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## REFLEXIVE BINDING, ORDER AND CHANGE OF STATE IN CERTAIN GERMAN PREFIX AND PARTICLE VERB TYPES

CoS verbs, DGfS 2022

## 1 Particle verbs and Prefix Verbs

- Verbal particles vs. prefixes
- Indifferent Binding and Totalization

## 2 Redressed or bound to change

- Particle verbs and transitivity redress
- Prefix verbs and Goal binding (totalization)
- zu-verbs and prefix verb mimicry

# CHANGE OF STATE PARTICLE AND PREFIX VERB TYPES

## ■ separable particle verbs: [[Directional]]

- (1) die Kaserne wurde in eine Schule<sub>AKK</sub> AUS/UMgebaut  
the barracks was in a school re.built

## ■ inseparable prefix verbs: [[Totalizing]]

- (2) die Anlagen [werden] mit Burgen be/umBAUT  
the facilities [are] with castles in/round.built  
cf. *Burgen werden auf/um Anlagen gebaut*

## ■ separable *zu* particle verbs: [[Totalizing]]

- (3) die Landschaften sind mit Malls ZU/VOLLgebaut  
the landscapes are with malls in/full.built

# 500 TYPES WITH PREPOSITIONAL OBJECTS IN 7 BIO TOKEN EXTRACT OF DEREKO

particle verbs	prefix verbs
in/zu etwas UMBauen rebuild into something	mit etwas umBAUEN surround with something
auf etwas ÜBERgreifen encroach (up)on something	mit etwas überZIEHEN cover with something
gegen etwas DURCHboxen push through against sth	mit etwas durchWEBEN interweave with something
an jmd. UNTERvermieten subrent to somebody	mit etwas unterMALEN accompany with something
	mit etwas ZUbauen

# INDIFFERENT BINDING AND TOTALIZATION

(4) Coarguments of transitive relations have disjoint reference. (Obviation, Hellan 1988)

(5)  $y$  is indifferent from  $x$  ( $= x$  indifferently binds  $y$ )  
iff  $\neg \exists P P(y) \ \& \ \frac{\neg P(x)}{(= \quad P(y) \rightarrow \overline{P(x)} \quad )}$

- Particle verbs: Goal binds<sub>ind</sub> Theme semantically
- Prefix verbs: Theme binds<sub>ind</sub> Goal synsemantically
- zu-verbs: zu sends false binding signal

# PARTICLE VERBS: ACCUSATIVE AND CHANGE OF STATE

- (6) Otto fuhr in [die Grube]<sub>AKK</sub> ein.

Otto pulled into the mine in

'Otto pulled into the mine'

COS

- (7) Otto fuhr in [der Grube]<sub>DAT</sub> (herum).

Otto rode in the mine (around)

'Otto was riding (around) in the mine.'

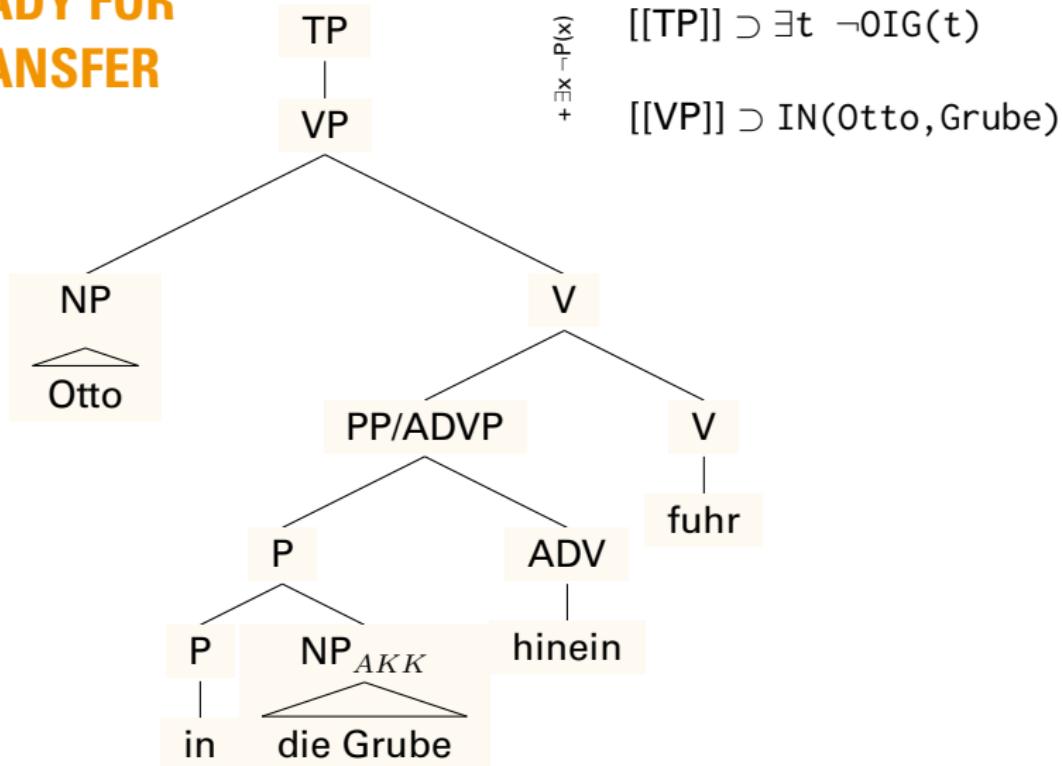
state

directional and COS but dative-assigning: *zu, nach*

# PP<sub>AKK</sub> AND TRANSITIVITY VS. INDIFFERENCE:

- (8) The Accusative Case Hypothesis (Gehrke 2008:4):  
Accusative case inside German PPs is a structural case,  
licensed under the same conditions as accusative case on  
direct objects.
- ! Referents of Theme and Goal must be disjoint
  - ⚡ Difference: The Goal binds<sub>ind</sub> the Theme: All spatiotemporal  
Theme locations are spatiotemporal Goal locations
  - ↝  $\neg P(x)$  is interpreted as the negation of the VP state, i.e.,  
as the pre-state, cf. Givon 1972

# READY FOR TRANSFER



# GOAL BINDING IN PREFIX VERBS: APPlicativization

[...] the prefix verb usually expresses the application of the verb's concept to an object that carries accusative case. If a noncomposed verb were used, the relation would have to be designated by various prepositions or at least a different case. Grimm 1819:780 (1878:788)

- (9) a. Man umbaut die Anlagen<sub>Theme</sub> (mit Burgen).  
one around.builds the facilities with castles
- b. Man baut Burgen<sub>Theme</sub> um die Anlagen<sub>Goal</sub>.  
one builds castles around the facilities
- (10) Was mit den Anlagen geschah, war, dass man sie mit Burgen umbaute.

# GOAL BINDING IN PREFIX VERBS AND TOTALIZATION (HOLISTIC EFFECT)

the be- designates the all-round impact, the whole and complete accomplishment. I do not be-cut the tree yet if I cut something off it, but only if I do it all-round; be-sprinkling affects the whole surface.

Grimm 1819:780 (1878:788)

- (11) Man umbaute die Anlagen mit Burgen, # aber es  
one around.built the facilities with castles, # but there  
blieb eine Lücke.  
remained a gap

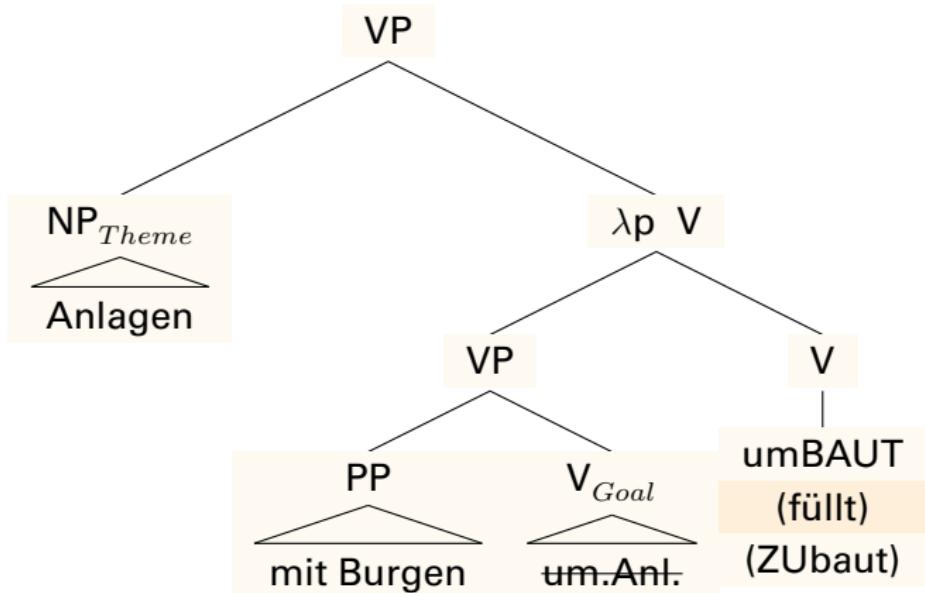
# GOAL BINDING IN PREFIX VERBS

Unlike particle verbs or pure prefix verbs, prepositional prefix verbs are never inherently reflexive. Their Goal is promoted to theme (direct object) position and unavailable independently

- (12) Die Pflanz-Gefäße müssen dunkelwandig sein. [...]  
the plant.containers must dark.walled be. [...]  
Früher hat man dafür breite Korken genommen, die  
once has one for.that broad cork used which  
[\*zu einem Pflanz-Gefäß] durchbohrt wurden.  
[to a plant.container] through.drilled were  
(Berliner Morgenpost, 13.11.1999, S. 25)

⇒ Theme binds Goal and provides endpoint

# GOAL BINDING IN PREFIX VERBS



Extra predication: All spatiotemporal locations of the facilities are spatiotemporal locations where castles are built

# ZU: PREFIX MIMICRY BY INTERNAL TOTALIZATION

- (13) die Landschaften sind mit Malls zu/vollgebaut  
the landscapes are with malls in/full.built

- internal binding in (Modal) Infinitives

- (14) Das Buch ist zu lesen.

- (15) a book to read

- excessives as reflexivized comparatives (Brandt 2019)

- (16) [[too heavy]] = ↳ [[heavier than itself]]

# INDIFFERENT BINDING, ZU AND SUPERLATIVES: INTERNAL TOTALIZATION

(17)  $y$  is indifferent from  $x$  ( $= x$  indifferently binds  $y$ )

iff       $\neg \exists P P(y) \ \& \ \underline{\neg P(x)}$

$(= \quad P(y) \rightarrow P(x))$

(18)  $\not\in [[zu]] = \quad \exists P P(x) \ \& \ \underline{\neg P(x)}$

(19)  $[[\text{-st}]] = [[\text{-er than } \forall]] = \lambda P P(x) \ \& \ \forall y \ \underline{\neg P(y)}$

# SUPERLATIVE ZU-ADVERBS: RELEASE BY -ST OR ALL

- (20) a. zunächst, zuletzt, zumindest, zuerst, zumeist,  
zutiefst, zuallererst, zuoberst, zuvorderst,  
zumindestens, zuvörderst, zuhinterst, zuallerletzt,  
zuunterst, zuinnerst, zuallermeist, zuhöchst,  
zualleroberst, zuäußerst, zuallernächst,  
zuallermindest, zuallervorderst, zuallervörderst
- b. \*(all)zusehr, \*(all)zuoft, \*(all)zuweit, \*(all)zulange,  
\*(all)zugerne, \*(all)zugut, \*(all)zuschnell, \*(all)zubald

(7 b. token extract from DeReKo)

# CONCLUSIONS

- transitivity, obviation and indifferent binding  
(= relative totalization)
  - particle verbs: COS by virtue of redress
  - prefix verbs: COS by virtue of goal binding
  - *zu* verbs: COS by virtue of false binding signal
- “Thank you!” to you!

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