

Übungsaufgaben für Syntax

Assignments

VO/OV; Order of the finite verb and its object

Exercise p. 185

4) Describe the position of the lexical verb relative to its object in the OE examples below. Which word orders can be observed and how would you account for them in a theory that assumes one basic word order?

Beispiel für OE: order subordinate clause: Subject – Object – Verb

Ac he gewat sona swa he þæt wæter hrepode

(COALIVE, ÆLS[Forty_Soldiers]:156.2576)

But he died soon after so he that water touched

But he died soon after he touched the water

- [The direct object consisting of the accusative determiner „þæt“ and the accusative noun „water“ precedes the finite verb „hrepode“. The sentence is therefore in OV word order. In subordinate clauses in OE, the direct object typically precedes the finite verb, which occupies the final position in the sentence.
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Beispiel für OE: order subordinate clause: Subject – Verb – Object

Pa wæs Drihten geadmōdod, þæt he æteowde him þurh gesihðe & þus cwæð

(cogregdC, GD_2_[C]:1.99.16.1135)

Then was the Lord humiliated, that he appeared him through a vision & thus spoke

Then, the Lord was humiliated, so that he appeared him in a vision and spoke

- [In the subordinate clause introduced by the complementiser „þæt“, the subject pronoun „he“ is followed first by the verb „æteowde“ and then by the direct object „him“. The clause displays VO word order.

Beispiel für ME: order subordinate clause: Subject – Verb - Object

I wolde that pitously thou sattist stil and suffredist it

(CMAELR4,3.48)

I wanted that devoutly you sit still and endure it

I wanted you to sit still devoutly and endure it.

- [The finite verb „*suffredist*“, which shows inflectional morphology for second person singular, is followed immediately by its direct object, the pronoun „*it*“. This sentence therefore clearly shows VO word order.

V-to-I/ I-to-C / The rise of dummy „do“

Exercises on p. 222

3) Analyse the examples below in terms of the presence/absence of V-to-I and I-to-C movement. Explain the conditions that must be met for these movements to occur.

Beispiel für V-to-I in OE: S – V_{fin} – adv/neg – XP

He sende eft ma þeowan to ðam manfullan tilian,

(coaelhom, ÆHom_3:122.482)

He sends often more servants to the evil husbandsman

He often sends more servants to the evil husbandsman

The finite verb „*sende*“ occupies the position immediately preceding the temporal adverb „*eft*“. The order subject („*he*“) – finite verb („*sende*“) - and temporal adverb („*eft*“) is an indicator for V-to-I movement, since the adverb, which marks the left edge of the VP, shows that the verb has moved leftwards and outside of the VP into the hierarchically higher head position of IP.

Beispiel für I-to-C in OE (V2): XP – V_{fin} - S

ða clypode þæt folc þæt Crist wære soð

(coaelive, ÆLS_[Eugenia]:255.343)

then spoke the people that Christ was true

Then the people said that Christ was real

The main clause shows the finite verb „*clypode*“ in the second position of the clause and following the first constituent „*ða*“, which is a temporal adverb. The third constituent of the sentence is the subject NP „*that folc*“. The subject and the verb have undergone inversion and this is a clear indicator that I-to-C movement of the verb has taken place. The verb must have moved above the position occupied by the subject, which we assume to be in specIP, into the head position of C.

In the subordinate clause introduced by the complementiser „*that*“, the subject „*christ*“ precedes the finite verb „*wære*“. The sentence does not show V2 word order, because the finite verb is in third position. We can assume that the specCP position is already

occupied by the complementiser „that“ and that therefore, the verb cannot move any higher than the head position of IP.

Introduced by complementiser *that*; then S = *Crist* and V_{fin} = *wære*

Complementiser in specCP position, therefore, V can only be in IP!

4) Analyse the status of „do“ in the examples and describe the rise of dummy do in the history of English:

Beispiel für auxiliary do in EModE:

Doth not my Lord of Essex now enjoy his Earldom of Essex by the Gift of Henry VIII. to his Father?

(ESSEXSTATE-E2-P1,199.60)

Since the sentence given above is a question, „do“, here carrying inflectional morphology for third person singular, has moved to the front of the sentence and into the head position of CP and thereby inverted with the subject „my Lord of Essex“. In this sentence, „do“ has the status of an auxiliary. This can be concluded by considering the fact that the position of the lexical verb is already occupied by the verb „enjoy“ and that „do“ is only inserted for syntactic reasons, but lacks semantic content.

Beispiel für lexical verb do in ME:

Abraham dide not this thing.

(CMNTEST,8,40J.794)

Abraham did not do this.

In the sentence above, „dide“ is not used as an auxiliary. It has the status of a lexical verb and carries the lexical meaning of the verb in its sense of performing an action. It is the only verbal element in the clause. It can also be observed that the verb has undergone movement from its original position inside of the VP, since it precedes the negation „not“, which is assumed to be situated to the left edge of the VP.

Nominal agreement etc.

Exercise on p.168

4) identify subject-verb agreement and nominal agreement in the following data:

Beispiel für ME:

An hemme, as þu wost wel, is þe laste ende of a cloþ:

(CMAELR3,34.226)

A hem, as you know well, is the last end of a cloth.

„þu“ ist he second person singular form of „you“ and a personal pronoun. „wost“ ist he second person singular form of the verb „wīten“, which means „to know“. Both agree in person and number and this is expressed via morphological marking. This example displays subject-verb agreement.

Beispiel für OE:

He sende eft ma þeowan to ðam manfullan tilian,

(coaelhom, ÆHom_3:122.482)

He sends often more servants to the evil husbandsman

The subject pronoun „he“ and the finite verb „sende“ both show inflection for third person and singular. This agreement is called subject-verb agreement and is expressed via morphological marking in the form of inflections.

The determiner „ðam“, the adjective „manfullan“ and the noun „tilian“ show dative case endings. This is an instance of nominal agreement, since the noun, and its modifiers show the appropriate case endings required for the function in the sentence which the noun fulfills.

V2 word orders

Exercise on p. 205

3) Describe the Verb Second patterns illustrated with the examples below. Which examples display deviations and how can they be accounted for?

Beispiel für V2 in OE: object NP – V_{fin} - S

Ealle ðas getimbrunge geendode se cyning Xerxes binnon ðrim gearum
(*coathom2,ÆCHom_II,_38:287.266.6499*)

All the building completed the king Xerxes within three years.

King Xerxes completed the whole building within three years.

The first constituent of the sentence is the direct object „*ealle ðas getimbrunge*“. It is followed by the finite verb „*geendode*“ in the past tense. Only then, the subject of the sentence „*se cyning Xerxes*“ follows in third position. This sentence shows a typical verb second word order, where the finite verb has undergone inversion with the subject of the sentence and in which the first position is occupied by another XP than subject or finite verb. In this case, it is occupied by the accusative noun phrase, the direct object of the sentence.

Beispiel für V2 in OE: order ADVP – V_{fin} - S

On þam timan asende sum gesælig biscop of Francena rice to ðam halgan fæder mænigfealde lac.
(*coelive,ÆLS_[Maur]:53.1529*)

At this time sent some fortunate bishop of France to the holy father manifold presents.

At this time, some fortunate bishop of France sent manifold presentes to the holy father.

The first constituent of the sentence is the prepositional phrase „*On þam timan*“. It is followed by the finite verb „*asende*“ in second position. The third constituent of the sentence is the subject „*sum gesælig biscop of Francena rice*“. The subject of the sentence is usually assumed to occupy the specIP position of a clause. If the verb has undergone inversion with the subject and precedes it in linear order, it has to be assumed that it has moved from its position in I to the head position of C.

Beispiel für V2 in ME: order PP – Vfin - S

*To þyse loue of God **parteyneþ** two þyngges: clene affeccoun of herte, and effecte of good deede.*

To this love of God belong two things: pure affection of heart and fulfillment of good deeds.

Two things belong to this love of God: pure affection of heart and fulfillment of good deeds.

(CMAELR3,39.387)

The first constituent of the clause is the PP „to þyse loue of God“. It is immediately followed by the finite verb „parteyneþ“ in second position. The third constituent of the clause is the subject NP „two þyngges“. Since the finite verb precedes the subject of the clause, it must have moved from its position in head I to a hierarchically higher position in the head position of C. The subject constituent remains in its position in specIP. The first structural position of the clause, the specCP position, is occupied by the PP.

Beispiel für V3 ME: order XP – pronominal S – Vfin

*Pitously and ofte he **cryde**, as þe booc seyde: Non te dimittan nisi benedixeris michi*

Miserably and repeatedly he cried (out), as the book said: Non te dimittan nisi benedixeris michi

He cried (out) miserably and repeatedly, as the book said: Non te dimittan nisi benedixeris michi

(CMAELR3,30.106)

The first constituent of the clause is an ADVP consisting of two adverbs „pitously“ and „ofte“, which are coordinated by the conjunction „and“. The ADVP is followed by the subject pronoun „he“ in the second position. The finite verb „cryde“ follows in third position. Here, it can be observed that the finite verb has not undergone inversion with the subject of the clause and this is because the subject of the clause is a personal pronoun. In sentences with pronominal subjects, the finite verb is more likely to occur in third position.

Beispiel für V2 ME: order XP- Vfin – S – Vnonfin

*Therfor **shuldest** thou **speke** with no man but with a veyl afore thy visage, that neuer neither of you might se other.*

(CMAELR4, 4.109)

Therefore should you speak with no man but with a veil in front of your face, so that never neither of you might see the other.

Therefore you should not speak with any man without a veil in front of your face, so that neither of you might ever see the other.

The first position of the clause is occupied by the adverbial „*therfor*“ and it is followed by the finite verbal element „*shuldest*“ in the second position. The personal pronoun and subject „*thou*“ follows in third position. After this, the lexical verb „*speke*“ follows. We can assume that the lexical verb „*speke*“ has remained in its original position in head V inside of the VP and that the finite verbal element „*shuldest*“ occupies the head position of TP.

Beispiel für V2 in EModE: order PP – Vfin – S

*In the merry forest of Shearewood **dwells** a kind gentleman, whose name I omit, fearing I too much offend in meddling with his foole.*

(ARMIN-E2-P1,28.392)

The first constituent of the sentence is the PP „*in the merry forest of Shearewood*“. This constituent is followed by the finite verb „*dwells*“ in second position. Then follows the subject of the clause, „*a kind gentleman*“. In EModE, this order of constituents is already becoming out of use, but for emphatic reasons in literary texts, it is still used.

Exercise on p. 147:

- 1) Define the order of the finite verb and the object in each sentence/clause in the examples below:

Beispiel für OE: word order subordinate clause: O – V – AUX

*and se cyning sende Ælfun bisceop mid þam æþelingum Eadwearde and Ælfrede ofer sæ, þæt he **hi bewitan sceolde**.*

(cochronD, ChronD_[Classen-Harm]:1013.34.1547)

and the king sent Alfun bishop with the princes Edward and Alfred over sea, that he them supervise shall.

And the kind sent bishop Alfun with the princes Edward and Alfred over the sea, so that he shall watch over them.

The subordinate clause shows the word order: O-V-Aux. In first position, we have the direct object, the accusative pronoun „*hi*“. The lexical verb “*bewitan*“ in the infinitive is in the second position. The third position is occupied by the modal verb „*sceole*“, the finite verbal element of the clause.

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- 1) Identify the examples which show negative concord.

Beispiel für negative concord in OE:

*Gif ðu ðis **ne** diest, **ne** beswic ðu **noht** ðe seluen ðat tu iliue ðat Crist wuni+ge mid ðe, oðer ðu mid him, all ðare hwile ðe ðu warððe oðer nið hauest mid te, oðer ani þing on ðese lease woreld luuest a+geanes his bebode.*

(CMVICES1,41.470)

If you this not do, not deceive you not yourself that you belief that Christ is with you or you with him, for as long as that you anger or malice have in you, or anything in this faithless world love against his command.

If you don't do this, you don't deceive yourself of your belief that Christ is with you or you with him, for as long as you have anger or malice in you, or love anything in this faithless world against his command.

In the first clause of the sentence, the negative element „*ne*“ expresses sentence negation. In the second clause, the pattern of negation **ne + finite verb + noht**, which is the regular pattern for expressing negation in ME, is used. This is an example of negative concord and can be seen in the fact that there are two instances of negation in the clause, however, the meaning of the sentence is only negated once, resulting in: „*it is not the case that you deceive yourself ...*“. The first negative element „*ne*“ is the typical sentence negation, whereas the second negative constituent stems from the OE contracted form „noht“ meaning „nothing“, which has acquired a fixed position in the regular ME negation pattern.