

Deriving subject and antisubject orientation

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1 Introduction

- In Standard Binding Theory, the distribution of anaphors and pronouns is dictated by Condition A and Condition B:

- (1) a. **Condition A**
 Mary_i showed Susan_j **herself**_{i/j/*k}.
- b. **Condition B**
 Mary_i showed Susan_j **her**_{*i/*j/k}.

⇒ *The problem*

Conditions A and B state the distribution of anaphors and pronouns in terms of c-command. However, in many languages, **c-command alone is insufficient** to account for the distribution of anaphors and pronouns.

- *The view from Hindi-Urdu*

The case study in this presentation is anaphoric and pronominal possessors in Hindi-Urdu:

- *Subject orientation*

The anaphoric possessor *apnaa* must corefer with the subject and cannot corefer with, e.g., a goal. It is (descriptively) SUBJECT ORIENTED.

- *Antisubject orientation*

The pronominal possessor *uskaa*, however, cannot refer with the subject. It is (descriptively) ANTISUBJECT ORIENTED.

⇒ Subject and antisubject orientation do not fall under the purview of Conditions A and B. Deriving these two constraints is the goal of this talk.

* *Structure of this talk*

1. We review subject and antisubject orientation in Hindi-Urdu. We give particular attention to dative–nominative structures, where the two constraints break down.
2. Next, we propose that:
 - The locus of subject and antisubject orientation is Voice⁰, the functional head responsible for binding the anaphoric possessor *apnaa*.
 - Subject orientation reduces to the locality of A-movement: only the highest DP, typically the external argument, is eligible for movement to [Spec, VoiceP].
 - Antisubject orientation results from the requirement to use *apnaa* whenever the derivation would allow. This requirement is in the spirit of Reinhart & Reuland (1993).
3. Last, we examine a point of speaker variation. We argue that these speakers have access to an impoverished form of *uskaa-apnaa*, masquerading as *uskaa*.

2 Subject and antisubject orientation

- *Section outline*

In this section, we review subject and antisubject orientation of anaphors and pronouns in Hindi-Urdu. We then show how these constraints break down in dative–nominative structures.

- *Standard Binding Theory still active*

Conditions A, B, and C are active in Hindi-Urdu (Dayal 1994). Subject and antisubject orientation are *in addition* to the standard binding constraints.

2.1 Anaphors and pronouns

- *Anaphors* → *Subject oriented*

Anaphors in Hindi-Urdu are SUBJECT ORIENTED. They must be bound by the subject (to use the term descriptively) of the clause:¹

(2) a. **Binding**

anu-ne_i apne-aap-ko_{i/*j} maar-aa
 ANU-ERG ANA -DOM hit-PFV
 ‘Anu_i hit himself_{i/*j}’

b. **Quantifier binding**

[har laṛke-ne]_i apne-aap-ko_{i/*j} maar-aa
 every boy-ERG ANA -DOM hit-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i hit himself_{i/*j}’

- *Pronouns* → *Antisubject oriented*

Pronouns, on the other hand, are antisubject oriented. They cannot corefer with the subject of the clause:

(3) a. **Coreference**

anu-ne_i us-ko_{*i/j} maar-aa
 ANU-ERG PRON-DOM hit-PFV
 ‘Anu_i hit him_{*i/j}’

b. **Quantifier binding**

[har laṛke-ne]_i us-ko_{*i/j} maar-aa
 every boy-ERG PRON-DOM hit-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i hit him_{*i/j}’

- Moreover, word order permutations do not affect the binding possibilities in either (2) or (3).

2.2 Anaphoric and pronominal possessors

- In addition, Hindi-Urdu has both an anaphoric possessor *apnaa* and a pronominal possessor *uskaa*. Their behaviour mirrors their nonpossessive counterparts.

¹ Subject orientation holds for both the anaphors from the Persio-Arabic stock *khud* and the one from the Sanskrit stock *apne-aap*. We present data only for *apne-aap*.

- *Anaphor Agreement Effect, no problem!*

- What makes the anaphoric and pronominal possessors an interesting empirical domain is that they can both in principle occur in a nominative argument. We will see this in dative–nominative structures.
- This is not possible with the ordinary anaphor *apne-aap* because of the Anaphor Agreement Effect, which prohibits anaphors in positions construed with agreement (Rizzi 1990; Woolford 1999):²

(4) a. **Transitive**

*apne-aap_i anu-ko_i maar-aa (cf. 2a)
 ANA ANU-ERG hit-PFV
 Intended: ‘Anu_i hit himself_i’

b. **Dative–nominative structure**

*anu-ko_i apne-aap_i pasand he
 ANU-DAT ANA like be.PRS
 Intended: ‘Anu_i likes himself_i’

- *Anaphoric possessor* → *Subject oriented*

Like the anaphor, the anaphoric possessor must corefer with the subject (for most speakers). It is subject oriented:

(5) **Binding**

a. **Transitive**

raam-ne_i [apnii_{i/*j} kitaab] paṛh-ii
 Ram-ERG ANA.GEN book read-PFV
 ‘Ram_i read his_{i/*j} book’

b. **Ditransitive**

raam-ne_i anu-ko_j [apnii_{i/%j/*k} kitaab] dii
 Ram-ERG ANU-DOM ANA.GEN book give.PFV
 ‘Ram_i gave Anu_j his_{i/%j/*k} book’

(6) **Quantifier binding**

a. **Transitive**

[har laṛke-ne]_i [apnii_{i/*j} kitaab] paṛh-ii
 every boy-ERG ANA.GEN book read-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i read his_{i/*j} book’

² We treat unmarked DPs as bearing nominative case.

b. **Ditransitive**

[har laṛke-ne]_i anu-ko_j [apnii_{i/%j/*k} kitaab] dii
 every boy-ERG Anu-DOM ANA.GEN book give-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i gave Anu_j his_{i/%j/*k} book’

• **Pronominal possessor → Antisubject oriented**

Like the pronoun, the pronominal possessor *cannot* corefer with the subject.
 The pronominal possessor is antisubject oriented:

(7) **Coreference**

a. **Transitive**

raam-ne_i [us-kii_{*i/j} kitaab] paṛh-ii
 Ram-ERG PRON-GEN book read-PFV
 ‘Ram_i read his_{*i/j} book’

b. **Ditransitive**

raam-ne_i anu-ko_j [us-kii_{*i/j/k} kitaab] dii
 Ram-ERG Anu-DAT PRON-GEN book give-PFV
 ‘Ram_i gave Anu his_{*i/j/k} book’

(8) **Quantifier binding**

a. **Transitive**

[har laṛke-ne]_i [us-kii_{*i/j} kitaab] paṛh-ii
 every boy-ERG PRON-GEN book read-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i read his_{*i/j} book’

b. **Ditransitive**

[har laṛke-ne]_i anu-ko_j [us-kii_{*i/j/k} kitaab] dii
 every boy-ERG Anu-DAT PRON-GEN book give-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i gave Anu_j his_{*i/j/k} book’

• **Nonsubject quantifiers → Only pronominal possessor**

Quantifiers not in subject position can bind the pronominal possessor, but not the anaphoric possessor:

(9) a. **Pronominal possessor ✓**

raam-ne_i [har laṛke-ko]_j [us-kii_{*i/j/k} kitaab] dii
 Ram-ERG every boy-DAT PRON-GEN book give-PFV
 ‘Ram_i gave every boy_j his_{*i/j/k} book’

b. **Anaphoric possessor ✗**

raam-ne_i [har laṛke-ko]_j [apnii_{i/%j/*k} kitaab] dii
 Ram-ERG every boy-DAT ANA.GEN book give-PFV
 ‘Ram_i gave every boy_j his_{i/%j/*k} book’

• **Scrambling**

– In general, like for their nonpossessive counterparts, word order permutations do not affect the binding possibilities of *apnaa* or *uskaa* in ordinary transitive and ditransitive structures (Dayal 1994).

(10) a. **Anaphoric possessor**

[apnii_{i/%j} kitaab] raam-ne_i t paṛh-ii (cf. 5a)
 ANA.GEN book Ram-ERG read-PFV
 ‘Ram_i read his_{i/%j} book’

b. **Pronominal possessor**

[us-kii_{*i/j} kitaab] raam-ne_i t paṛh-ii (cf. 7a)
 PRON-GEN book Ram-ERG read-PFV
 ‘Ram_i read his_{*i/j} book’

– However, it is possible to scramble a DP above the subject in order to bind *uskaa* in the subject itself (Mahajan 1990; Dayal 1994). This is not possible with *apnaa*, however.

(11) a. **Anaphoric possessor**

*[har laṛke-ko]_i [apnii_i behen-ne] t maar-aa
 every boy-DOM ANA.GEN sister-ERG hit-PFV
Intended: ‘For every boy *x*, *x*’s sister hit *x*’

b. **Pronominal possessor**

[har laṛke-ko]_i [us-kii_i behen-ne] t maar-aa
 every boy-DOM PRON-GEN sister-ERG hit-PFV
 ‘For every boy *x*, *x*’s sister hit *x*’

⇒ Scrambling can feed binding *uskaa* (11b), but it cannot ameliorate antisubject orientation (10b).

* *Interim summary*

The anaphoric possessor and pronominal possessor are in COMPLEMENTARY DISTRIBUTION in ordinary transitive and ditransitive structures.

(12) **Anaphoric and pronominal possessors in Hindi-Urdu**

	<i>apnaa</i>	<i>uskaa</i>
Condition A	✓	✗
Subject antecedent	✓	✗
Nonsubject antecedent	✗	✓
Quantifier binding	✓	✓

2.3 Dative–nominative structures

- In dative–nominative structures, the experiencer is dative and the theme is nominative:

(13) raam-ko miiraa dikh-ii
 Ram-DAT Mira appear-PFV
 ‘Ram saw Mira’ (lit. Mira became visible to Ram)

- Standardly, the dative experiencer is considered the subject and the nominative theme is considered the object. However, we will see that this labelling is misleading.

• *Subject orientation breaks down*

Crucially, the complementarity of *uskaa* and *apnaa*, which was discussed in the previous section, does not extend to dative-nominative structure.

– *Dative argument*

The dative can serve as the antecedent of either *uskaa* or *apnaa*:

(14) a. **Anaphoric possessor**
 raam-ko_i [apnii_{i/*j} behen] dikh-ii
 Ram-DAT ANA.GEN sister appear-PFV
 ‘Ram_i saw his_{i/*j} sister’

b. **Pronominal possessor**
 raam-ko_i [us-kii_{i/j} behen] dikh-ii
 Ram-DAT PRON-GEN sister appear-PFV
 ‘Ram_i saw his_{i/j} sister’

– *Nominative argument*

The nominative can also serve as the antecedent of either *uskaa* or *apnaa*:

(15) a. **Anaphoric possessor**
 raam_i [apnii_{i/*j} behen-ko] dikh-aa
 Ram ANA.GEN sister-DAT appear-PFV
 ‘Ram_i was seen by his_{i/*j} sister’

b. **Pronominal possessor**
 raam_i [us-kii_{i/j} behen-ko] dikh-aa
 Ram PRON-GEN sister-DAT appear-PFV
 ‘Ram_i was seen by his_{i/j} sister’

⇒ *Quantifier binding*

Although coreference with *uskaa* is possible, binding can only occur with *apnaa*, never with *uskaa* (Reese 2002):³

(16) a. **Anaphoric possessor**
 [har larke-ko]_i [apnii_{i/*j} behen] dikh-ii
 every boy-DAT ANA.GEN sister appear-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i saw his_{i/*j} sister’

b. **Pronominal possessor**
 [har larke-ko]_i [us-kii_{*i/j} behen] dikh-ii
 every boy-DAT PRON-GEN sister appear-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i saw his_{*i/j} sister’

- (16b) is surprising given that scrambling can otherwise feed binding *uskaa*.

* *Section summary*

(17) **Anaphoric and pronominal possessors in Hindi-Urdu**

	Elsewhere		Dative–nominative	
	<i>apnaa</i>	<i>uskaa</i>	<i>apnaa</i>	<i>uskaa</i>
Condition A	✓	✗	✓	✗
Subject antecedent	✓	✗	✓	✓
Nonsubject antecedent	✗	✓	✓	✓
Quantifier binding	✓	✓	✓	✗

³ Example (16b) is the judgement reported in Reese (2002).

2. Fake indexicals

Kratzer (2009) documents instances of so-called “fake indexicals” where first- and second-person pronouns can receive a bound-variable interpretation only when the ϕ -features of the verb match those of the pronoun:

(22) Φ -agreement → Bound reading possible

Wir sind die einzigen, die unseren Sohn
 we are the only.ones who.PL 1PL.POSS.ACC son
 versorg-en
 take.care.of-1/3PL

‘We are the only ones who are taking care of our son’

[Kratzer 2009:191]

(23) No ϕ -agreement → Bound reading not possible

Ich bin der einzige, der meinen Sohn versorg-t
 I am the only.one who.PL 1SG.POSS.ACC son take.care.of-3SG
 ‘I am the only one who is taking care of my son’ [Kratzer 2009:191]

→ Because AGREE is involved, functional heads must be involved in binding as well (see also Reuland 2011).

⇒ Accepting that a functional head is responsible for binding *apnaa*, Voice⁰ is the lowest possible head that could do so.

3.2 Antisubject orientation

* Proposal

The anaphor *apnaa* is used whenever the derivation would allow:

(24) ANAPHORIC PREFERENCE (preliminary version)

Whenever the binder has moved to [Spec, VoiceP], use *apnaa*.

- In an ordinary transitive clause, the subject will have moved to [Spec, VoiceP]. Therefore, according to (24), this bleeds the ability to use a coreferring pronominal possessor:

- (25) a. $[\text{VoiceP } \text{---} \text{Voice}_{[r]}^0 [\text{vP DP } v^0 [\text{VP } [\text{DP } \textit{apnaa}_r \text{ NP}] V^0]]]$ ✓
 b. $[\text{VoiceP } \text{---} \text{Voice}_{[r]}^0 [\text{vP DP } v^0 [\text{VP } [\text{DP } \textit{uskaa}_r \text{ NP}] V^0]]]$ ✗

⇒ No coreference restriction

Thus, there is no general prohibition on coreference with a pronoun from a c-commanding position, only a preference to bind using the anaphor *apnaa* whenever possible.

• Reinhart & Reuland

The Anaphoric Preference in (24) is in the spirit of the idea in Reinhart & Reuland (1993) that the complementarity of anaphors and pronouns is the result of the requirement to use an anaphor whenever the predicate is reflexive and vice versa.

- We will return later to an idea towards incorporating our proposal with Reinhart & Reuland’s (1993) proposal.

3.3 Dative–nominative structures

• Reminder

Recall that in dative–nominative structures, either the dative or the nominative can corefer with *apnaa* and *uskaa*, but quantifier binding requires *apnaa*.

* Structure of dative–nominative predicates

We propose the following structure for dative–nominative predicates wherein the dative is an external argument introduced by v_{EXP}^0 and the nominative is an internal argument of the verb itself:

- (26) $[\text{vP DAT } v_{\text{EXP}}^0 [\text{VP NOM } V^0]]$

- The evidence for treating the nominative as the internal argument of the verb comes from instances where the nominative argument determines the particular interpretation of the verb:

- (27) a. **roumi-ko** *bhuukh* lag rahii he
 Roumi-DAT hunger contact PROG be.PRS.SG
 ‘Roumi is feeling hungry’ [Bhatt 2003:6]

- b. **laṛke-ko** *coṭ* lag-ii
 boy-DAT wound contact-PFV
 ‘The boy was hurt’

- This criterion is the foremost employed in Kratzer (1996) (also Marantz 1984) to argue for syntactically and semantically distinguishing between internal and external arguments:

- (28) a. throw a baseball
 b. throw support behind a candidate
 c. throw a boxing match
 d. throw a party [Marantz 1984]

* *Dative-nominative structures are reversible*

Davison (2004) argues that dative-nominative structures are REVERSIBLE:

- Either the nominative or the dative can A-move to the subject position, here [Spec, VoiceP].
- Subsequent \bar{A} -scrambling derives any deviations from the base-generated word order.

• *Reversibility* → *Subject orientation*

Reversibility allows either the nominative or the dative to raise to [Spec, VoiceP] and thus to bind the subject oriented anaphor *apnaa*.

- (29) [VoiceP DAT Voice⁰ [_{VP} t NOM V⁰]]
-

- (30) [VoiceP NOM Voice⁰ [_{VP} DAT t V⁰]]
-

• *Ability to use apnaa* → *Antisubject orientation*

We propose that binding requires the use of *apnaa* in dative-nominative structures because such a derivation is always available for either argument, given the reversibility.

⇒ Therefore, the inability to bind with *uskaa* in dative-nominative structures stems from a stronger version of the Anaphoric Preference:

(31) ANAPHORIC PREFERENCE (*final version*)

Whenever the binder has moved or **could have moved** to [Spec, VoiceP], use *apnaa*.

- (31) also rules out scrambling to bind *uskaa* in dative-nominative structures because either argument could have moved to [Spec, VoiceP].

3.4 Section summary

• *Subject orientation*

Binding the anaphor *apnaa* is facilitated by the functional head Voice⁰.

• *Antisubject orientation*

Whenever the binder has moved or could have moved to [Spec, VoiceP], use *apnaa*.

• *Dative-nominative structures*

The reversibility of dative-nominative structures allows a derivation in which either the dative or the nominative has raised to [Spec, VoiceP]. This permits binding *apnaa* and bleeds the ability to bind *uskaa*.

4 Variation

• *Quick recap*

As discussed in section 2, the pronominal possessor *uskaa* does not allow quantifier binding in dative-nominative structures:

(32) a. *Dative binding into nominative*

- *[har laṛke-ko]_i [us-kii_i behen] dikh-ii
 every boy-DAT PRON-GEN sister appear-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i saw his_i sister’

b. *Nominative binding into dative*

- *[har laṛkaa]_i [us-kii_i behen-ko] dikh-aa
 every boy PRON-GEN sister-DAT appear-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i was seen by his_i sister’

- Again, (32) is surprising given that scrambling can generally feed binding *uskaa* outside of dative-nominative structures (Mahajan 1990; Dayal 1994):

(33) *Scrambling to bind uskaa*

- [har laṛke-ko]_i [us-kii_i behen-ne] t maar-aa (=11b)
 every boy-DOM PRON-GEN sister-ERG hit-PFV
 ‘For every boy *x*, *x*’s sister hit *x*’

⇒ *Speaker variation*

Interestingly, some speakers do in fact allow a bound reading in dative–nominative structures with *uskaa*, contra (32). For these speakers, both (34a) and (34b) allow bound readings:

- (34) a. **Dative binding into nominative**
 [har larke-ko]_i [us-kii_i behen] dikh-ii
 every boy-DAT PRON-GEN sister appear-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i saw his_i sister’
- b. **Nominative binding into dative**
 [har larkaa]_i [us-kii_i behen-ko] dikh-aa
 every boy PRON-GEN sister-DAT appear-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i was seen by his_i sister’

- This variation is summarised in the table below:

(35) **Speaker variation in dative–nominative structures**

	Group A		Group B	
	<i>apnaa</i>	<i>uskaa</i>	<i>apnaa</i>	<i>uskaa</i>
Condition A	✓	✗	✓	✗
Subject antecedent	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nonsubject antecedent	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quantifier binding	✓	✗	✓	✓

- Group A characterises the judgements that we have discussed thus far (32). Group B is the speaker variation that we are now introducing (34).

* *Proposal*

We propose that speakers who allow binding of *uskaa* in (34a) and (34b) have access to an impoverished form of the complex anaphor *uskaa-apnaa*, which must be bound, but crucially is not subject oriented:

- (36) **Underlying form of (34b)**
 [har larkaa]_i [uskii-apnii_i behen-ko] dikh-aa
 every boy COMPLEX.GEN sister-DAT appear-PFV
 ‘Every boy_i was seen by his_i sister’

- The derivation of (36) proceeds as follows:
 1. The dative moves to [Spec, VoiceP], precluding the use of *apnaa*.
 2. The nominative moves above [Spec, VoiceP] to bind *uskaa-apnaa*.
 3. *uskaa-apnaa* is impoverished as *uskaa* in the morphology.

• *Properties of uskaa-apnaa*

In ordinary transitive (37) and ditransitive structures (38), *uskaa-apnaa* must be bound. However, crucially, it cannot be bound by the subject:

- (37) *anu-ne_i [uskii-apnii_{i/j} kitaab] parh-ii
 Anu-ERG COMPLEX.GEN book read-PFV
Intended: ‘Anu_i read his_{i/j} book’

- (38) ram-ne_i mohan-ko_j [uskii-apnii_{*i/j/*k} kitaab] dii
 Ram-ERG Mohan-DAT COMPLEX.GEN book give.PFV
 ‘Ram_i gave Mohan_j his_{*i/j/*k} book’

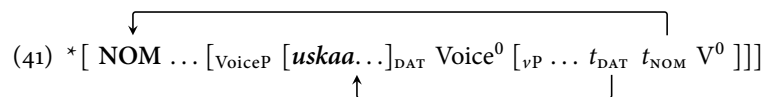
(39) **Anaphoric and pronominal possessors in Hindi-Urdu**

	<i>apnaa</i>	<i>uskaa</i>	<i>uskaa-apnaa</i>
Condition A	✓	✗	✓
Subject antecedent	✓	✗	✗
Nonsubject antecedent	✗	✓	✓
Quantifier binding	✓	✓	✓

- Under our analysis, *uskaa-apnaa* is unable to refer to the subject because the subject always moves to [Spec, VoiceP]. Unlike dative–nominative structures, this movement is deterministic because of locality and not reversible.
- Unlike *uskaa*, *uskaa-apnaa* is not in direct competition with *apnaa* in dative–nominative structures.
- Thus, although movement of the binder to [Spec, VoiceP] still requires using *apnaa*, it is also possible to move the DP containing *uskaa-apnaa* to [Spec, VoiceP] and then move its binder to some higher c-commanding position:

- (40) [NOM ... [VoiceP [uskaa-apnaa ...]_{DAT} Voice⁰ [vP ... t_{DAT} t_{NOM} V⁰]]]
-

- For *uskaa*, this derivation would be ruled out because *uskaa* is in direct competition with *apnaa*:



5 Conclusion

5.1 Summary

- We discussed subject and antisubject orientation of anaphoric and pronominal possessors respectively in Hindi-Urdu. Crucially, these two constraints do not fall under the purview of Standard Binding Theory (e.g. Chomsky 1981).
 - We proposed that the locus of subject and antisubject orientation is Voice⁰, the functional head responsible for binding the anaphoric possessor *apnaa* wherein the binder of *apnaa* must move to [Spec, VoiceP].
 - Subject orientation reduces to the locality of A-movement: only the highest DP, typically the external argument, is eligible for movement to [Spec, VoiceP].
 - Antisubject orientation is the result of the Anaphoric Preference to use *apnaa* whenever possible:
- (42) **ANAPHORIC PREFERENCE**
Whenever the binder has moved or could have moved to [Spec, VoiceP], use *apnaa*.
- Following Davison (2004), we argued that dative–nominative structures are *reversible*. This allows either argument to bind *apnaa* and, given (42), bleeds the ability to bind using the pronoun *uskaa*.
 - We considered interspeaker variation: some Hindi-Urdu speakers allow a bound interpretation of *uskaa* in dative–nominative structures. We proposed that these speakers have access to an impoverished form of the complex anaphora *uskaa-apnaa*, which must be bound, but crucially is not subject oriented.

5.2 Further questions and extensions

• *Deriving the Anaphoric Preference*

- Reinhart & Reuland (1993) define the requirement to use an anaphor in terms of coargumenthood: If the two arguments of a predicate are the same, the predicate is reflexive and thus must occur with an anaphor.
 - How can the anaphor requirement be relaxed from strict coargument to account for languages like Hindi-Urdu?
 - Ideally, this should be done without sacrificing the otherwise widespread empirical coverage of Reinhart & Reuland’s (1993)’s theory.
 - The mobility of possessors in Hindi-Urdu might play a role:
- (43) [kis sheher-ki]_i raam [t_i laṛkiyō-se] mil-aa
which city-GEN Ram girls-COM meet-PFV
‘Which city was it that Ram met the girls from?’ [Bhatia et al. 2011]
- Bhatia et al. (2011) have shown that, with respect to the mobility of possessors in particular, Hindi-Urdu patterns as an NP language, according to Bošković’s (2008) diagnostics.
 - The connection between being an NP language and having anaphoric possessors has been explored in Despić (2015), though not within the binding framework in Reinhart & Reuland (1993).
 - Therefore, this provide a promising direction for deriving the Anaphoric Preference.

• *A second point of speaker variation*

- For some speakers, subject orientation is preferred, but not strictly required.
- This raises the empirical question of whether this point of variation and the ability to bind using *uskaa* in dative–nominative structures correlate.
- If the two covary, it would suggest that they have a common source.

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Appendix: Deriving reversibility

• *Two accounts of reversibility*

There are two conceivable accounts of the reversibility of dative–nominative structures:

1. *Base-generation*


There are two base-generated orders: dative-over-nominative and nominative-over-dative. Whichever argument is highest moves to [Spec, VoiceP]:


$$(44) \quad [\text{VoiceP} \text{ DAT Voice}^0 [\text{VP } t \text{ NOM } V^0]] \quad \text{DAT-NOM}$$


$$(45) \quad [\text{VoiceP} \text{ NOM Voice}^0 [\text{VP } t \text{ DAT } V^0]] \quad \text{NOM-DAT}$$


2. *Movement*

There is only one base-generated order, dative-over-nominative, and the nominative argument is somehow able to A-raise over the dative argument:

$$(46) \quad [\text{VoiceP} \text{ DAT Voice}^0 [\text{VP } t \text{ NOM } V^0]]$$


$$(47) \quad [\text{VoiceP} \text{ NOM Voice}^0 [\text{VP } \text{DAT } t \text{ } V^0]]$$


→ We assume some version of the movement account.

• *Equidistance analysis*

Davison (2004) argues for a version of the movement account. She proposes that the dative and the nominative are EQUIDISTANT from Voice⁰ (T⁰ in her system) such that either one can raise to [Spec, VoiceP] without violating Minimality.

• *Remarks*

- The base-generation analysis cannot account for the tight association between the nominative argument and the interpretation of the verb.
- However, Davison’s (2004) equidistance analysis requires both arguments to be base-generated in the same maximal projection, i.e. VP, in order for them to be equidistant from the relevant functional head. This cannot account for the external–internal argument distinction either.

⇒ Thus, the source of the reversibility of dative–nominative structures is a topic that warrants future research.