

## Binding by objects in Polish DOCs and *podobać się* 'to please'-type double object unaccusatives - testing theoretical accounts

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Binding by objects in Polish double object constructions (DOCs) is argued possible only for pronoun bindees; anaphors, possessive and reflexive, cannot be bound by objects (Willim 1989; Reinders-Machowska 1991; Witkoś 2003, 2007; Bondaruk and Szymanek (B&S) 2007, a.o.). Our experiment on possessive binding by objects in Polish DOCs (Exp1), serves to test these accounts. We divide the tested data into 16 conditions, based on four binary factors: a) predicate type (*polecić* 'to recommend' vs. *pokazać* 'to show', assumed to project a small clause), b) object order ( $IO_{DAT} > DO_{ACC}$  vs.  $DO_{DAT} > IO_{ACC}$ ), c) bindee type (anaphor vs. pronoun), d) bindee embedding (presence vs. absence). (2) presents one of the tested contexts. 79 Polish university students (67 women and 12 men,  $M_{age}=22.92$ ,  $SD=2.62$ ) rated acceptability of the data. The mean scores confirm the findings in the literature – a significant main effect of bindee type ( $F(1,32)=106.859$ ,  $p=.000$ ) was reported, supporting views on complementarity of anaphors and pronouns (Reinders-Machowska 1991). Moreover, statistical analysis indicates correlations not mentioned in the literature - two-way and three-way ANOVAs showed a significant interaction between case order and bindee type ( $F(1,32)=8.202$ ,  $p=.008$ ), with clearly better ratings for pronoun binding, as opposed to anaphora binding, in the  $IO_{DAT} > DO_{ACC}$  order, and less so in  $DO_{ACC} > IO_{DAT}$ .

Exp1's findings raise questions w.r.t. a ditransitive unaccusative analysis of the Polish *piacere*-type verb *podobać się* 'to please', exemplified in (3), proposed in Miechowicz-Mathiasen and Scheffler (MM&S) (2008). MM&S assume no external argument projection for *podobać się*; the verb is taken to be unaccusative. Two argument orderings are licensed -  $Ex(periencer)_{DAT}$ -verb- $Th(eme)_{NOM}$  and  $Th_{NOM}$ -verb- $Ex_{DAT}$  - whichever argument surfaces in the preverbal position, serves as the subject. Moreover, drawing on similarities between *podobać się* and DOCs, MM&S argue that the verb is a double object unaccusative. Following MM&S we assume that the  $Ex_{DAT}$  of *podobać się* corresponds to  $IO_{DAT}$  of DOCs and  $Th_{NOM}$  to  $DO_{ACC}$  of DOCs. In the light of Exp1's findings, we ask in Experiment 2 to what extent binding by objects in DOCs (Exp1) resembles binding effects found in *podobać się*.

Exp2 tests 16 conditions, based on four binary factors: a) position of binder (subject vs. object), b) type of binder ( $Ex_{DAT}$  vs.  $Th_{NOM}$ ), c) type of bindee (anaphor vs. pronoun), d) bindee's embedding (presence vs. absence). (4) illustrates one of the conditions. 72 Polish university students (69 women and 3 men,  $M_{age}=23.15$ ,  $SD=2.82$ ) rated Exp2's data. The results of two-way and three-way ANOVAs show a significant effect of the position of binder ( $F(1,16)=18.591$ ,  $p=.003$ ), the type of binder ( $F(1,16)=8.665$ ,  $p=.019$ ), and the type of bindee ( $F(1,16)=11.937$ ,  $p=.009$ ). A significant interaction between the type of binder and the type of bindee ( $F(1,16)=30.711$ ,  $p=.001$ ) is reported - possessive anaphors are rated more acceptable when bound by  $Th_{NOM}$ , whereas possessive pronouns are rated higher when bound by  $Ex_{DAT}$ . Moreover, Bonferroni corrected post hoc test shows that pronouns bound by  $Ex_{DAT}$  are rated significantly higher than pronouns bound by  $Th_{NOM}$ , and anaphors bound by  $Ex_{DAT}$ . We offer a discussion of the results.

### Data

- (1) a. Piotr<sub>1</sub> pokazał chłopca<sub>2</sub> sobie<sub>1/\*2</sub> (samemu) w lustrze. (Witkoś 2007: 458)  
Piotr<sub>NOM</sub> showed boy<sub>ACC</sub> self<sub>DAT</sub> (alone<sub>DAT</sub>) in mirror
- b. Marta<sub>1</sub> opowiedziała Markowi<sub>2</sub> o swojej<sub>1/\*2</sub> młodości. (B&S 2007: 78)  
Marta<sub>NOM</sub> told Mark<sub>DAT</sub> about self's youth
- c. Piotr<sub>1</sub> pokazał dziewczyny<sub>2</sub> sobie<sub>1/2</sub> (nawzajem) w lustrze. (Witkoś 2007: 458)

Piotr<sub>NOM</sub> showed girls<sub>ACC</sub> self<sub>DAT</sub> (reciprocally) in mirror

- (2) Exp 1 - example of a tested condition: *embedded possessive pronoun bindee in IO<sub>DAT</sub>>DO<sub>ACC</sub> object order of polecić 'to recommend'*

Przy ustalaniu planów weselnych, przyszła teściowa<sub>1</sub> poleciła Tomkowi<sub>2</sub>

During setting plans wedding, future<sub>NOM</sub> mother-in-law recommended Tomek<sub>DAT</sub>

restaurację jego<sub>2</sub> brata. (to restauracja brata Tomka).

restaurant<sub>ACC</sub> his<sub>GEN</sub> brother<sub>GEN</sub> (this (is) restaurant brother of Tomek).

- (3) a. Janowi podoba się mój dom. (MM&S 2008: 89)

Jan<sub>DAT</sub> likes REFL my house<sub>NOM</sub>,

b. Mój dom podoba się Janowi.

My house<sub>NOM</sub> likes REFL Jan<sub>DAT</sub>, ('Jan likes my house')

- (4) Exp2 – example of a tested condition: *embedded possessive pronoun bindee in IO<sub>DAT</sub>>DO<sub>ACC</sub> object order and a binder in subject position*

Podczas wspólnej podróży autostopem po Europie, Patrykowi spodobała się

During joint trip hitchhiking in Europe Patryk<sub>DAT</sub> liked REFL

koleżanka jego siostry.

friend<sub>NOM</sub> his<sub>GEN</sub> sister<sub>GEN</sub>

## References

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