

Scrambling in Polish and minimalist derivations

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This presentation focuses on the issue of clause internal scrambling in Polish viewed from the perspective of minimalist syntax. The presentation is divided into three sections.

In the first section it is shown, on the basis of clitic placement facts, focus propagation and the structure of idiomatic phrases, that Polish double object constructions exhibit strict word order of the following type:

(1) Subject – verb – indirect object – direct object.

The aim of this section is to show that any surface linearizations different from (1) must result from movement rather than base generation.

Section two presents the mechanics of scrambling as a movement triggered by the [+EPP] and [+P] features of the heads placed in the medial domain of the clause. It is argued that movement within this domain displays traits of A-bar movement and the order of objects is set at the edge of the verbal projection.

Section three presents two types of scrambling to the left peripheral position in the clause; one shows properties of A-movement and allows for the extension of the binding domain of the moved constituent, (2a), and the other shows properties of A-bar movement, easily facilitating reconstruction, (2b):

(2)

- a. Object – verb – subject
- b. Object – Subject – verb

The concluding section explores consequences of the view of scrambling presented above for the phenomenon of the bleeding of Weak Crossover (WCO) effects in Polish, long distance scrambling and the definition of A/A-bar positions in minimalism.

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