What is a Last Resort?

Prior proposals posit language particular solutions to grammatical crises, and identify these as one kind of last resort option. In comparative grammatical models built on optimization, such as Optimality Theory, every grammatical sentence is a last resort: the best option available. There is nothing language particular involved. The phenomenon of do support exemplifies the general role of under-specified lexical items in determining grammaticality. The “Last Resort” distribution of such items is a consequence of the interaction of universal grammatical constraints.