

# Sten Vikner's Birthday Workshop

7 December 2019

Building 1481, room 341

## 9:30-10:00: Welcome and morning refreshments

### Chair: Ocke-Schwen Bohn

10:00- 10:45: A corpus study on the interchangeability of Danish prepositions 'i' and 'på'

**Katrine Rosendal Ehlers**<sup>1</sup>, Sidsel Holm Rasmussen & Helle Kaalund Tornbo  
(Aarhus University)

10:45 -11:30: On some postpositional elements in Danish

**Michael Nguyen** (Aarhus University)

11:30-11:45: BREAK

11:45- 12:30: The temporal interpretation of West Flemish non-inverted V3

**Liliane Haegeman** (Ghent University)

## 12:30- 13:30: LUNCH

### Chair: Eva Skaft Jensen

13:30-14:15: Til en ung en kjekk en kar: Determiner spreading in Scandinavian and Greek

Merete Anderssen (UiT The Arctic University of Norway), Artemis Alexiadou  
(Humboldt University of Berlin & Leibniz-ZAS) & **Terje Lohndal** (NTNU Norwegian  
University of Science and Technology & UiT The Arctic University of Norway)

14:15-15:00: Formative feedback as grammar teaching

**Susana S. Fernández** (Aarhus University) & **Hanne Wachter Kjærgaard** (VIA  
University College)

## 15:00-15:15: BREAK

### Chair: Henrik Jørgensen

15:15-16:00: Set size and reference

Eva Klingvall (Lund University) & **Fredrik Heinat** (Linnæus University)

16:00-16:45: No escape from the island: On extraction from complement *wh*-clauses in English

**Ken Ramshøj Christensen** & Anne Mette Nyvad (Aarhus University)

16:45-17:30: A couple (of) changes: British and US English compared

**Johanna Wood** (Aarhus University)

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<sup>1</sup> Presenter names in bold type

## **Til en ung en kjekk en kar: Determiner spreading in Scandinavian and Greek**

Merete Anderssen<sup>a</sup>, Artemis Alexiadou<sup>b, c</sup> & Terje Lohndal<sup>d, a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>UiT The Arctic University of Norway, <sup>b</sup>Humboldt University of Berlin,  
<sup>c</sup>Leibniz-ZAS, <sup>d</sup>NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology

This talk will investigate multiple indefinite determiners in structures involving adjectival modification in a Norwegian dialect. Determiner spreading has been observed in numerous non-standard Germanic varieties but has been most extensively explored in Modern Greek. This talk considers recurring indefinites in Norwegian in light of Greek polydefinites, finding numerous similarities. In both languages, structures involving multiple determiners allow violations of adjectival ordering restrictions (AORs) and are prohibited with adjectives that may not occur in predicative position. However, these similarities are only apparent, as both can be explained by the fact that polyindefinites in Norwegian involve parallel direct modification. Furthermore, they are homophonous with nominal proforms such as *a big one* (*en stor en*). These facts, together with their prosodic characteristics, indicates an analysis where these polyindefinites are nominal proforms.

## **No escape from the island: On extraction from complement *wh*-clauses in English**

Ken Ramshøj Christensen & Anne Mette Nyvad  
Aarhus University

In theoretical syntax, English complement *wh*-clauses are considered syntactic islands which block extraction in an asymmetric way: Argument extraction is more acceptable than adjunct extraction. Though this pattern is often assumed to be universal, studies have shown that Danish (and other Mainland Scandinavian languages) may be exceptions. It has also been argued that the patterns of (un)acceptability are biased by expert intuitions. We present data from 100 native speakers of English which confirms (i) that English complement *wh*-clauses are islands, (ii) that there is a (subtle) argument-adjunct asymmetry, and (iii) that this acceptability pattern is not due to participant bias. Together with earlier findings on Danish, these results are compatible with an island account that relies on parametric variation in the possibility of CP-recursion.

# A corpus study on the interchangeability of Danish prepositions *i* and *på*

Katrine Rosendal Ehlers, Sidsel Holm Rasmussen, & Helle Kaalund Tornbo  
(University of Aarhus)

The prepositions *i* and *på* (English ‘in’ and ‘on’) are both used in Danish to describe the position of something in relation to something else. The existing literature reports variability in the way native Danish speakers use the two prepositions before certain spatial complements, and a number of tendencies are observed for how one of the two may be preferred in prepositional phrases depending on the domain to which the noun complement belongs. While the phenomenon is well-known in Danish linguistics it has not been studied systematically and many claims in the literature lack empirical backing.

This paper examines use of *i* and *på* with two selected domains for which interchangeability of the prepositions is often reported, i.e. roads and island states. For some roads and island states native speakers unambiguously select one of the two prepositions as the only acceptable option, whereas for other complements with these two domains, native speakers fail to identify any meaningful difference between prepositional phrases initiated by *i* and *på*. Examples of two different road types for which intuitions differ can be seen in (1) and (2) below.

- (1)
- a. De købte den beværtning og lysthave i Pile Allé...  
they bought that pub and garden in Pile Allé  
'They bought the pub and beer garden in Pile Allé...'  
(KorpusDK)
  - b. ... efterfølgende gentaget i Lystrup Auto på Pile Allé.  
subsequently repeated in Lystrup Auto on Pile Allé.  
'... subsequently repeated in Lystrup Auto on Pile Allé.'  
(KorpusDK)
- (2)
- a. \* En bil og et regionaltog kolliderede i overkørslen i Randersvej.  
a car and a regional train collided in the crossing in Randersvej.  
'A car and a regional train collided in the crossing in Randersvej.'  
(constructed example)
  - b. En bil og et regionaltog kolliderede i overkørslen på Randersvej.  
a car and a regional train collided in the crossing on Randersvej.  
'A car and a regional train collided in the crossing on Randersvej.'  
(KorpusDK)

This study reports frequency data from corpus searches in the Danish text corpus KorpusDK which support some of the existing claims in the literature and nuance others. In some cases, what looks like interchangeability on the surface actually turns out to be predictably rule-governed.

# Formative feedback as grammar teaching

Susana S. Fernández (Aarhus University)  
& Hanne Wachter Kjærgaard (VIA University College)

The aim of this presentation is to discuss how formative feedback on written language production can complement and at times replace grammar teaching in the context of a foreign language (L2) classroom. In a communicative approach to language teaching, grammar is not an objective in itself, but a means to develop communicative competence, that is, the ability to communicate adequately in a number of different communicative contexts. In this approach, the teaching of grammatical items is planned according to communicative needs and can either be chosen in advance, as preparation for a task (a pre-emptive approach), or take place as a reaction to production (a reactive approach). This is known in the literature as “focus on form” as opposed to the traditional “focus on forms”, which presented grammar isolated from context. In this sense, feedback is a natural aspect of “focus on form” and constitutes a reactive approach to grammar teaching.

In our presentation, we will present results from two research projects where formative feedback contributes to developing the L2 learners’ grammatical awareness. In the communicative approach to language teaching, grammatical awareness is a necessary component for achieving communicative competence, as research has shown that an explicit attention to form (in this case, grammar) promotes learning. One of the projects focuses on 8th grade English teaching in the Danish lower secondary school (Kjærgaard, 2018) and the other one is situated in the context of university level Spanish (Fernández, in preparation). Both cases have in common a systematic approach to formative feedback with the support of technology and a strong component of interactivity. We will discuss some results, including both successes and challenges, and we will point out future perspectives.

## The temporal interpretation of West Flemish non-inverted V3

Liliane Haegeman  
DiaLing: Ghent University

This presentation compares the temporal interpretation of the initial adjuncts in a regular V2 pattern, in which the finite verb has inverted with the subject, and in the West Flemish V3 patterns in which an adjunct precedes a non-inverted V2 pattern. In the periphrastic tenses, a difference in interpretation emerges. In the regular V2 pattern, an initial time adjunct modifies either Reference Time or Event Time of the associated clause. In the non-inverted V3 pattern, the initial temporal clause can only modify matrix Reference Time. This restriction is shown to follow from the analysis elaborated in Haegeman and Greco (2018a,b) combined with a split Tense proposal in which Reference time and Event time are located on distinct functional heads.

### References

- Haegeman, Liliane & Ciro Greco. 2018a. West Flemish V3 and the interaction of syntax and discourse. *The Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 21.1–56.
- Haegeman, Liliane & Greco, Ciro. 2018b. Main clause external constituents and the derivation of subject-initial verb Second. *Nederlandse Taalkunde*, 23. 23–55.

## Set size and reference

Eva Klingvall (Lund University) & Fredrik Heinat (Linnæus University)

In this talk, we present the results from a semantic plausibility study investigating the effects of *set size* on anaphoric reference to quantified expressions (QEs) in Swedish. Determining the referent to anaphoric expressions is at the heart of discourse processing (see e.g. Schumacher, 2017). It is well-known that focussed entities have a privileged status for being the antecedents of anaphoric pronouns (Gundel, Hedberg & Zacharski, 1993, among others). QEs are interesting in this connection because a sub-group of them, negative QEs (monotone decreasing), consistently allows for a switch in focus when referred back to (see e.g. Moxey & Sanford, 1987). Positive QEs do not allow this switch. In (1), the intersection of the set of fans (set A) and set of people going to the game (set B) is known as the REFERENCE SET (REFSET) while the part of Set A that is not in Set B is the COMPLEMENT SET (COMPSET) (i.e. fans not going to the game) (Moxey & Sanford, 1987). Both of the sentences in (1) talk about fans going to a game, i.e. the REFSET. While (1a) can only be followed by (2a) (still talking about the REFSET), (1b) can be followed by either of the sentences in (2) although many speakers actually prefer (2b), where the anaphoric pronoun has the COMPSET as antecedent. (ex. from Sanford, Moxey & Paterson, 1996, 145):

- (1) a. Some of the football fans went to the game. (Positive QE)  
b. Few of the football fans went to the game. (Negative QE)
- (2) a. They watched it with enthusiasm. (REFSET)  
b. They watched it on TV instead. (COMPSET)
- (3) Few [small QE]/not all [big QE] fans went to the game and they watched it on TV instead [compset]/with enthusiasm [refset].

Although positive QEs and negative QEs as groups show the reference patterns described above, contextual factors such as explicitly stated expectations can have an effect on the set focus (Moxey, 2006; Moxey, Sanford & Dawydiak, 2001). In addition Filik, Leuthold, Moxey and Sanford (2011) have shown that in online processing, the REFSET seems to interfere in processing of negative QEs. These issues have been extensively studied for English, but hardly at all for other languages. In this study, we investigate how polarity and relative set size affect speakers' judgement of sentences with anaphoric reference to QEs in Swedish. The results from the study indicate that QEs of both polarities make both REFSET and COMPSET cognitively available to the extent that the unfocussed set interferes with anaphoric reference. However, this availability does not seem to be so strong as to switch set reference. An outstanding question is if the unfocussed set is available to the same extent as any other unfocussed participants in a discourse, or less. We suspect that offline studies of processing cannot answer this question, but it requires online measures of processing.

## On some postpositional elements in Danish

Michael Nguyen [normhtn@cc.au.dk](mailto:normhtn@cc.au.dk)  
University of Aarhus

This talk concerns the distribution of a number of postpositional elements in Danish. The main findings are the following:

- i. Some postpositional constructions are used for abstract notions such as temporal relations rather than literal, spatial relations.
- ii. The head nouns of postpositional complements are often semantically bleached nouns such as *sted* ‘place’, *vej* ‘street’, *vegne* ‘streets’ (an archaic plural form of *vej*).
- iii. Some postpositional elements have the function of adding referents to or subtracting them from a set of referents.
- iv. There is not always free variation between the prepositional and postpositional construction. This is because there is often a semantic difference between the two constructions, and because the preposition and the postpositional element differ in what kinds of complement they can select.

## A couple (of) changes: British and US English compared

Johanna Wood (Aarhus University)

This paper compares the grammaticalisation of the noun *couple* in present-day British and American English. Although originally a noun meaning ‘that which unites two’ and ‘a union of two; a pair’, *couple* now can also be a quantifier. In [N<sub>1</sub> of N<sub>2</sub>] expressions in which the N<sub>1</sub> *couple* is followed by a prepositional phrase introduced by *of*, *couple* may change semantically and syntactically. In the semantic change, it may come to mean *few*; in the syntactic change it is no longer the phrasal head but a modifier/quantifier and N<sub>2</sub> becomes the head. An additional change that sometimes occurs is that the preposition *of* is no longer obligatory.

- (1) I had a couple affairs, three affairs. (COCA: spoken)

Since *couple* is a collective noun it is found that the usual criteria used to test the headedness of [N<sub>1</sub> of N<sub>2</sub>] expressions cannot be applied. Therefore, as well as comparing the two dialects the paper also discusses and makes suggestions as to which tests are applicable in this case. The results indicate that US English leads in the change of *couple* to quantifier. Absence of *of* is also more likely in US English and the change starts in vernacular speech.