

Quasi-incorporation

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Micronesian language Ponapean

- (a) I kanga-la wini-o
I eat-comp medicine-that
'I took all that medicine'
- (b) I keng-winih-la
I eat-medicine-comp
'I completed my medicine-taking'
(source Mithun 1984: 850)

Hungarian

- (a) Mari olvas egy verset
Mari read a poem.acc
'Mari is reading a poem'
- (b) Mari verset olvas
Mari poem.acc read
'Mari is reading a poem/poems/poetry'
- (c) Mari verseket olvas
Mari poem.pl.acc read
'Mari is reading poems'

Dutch NV combinations

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| adem halen | breath take 'to take breath' |
| auto rijden | car drive 'to drive a car' |
| brand stichten | fire cause 'to set fire to' |
| college lopen | lecture walk 'to attend lectures' |

Dutch NVs

- komedie spelen comedy play ‘to play-act’
- les geven lesson give ‘to teach’
- piano spelen piano play ‘to play the piano’
- ruzie maken quarrel make ‘to quarrel’
- televisie kijken television watch ‘to watch television’
- thee drinken tea drink ‘to drink tea’

Bare nouns

- per trein 'by train'
- zonder bril 'without glasses'
- op school 'at school'

Progressive construction test

Jan is {piano aan het spel-en / aan het piano spel-en}

John is {piano at the play-inf / at the piano play-inf}

‘John is playing the piano’

Bare nouns only

Jan is {de piano aan het bespelen / * aan
het de piano bespelen}

John is {the piano at the play-inf / at the the
piano play-inf}

‘John is playing music on the piano’

regular syntax: $[[\dots N^0]_{NP} V^0]_{VP}$

- N occurs before *aan het* in *aan het INF*-construction
- N precedes the complex predicate created by raising
- N can be negated by negative word *geen*
- N can be preceded by an adjectival modifier
- N can be stranded in root clauses with V in second position
- the past participle is formed by prefixing *ge-* to the stem of the V in V0

quasi-incorporation: $[N^0 V^0]V^0$

N occurs after *aan het* in *aan het INF* Construction

- N can be raised with V to higher clause complex predicate
- N can be preceded by negative word *niet*
- N cannot be preceded by an adjectival modifier
- N cannot be stranded in root clauses with V in second position
- the past participle is formed by prefixing *ge-* to the stem of the V in V0

compounding: [N V]V⁰

- the NV appears as a unit in second position in root clauses
- N and V cannot be split by syntactic or morphological rules
- the past participle is formed by prefixing *ge-* before the N

No modification under incorporation

- (a) ... dat Jan klassieke piano speelt
that John classical piano plays
'that John plays classical piano music'
- (b) *Jan is aan het klassieke piano spelen
John is at the classical piano play-inf
'John is playing classical piano music'
- (c) Jan is klassieke piano aan het spelen
John is classical piano at the play-inf
'John is playing classical piano music'

Niet / geen

- (a) Ik kan {*niet / geen} auto kopen
I can neg car buy.inf
'I cannot buy a car'
- (b) Ik kan {niet / *geen} fluiten
I can neg flute.inf
'I cannot play the flute'
- (c) Ik kan {niet / geen} piano spelen
I can neg piano play.inf
'I cannot play the piano'

Two structures

- (a) Jan speelt_i {geen / * niet} piano t_i
John plays neg piano
'John does not play the piano'
- (b) Jan heeft_i {geen /niet} piano gespeeld t_i
John has neg piano played
'John has not played the piano'

Two forms of licensing

A syntactically independent noun (that is, a noun that does not form part of a complex word) must be licensed.

Normally, it is licensed by forming part of an NP which in its turn is licensed through (abstract) case assignment.

Local licensing: There is a second form of licensing for nouns (presumably language-specific), namely by being adjoined to a verb that is not a trace.

Quasi-incorporation construction

- $[[N_0][V_0]]_{V_0}$ 'to perform a conventional action V in which N is involved'

Quasi-incorporation of bare plurals

- (a) aardappels schill-en
potatoes peel-inf
'to peel potatoes'
- (b) appels plukk-en
apples pick-inf
'to pick apples'

Optional incorporation

- (a) Jan is {aardappels aan het schill-en / aan het aardappels schill-en}
John is potatoes {at the peel-inf / at the potatoes peel-inf}
'John is peeling potatoes'
- (b) Jan is {de aardappels aan het schill-en / *aan het de aardappels schill-en}
John is {the potatoes at the peel-inf / at the the potatoes peel-inf}
'John is peeling the potatoes'

*brenge*n selects intr. predicates

- (a) *Hij brengt ons sprookjes aan het
vertell-en (transitive predicate)
He brings us fairy tales at the tell-inf
'He makes us tell fairy tales'
- (b) Hij brengt ons aan het sprookjes
vertell-en (intransitive predicate)
He brings us at the fairy tales tell-inf
'He makes us tell fairy tales'

Immobile verbs

- buik spreken 'to stomach speak, ventriloquizing'
- koord dansen 'to rope dance, walking a tightrope'
- mast klimmen 'to pole climb, climbing the greasy pole'
- steen grillen 'to stone grill, stone-grilling'
- stijl dansen 'to style dance, ballroom-dancing'

Asymmetries

- (a) *Mijn vader zee zeilt vaak
My father sea sails often
'My father often sails at sea'
- (b) Mijn vader is vaak aan het zee zeil-en
My father is often at the sea sail-inf
'My father often sails at sea'
- (c) ... dat mijn vader vaak zee zeilt
that my father often sea-sails
'that my father often sails at sea'

If N is an argument of V, N-V is
separable

(a) Kóffie kan hij niet zetten
Coffee can he not make
'Coffee he cannot make'

(b) *Zée kan hij niet zeilen
Sea can he not sail
'He cannot do sea-sailing'

Japanese

kenyuu-suru

research-do

'to do research'

saikinguru-suru

cycling-do

'to do cycling'

Constructional idiom

- $[[x]VN [suru]_{V0}]_{V0}$ 'to perform the act denoted by VN'
 - (a) sampo-sae suru
walk-even do
 - (b) bidoo-dani si-nai
budge-even do-not (Kageyama 1999:
314)

Two structures

(a) kare-wa [nihongo-no benkyoo]-o si-ta
he-top [Japanese-gen study]-acc do-past
'He did study of Japanese'

(b) kare-wa nihongo-o [benkyoo si-ta] on
benkyoo)
he-top Japanese-acc [study do-past]
'He studied Japanese'