicitous if we modify the surrounding context so as to provide a plausible, salient contrast, as in (14), thus showing that structural considerations are also irrelevant here.

- (14) a. [La Terre]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> est faiblement affectée par l'effet des satellites qui tournent autour de la Lune. En revanche, [elle]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> subit le fait que [de nombreux satellites]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> tournent autour d'elle<sub>i</sub>-(même). ' [The Earth]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> is weakly affected by the effect of the satellites that revolve around the Moon. However, [it]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> suffers from the fact that [many satellites]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> revolve around it<sub>i</sub> (self).'
- b. Contrairement aux montagnes proches du Mt. Everest, [cette montagne]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> attire beaucoup de gens parce que son<sub>i</sub> (propre) sommet est connu dans le monde entier. ' Unlike the mountains near Mt. Everest, [this mountain]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> attracts many people because its<sub>i</sub> (own) summit is known all around the world.'

Finally, these infelicity effects are also found with local instances of *son propre/lui-même*, as illustrated in (15a) for possessor *son propre*. Consistent with my explanation, these effects disappear if the context is adjusted appropriately—for instance, by making a discourse-coherent contrast explicit, as illustrated in (15b).

- (15) a. [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> aime bien son<sub>i</sub> père, mais Jean.M.SG likes well his.3.M.SG father.M.SG but [il]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> préfère son<sub>i</sub> (??propre) frère. he.3.M.SG prefers his.3.M.SG (own) brother.M.SG ' [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> likes his<sub>i</sub> father, but [he]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> prefers his<sub>i</sub> (??own) brother.'

- b. [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>À</sup> aime bien le frère de Marie, mais  
 Jean.M.SG likes well the brother of Marie but  
 [il]<sub>i</sub><sup>À</sup> préfère son<sub>i</sub> (propre) frère.  
 he.3.M.SG prefers his.3.M.SG (own) brother.M.SG  
 ‘[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>À</sup> likes Marie’s brother, but [he]<sub>i</sub><sup>À</sup> prefers his;  
 (own) brother.’

Thus, I conclude that the effects in (12) are infelicity effects to be related to the (violation of the) contrastiveness condition imposed by the general focus properties of possessor *son propre* and *lui-même*, and are therefore orthogonal to the blocking effects unveiled in this squib and subsumed under (11).

## 2 Animate *son propre/lui-même*: Exemption from C-Command and Additional Blocking Effects

Thus far, we have seen that the distribution of animate *son propre/lui-même* is less restricted than that of their inanimate counterparts in that animate *son propre/lui-même* allow long-distance c-commanding antecedents regardless of the animacy status of the subjects intervening between them and their antecedents (recall (10)). However, there is another interesting difference in their distribution, which concerns their ability to take non-c-commanding antecedents. As C&S observe, inanimate *son propre/lui-même* requires a c-commanding antecedent.

- (16) *Inanimate son propre/lui-même: C-command requirement*
- a. [Ce problème]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> inclut sa<sub>i</sub> (propre)  
 this problem.M.SG includes its.3.F.SG (own)  
 solution.  
 solution.F.SG  
 ‘[This problem]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup> includes its<sub>i</sub> (own) solution.’
- b. [Les annexes de [ce problème]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup>] incluent  
 the appendices.M.PL of this problem.M.SG include  
 sa<sub>i</sub> (\*propre) solution.  
 its.3.F.SG (own) solution.F.SG  
 ‘[The appendices of [this problem]<sub>i</sub><sup>I</sup>] include its<sub>i</sub> (\*own)  
 solution.’  
 (adapted from C&S 2016:41, (6a–b))

On the other hand, animate *son propre/lui-même* allow non-c-commanding antecedents—for example, antecedents embedded in another NP.

- (17) *Animate son propre/lui-même: No c-command requirement*
- a. [Marie]<sub>i</sub><sup>À</sup> parle de sa<sub>i</sub> (propre) histoire.  
 Marie.F.SG talks about her.3.F.SG (own) story.F.SG  
 ‘[Marie]<sub>i</sub><sup>À</sup> talks about her<sub>i</sub> (own) story.’
- b. [Les romans de [Marie]<sub>i</sub><sup>À</sup>] parlent de sa<sub>i</sub>  
 the novels.M.PL of Marie.F.SG talk about her.3.F.SG  
 (propre) histoire.  
 (own) story.F.SG  
 ‘[The novels by [Marie]<sub>i</sub><sup>À</sup>] talk about her<sub>i</sub> (own) story.’

- c. [Les couvertures des [romans de [Marie]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>I</sup>  
 the covers.F.PL of.the novels.M.PL of Marie.F.SG  
 parlent de sa<sub>i</sub> (propre) histoire.  
 talk about her.3.F.SG (own) story.F.SG  
 ‘[The covers of [the novels by [Marie]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>I</sup> talk about  
 her<sub>i</sub> (own) story.’

Now, the new observation that I would like to put forth in support of Claim 2 is that animate *son propre/lui-même* are sensitive to the animacy status of the NP(s) intervening between them and their non-c-commanding antecedents. Specifically, these anaphors can corefer with an embedded animate antecedent only if this antecedent is not contained in another animate NP. The paradigms in (18) and (19) establish this point. Both paradigms are built up similarly to the base paradigm in (17) by replacing the inanimate container NPs with animate ones.<sup>6</sup>

(18) *Animate possessor son propre: Intervention of animate containers*

- a. [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> suit ses<sub>i</sub> (propres) conseils.  
 Jean.M.SG follows his.3.M.PL (own) advice.M.PL  
 ‘[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> follows his<sub>i</sub> (own) advice.’
- b. [Les voisins de [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>A</sup> suivent ses<sub>i</sub>  
 the neighbors.M.PL of Jean.M.SG follow his.3.M.PL  
 (\*propres) conseils.  
 (own) advice.M.PL  
 ‘[[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>’s neighbors]<sup>A</sup> follow his<sub>i</sub> (\*own) advice.’
- c. [Les amis des [voisins de [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>A</sup>]<sup>A</sup>  
 the friends.M.PL of.the neighbors.M.PL of Jean.M.SG  
 suivent ses<sub>i</sub> (\*propres) conseils.  
 follow his.3.M.PL (own) advice.M.PL  
 ‘[[[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>’s neighbors’]<sup>A</sup> friends]<sup>A</sup> follow his<sub>i</sub> (\*own)  
 advice.’

(19) *Animate lui-même: Intervention of animate containers*

- a. [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> n’écoute que lui<sub>i</sub>-(même).  
 Jean.M.SG NE-listens QUE him.3.M.SG-(self)  
 ‘[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup> only listens to him<sub>i</sub> (self).’

<sup>6</sup> The relaxation of the c-command requirement is observed for other long-distance animate anaphors in a variety of languages: for example, Iron-Range English *himself* (Loss 2011), Mandarin Chinese *ziji* (e.g., Huang and Tang 1991, Xue, Pollard, and Sag 1994, Pollard and Xue 1998, Huang and Liu 2001, Cole, Hermon, and Huang 2006), Korean *caki-casin* (Kim 2000, Kim and Yoon 2009), Hindi/Urdu *apne* (Davison 2001), Malayalam *taan* (Jayaseelan 1997, Swenson and Marty 2017), and Icelandic *sig* (Maling 1984). To the best of my knowledge, all these anaphors allow subcommanding antecedents (i.e., antecedents embedded within a (subject) DP that c-commands them) and exhibit restrictions very similar to those observed on animate *son propre/lui-même*: they can be anaphorically linked to a subcommanding animate antecedent as long as this antecedent is not contained in another animate NP. The case of Mandarin Chinese *ziji* is illustrated in the main text.

- b. [Les voisins de [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>A</sup> n'écoutent que  
 the neighbors.M.PL of Jean.M.SG NE-listen QUE  
 lui<sub>i</sub>-(\*même).  
 him.3.M.SG-(self)  
 '[[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>'s neighbors]<sup>A</sup> only listen to him<sub>i</sub> (\*self).'
- c. [Les amis des [voisins de [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>A</sup>]<sup>A</sup>  
 the friends.M.PL of.the neighbors.M.PL of Jean.M.SG  
 n'écoutent que lui<sub>i</sub>-(\*même).  
 NE-listen QUE him.3.M.SG-(self)  
 '[[[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>'s neighbors']<sup>A</sup> friends]<sup>A</sup> only listen to him<sub>i</sub>  
 (\*self).'

For completeness, I note that the long-distance use of these anaphors is also perceived as quite degraded whenever an animate subject intervenes between them and their embedded animate antecedent, as illustrated in (20) and (21).

(20) *Animate possessor son propre: Intervention of animate subjects*

- a. [La déclaration de [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>I</sup> indique que  
 the statement.F.SG of Jean.M.SG indicates that  
 [cette bourse]<sup>I</sup> finance ses<sub>i</sub> (propres)  
 this.F.SG grant.F.SG finances his.3.F.PL (own)  
 recherches.  
 research.F.PL  
 '[[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>'s statement]<sup>I</sup> indicates that [this grant]<sup>I</sup> supports his<sub>i</sub> (own) research.'
- b. [La déclaration de [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>I</sup> indique que  
 the statement.F.SG of Jean.M.SG indicates that  
 [cette politicienne]<sup>A</sup> finance ses<sub>i</sub> (??propres)  
 this.F.SG politician.F.SG finances his.3.F.PL (own)  
 recherches.  
 research.F.PL  
 '[[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>'s statement]<sup>I</sup> indicates that [this politician]<sup>A</sup> supports his<sub>i</sub> (??own) research.'

(21) *Animate lui-même: Intervention of animate subjects*

- a. [La déclaration de [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>I</sup> indique que  
 the statement.F.SG of Jean.M.SG indicates that  
 [cette bourse]<sup>I</sup> ne finance que lui<sub>i</sub>-(même).  
 this.F.SG grant.F.SG NE finances QUE him.3.M.SG-(self)  
 '[[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>I</sup>'s statement]<sup>I</sup> indicates that [this grant]<sup>I</sup> only supports him<sub>i</sub> (self).'
- b. [La déclaration de [Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>]<sup>I</sup> indique que  
 the statement.F.SG of Jean.M.SG indicates that  
 [cette politicienne]<sup>A</sup> ne finance que lui<sub>i</sub>-  
 this.F.SG politician.F.SG NE finances QUE him.3.M.SG-  
 (??même).  
 (self)  
 '[[Jean]<sub>i</sub><sup>A</sup>'s statement]<sup>I</sup> indicates that [this politician]<sup>A</sup> only supports him<sub>i</sub> (??self).'

The core contrasts unveiled above can be descriptively captured as follows:

(22) *Animate son propre/lui-même: Blocking effects*

Instances of animate *lui-même* and possessor *son propre* are licensed only if their antecedent NP is not contained within another animate NP.

- a.  $[_{NP} \text{Antecedent}]_i^A \ll \text{lui}_i\text{-m\^e}me/son_i \text{ propre}$
- b.  $*[_{NP} \dots [_{NP} \text{Antecedent}]_i^A] \ll \text{lui}_i\text{-m\^e}me/son_i \text{ propre}$
- c.  $[_{NP} \dots [_{NP} \text{Antecedent}]_i^A]^1 \ll \text{lui}_i\text{-m\^e}me/son_i \text{ propre}$

Together with the observations made above, the discovery of these blocking effects shows that the driving force behind the restrictions on inanimate *son propre/lui-même* also affects to some extent the distribution of their animate counterparts: both animate and inanimate *son propre/lui-même* are sensitive to the animacy status of the elements intervening between them and their antecedents, although their sensitivity manifests itself in distinct grammatical environments. Interestingly, we can now observe that in the end, the animacy-oriented blocking effects shown by *son propre/lui-même* closely resemble those previously found for other long-distance anaphors. To give just one example of this parallel, consider the paradigm in (23), based on examples (9)–(12) from Xue, Pollard, and Sag 1994 (see Tang 1989 and Huang and Tang 1991 for similar data), which exemplifies the animacy sensitivity of the anaphor *ziji* in Mandarin Chinese.

(23) *Mandarin Chinese ziji: Animacy-oriented blocking effects*

- a.  $[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A \text{ shuo } [_{Lisi}]_j^A \text{ nongshangle } ziji_{i,j}.$   
Zhangsan say Lisi harm.PERF self  
' $[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A$  says that  $[_{Lisi}]_j^A$  harmed self $_{i,j}$ .'
- b.  $[[[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A \text{ de } jiao'ao]^1] \text{ haile } ziji_i.$   
Zhangsan DE arrogance hurt.PERF self  
' $[[[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A$ 's arrogance] $^1$  hurt self $_i$ .'
- c.  $[[[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A \text{ de } xin]^1] \text{ biaoming naben } [shu]^1$   
Zhangsan DE letter indicate this book  
haile  $ziji_i.$   
hurt.PERF self  
' $[[[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A$ 's letter] $^1$  indicates that [this book] $^1$  hurt self $_i$ .'
- d.  $*[[[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A \text{ de } xiaohai]^A] \text{ haile } ziji_i.$   
Zhangsan DE SON hurt.PERF self  
' $[[[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A$ 's son] $^A$  hurt self $_i$ .'
- e.  $*[[[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A \text{ de } xin]^1] \text{ biaoming } [_{Lisi}]^A \text{ haile } ziji_i.$   
Zhangsan DE letter indicate Lisi hurt.PERF  
self  
' $[[[_{Zhangsan}]_i^A$ 's letter] $^1$  indicates that  $[_{Lisi}]^A$  hurt self $_i$ .'

The anaphor *ziji* can take local as well as long-distance c-commanding animate antecedents in subject position, (23a). In addition,

*ziji* can take local as well as long-distance subcommanding animate antecedents, (23b) and (23c). Yet *ziji* also has animacy-oriented blocking effects: it can be anaphorically linked to a subcommanding antecedent only if no animate subject or animate NP container intervenes between it and its antecedent, (23d) and (23e). Overall, this pattern of blocking effects is reminiscent of the one we observed for inanimate and animate *son propre/lui-même*. Although the observed similarities need not call for a unified analysis, they invite us to envision the possibility that the sensitivity of these anaphors to the animacy status of intervening elements follows from a common linguistic or cognitive ground, and they give us a glimpse of how a more systematic comparison of the animacy-oriented blocking effects observed across languages could help us address this research question in future work.

### 3 Concluding Remarks

So what do French inanimate anaphors show? The bad news is: since these inanimate anaphors have local as well as nonlocal instances, their distribution provides no empirical evidence for a principled distinction between plain and exempt anaphors based on locality considerations and thus for the necessity of (some version of) the classical Condition A, contra C&S's original proposal (see also Charnavel and Zlogar 2016). Yet the good news is: the distribution of these anaphors provides a new case study that can be used to further improve our understanding of the antecedence conditions on long-distance anaphors. For the time being, what French inanimate anaphors teach us is that animacy (i.e., sentience or aliveness) is a facilitating but not a necessary condition for exemption. On the one hand, this finding undermines the tentative generalization proposed in recent years that (the referent of) the antecedent of a long-distance anaphor must bear logophoric properties—for example, be capable of speech, thought, or consciousness (Charnavel and Sportiche 2016, Charnavel and Zlogar 2016, Ahn and Charnavel 2017, Charnavel 2017a, Charnavel and Huang 2018). On the other hand, it strengthens the view that the animate/inanimate distinction, with its possible cultural and subjective refinements, is to be treated on a par with other linguistic features and conceptual hierarchies (e.g., personhood, subjecthood), which have been found to shape the core grammar of long-distance anaphors in the world's languages.

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