Autant en emporte le vent : de la comparaison figée à la coupure discursive

From a frozen comparison to a discursive breakdown

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Abstract: The article is devoted to the French sequence *Autant en emporte le vent* 'Gone with the wind': a sort of sentential hyperbaton consisting of a single predication and an uncorrelated *autant*, which does not match the canonical schema of equality comparison. In order to explain the construction of the sequence, it is shown that two types of complementary analysis are needed: at the logico-grammatical level, a description in terms of ellipsis makes it possible to retrieve a comparative schema of quantitative-qualitative equality; at the discursive level, a description in terms of adjunct (a discursive breakdown made by the enunciator) accounts for the dual role of maintaining coherence and supporting a possible progression.

Key words: autant, comparison, equality, hyperbaton, ellipsis, adjunct.