Can *pro* be reduced to a minimal NP?

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In recent years, there has been a return to Perlmutter's (l971) insight that the implicit subject in the Null Subject Languages is a fully specified pronoun that fails to have a PF realization (Holmberg 2005, Roberts 2010). Concomitantly, recent theories of the nature of pronouns have posited a minimally specified null NP ($[_{NP}\ e]$) as a complement of D in every pronoun (Elbourne 2005). This reintroduces the need to posit $[_{NP}\ e]$ in the grammar. Here we offer an analysis of different types of subject *pro*-drop (partial and semi-pro-drop) that attempts to reduce *pro* to the same $[_{NP}\ e]$ that occurs in pronouns or is attested in cases of null NP anaphora. In addition, we discuss the challenges faced by this approach when applied to the consistent Null Subject Languages.