

The verb phrase: argument structure and particle placement

Björn Lundquist

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

1. Introduction

The Scandinavian languages show fairly little variation with respect to the internal syntax of the verb phrase. In general, the verb phrase is head initial, i.e., the direct object always follows the main verb (VO-order), as exemplified for Swedish below:

- (1) a) Jag ska köpa en bil /den. (Swe.)
I will.PRES buy.INF a car /it.
 'I will buy a car/it.'
- b) *Jag ska en bil /den köpa. (Swe.)
I will.PRES buy.INF a car /it.
 Int.'I will buy a car/it.'

Possible exceptions to the head-initial order can be found in complex verbal constructions with *lode* 'let' followed by an infinitival (2a) and *få* 'get' followed by a participle (2b), where the main verb can be preceded by the direct object in some dialects.

- (2) a) Peter lod bilen reparere. (Dan.)
Peter let.PRES car.DEF repair.INF
 'Peter had the car repaired.'
- b) Han fik stolene malet. (Dan.)
He get.PAST chair.PL.DEF paint.PART
 'He got the chairs painted' or 'He managed to paint the chairs.'

The *lode*-construction and the *få*-construction are each discussed in separate chapters ([Larsson 2014a](#), [Larsson 2014b](#)).

Another instance of head-final order is clauses with post-adjectival participial copulas, as marginally found in some dialects in central Sweden and Norway:

- (2) Kaffen er kæld vørtin. (Bok.)
coffee.DEF be.PRES cold become.PART
 'The coffee has become cold.'

This construction is also discussed in a separate *NALS*-chapter (Garbacz 2014a). Apparent OV-order can also be found in certain dialects when the object is negated (or sometimes quantified). This phenomenon is discussed in Garbacz (2014b), in the section in *NALS Volume 1* about the middle field.

The verb-phrase phenomenon that probably shows most systematic variation across Scandinavia is the placement of verb particles. Verb particles have been investigated thoroughly in the ScanDiaSyn-project, and we have included three chapters describing the variation in their distribution:

1. The placement of verb-particles with respect to direct objects in active clauses (Lundquist 2014a).
2. The placement of verb-particles with respect to reflexive internal arguments (Lundquist 2014b).
3. The placement of particles with respect to passive participles (Lundquist 2014c).

Further, dialectal variation in double object-constructions is discussed in the following two chapters:

1. Verb-restrictions in active double object constructions (Lundquist 2014d).
2. The syntax of passive double object constructions (Lundquist 2014e).

Finally, one short chapter is dedicated to the prefixed negation that turns up on active participles in some northern Swedish dialects (Lundquist 2014f). In the part on the middle field, several other phenomena that are tied to the verb phrase are discussed, including auxiliary selection, object shift and tense-restrictions in passives. Further, in the chapter on participle agreement (Larsson 2014c), the order of participles and associates is discussed.

References

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- Lundquist, Björn. 2014a. 'Verb-particles: active verbs,' *Nordic Atlas of Linguistic Structures (NALS)*. <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/nals#/chapter/4>.
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- Lundquist, Björn. 2014c. 'Verb-particles: particle placement in passives,' *Nordic Atlas of Linguistic Structures (NALS)*. <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/nals#/chapter/5>.
- Lundquist, Björn. 2014d. 'Double object constructions: active verbs,' *Nordic Atlas of Linguistic Structures (NALS)*. <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/nals#/chapter/7>.
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- Lundquist, Björn. 2014f. 'Prefixed negation,' *Nordic Atlas of Linguistic Structures (NALS)*. <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/nals#/chapter/22>.

Web sites:

Nordic Atlas of Language Structures (NALS) Journal: <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/nals>

Nordic Dialect Corpus: <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/nota/scandiasyn/index.html>

Nordic Syntax Database: <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/nota/scandiasyn/index.html>