

Sort out your Datives through binding

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The aim of this presentation is to examine the position of Dative arguments in the sentence on the basis of their A-binding scope. The proposal is built on the analyses of Hestvik (1992) and Nikolaeva (2014) and the concept of spell-out driven index raising. In this approach the ability to A-bind depends on the configuration of the DP antecedent and the pronoun/anaphor, wherein pronouns and anaphors are indices that covertly raise to certain positions and get spelled out as anaphoric (when bound at the landing site) or pronominal (the elsewhere case). In Nikolaeva's system, an index first tucks in as an inner specifier of VP, and then head-moves first to *v* and then (optionally) to T (1=4b).

(1) [_{TP} T-(index) [_{VP} Maria_{DAT} [_{v'} (index) [sorrow [index friend_{GEN}]]]]

All positions of the Dative argument are classified into three fields: (2a) **the low field**, a position internal to VP from which the Dative is not expected to bind an anaphoric pronoun, (2b) **the medial field**, a position in [Spec, *v*] or high applicative in [Spec, Appl], where the Dative-marked argument shows certain traits of subject-like behaviour but at the same time tolerates co-indexed pronominal possessives, (2c) **the high field**, typical of dative-marked arguments in Russian Main Clause Infinitives (MCI, Moor and Perlmutter 2000), which behave like a nominative subject in the sense that they exclusively bind anaphoric pronouns and possessive reflexives; fairly obsolete in Polish.

Polish data show that both the REFL pronoun and the REFL possessive seem to be NOM subject oriented (cf. 3). DAT arguments used as objects cannot bind reflexives and their position in ex. (3) corresponds to (2a).

(3) Jan₁ pokazał Marii₂ [swoje_{1,*2} /jej₂ /*jego₁ zdjęcie].
Jan_{NOM} showed Maria_{DAT} self / her / his picture
'Jan showed Maria his/her picture.'

However, when the DAT-marked nominal is used with psych-predicates, it can act as a binder for the anaphor and a pronoun:

(4) a. Janowi₁ spodobały się listy do siebie_{1/niego₁} // od swoich₁ /jego₁ fanek.
Jan_{DAT} liked letters to self /him //from self's /his fans
'Jan liked letters to him/from his fans.'
b. Marii₁ żal było swojej₁ /jej₁ koleżanki.
Maria_{DAT} sorrow-3SG.M was-3SG.N self's /her friend-3SG.F.GEN
'Maria felt sorry for her female friend.'

Additionally, Witkoś (2008) and Tajsner (2008) show that a DAT-marked argument can A-bind into the NOM-marked constituent (cf. 5). This fact, coupled with the data in (4a), helps to diagnose the position of DAT here as a position corresponding to (2b).

(5) [Nowakom₂]_{Dat} spodobała się [nowa książka Kowalskich₁ o sobie_{1,2}]_{Nom}.
Nowaks_{DAT} liked new book_{NOM} Kowalskis' about self
'The Nowaks liked the new book by the Kowalskis about themselves/them.'