

Condition C reconstruction in German: Methodological insights and theoretical implications

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MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- The first experimental investigation of reconstruction in German A'-movement
- We propose an updated method to elicit coreference judgments
- Most important results:
 - Condition C reconstruction in German *wh*-movement is more robust than reported in recent experimental work on English (preference for non-coreference with DP-arguments)
 - There is no evidence for an argument-adjunct asymmetry
 - Asymmetry between different types of A'-movement: Reconstruction in relative clauses is much weaker than in *wh*-movement
 - The results by and large confirm introspective claims about Condition C reconstruction in German

1 Background: Reconstruction in A'-movement

1.1 Theoretical aspects

- evidence for movement (movement vs. base-generation, cf., e.g., Aoun et al. 2001)
- Principle C: reconstruction to the lowest position obligatory (but see below)
 - (1) *[Which picture of John_i] do you think he_i likes __.
- argument-adjunct asymmetries: only R-expressions inside arguments trigger Principle C effects, R-expressions inside adjuncts don't (merged late), cf. van Riemsdijk and Williams (1981: 201–204), Freidin (1986: 179), Lebeaux (1988, 1990, 1991), Fox (1999), Safir (1999):
 - (2) a. *[Which claim that Mary had offended John_i]₁ did he_i repeat __₁?
b. [Which claim that offended John_i]₁ did he_i repeat __₁
 - (3) a. *[Which pictures of John_i] did he_i destroy __?
b. [Which pictures near John_i] did he_i destroy __?
- predicate-/argument-asymmetries: predicates obligatorily reconstruct (contain trace of local subject/are non-referential), arguments do not (always), cf. Huang (1993), Heycock (1995)
 - distance effect: Principle C effects decrease with increasing distance between R-expression and pronoun (Huang 1993: 110, or even vanish, cf. Heycock 1995: 548ff.) under embedding with arguments but not with predicates:
 - (4) a. ?*How many pictures of John_i does he_i think that I like __?
b. ?How many pictures of John_i do you think that he_i will like __?
 - (5) a. ?*How proud of John_i does he_i think I should be __?
b. *How proud of John_i do you think he_i should be __?

1.2 Empirical aspects

1.2.1 English

- Principle C in English: contested facts
 - Presence of Condition C effects under A'-movement questioned quite generally, cf. Heycock (1995), Fox (1999), Fischer (2002, 2004), Henderson (2007); cf. Safir (1999: 609)
 - (6) a. [Whose criticism of Lee_i]₁ did he_i choose to ignore __₁?
 - b. [Which picture of John_i]₁ does he_i like best __₁?
 - c. [Most articles about Mary_i]₁ I am sure she_i hates __₁.
 - d. [That John_i had seen the movie]₁ he_i never admitted __₁.
 - Relative clauses are sometimes claimed to display weaker Condition C effects than *wh*-movement/no Condition C effects whatsoever; either because the RC-internal representation of the external head can be deleted without violating recoverability (Munn 1994, Citko 2001) or because of vehicle change (Sauerland 1998, 2003):
 - (7) a. The [picture of John_i] [_{CP} which [~~picture of John_i~~] he_i saw [x ~~picture of John_i~~] in the paper] is very flattering.
 - b. The [picture of John_i] [_{CP} which [~~picture of him_i~~] he_i saw [x picture of **him_i**] in the paper] is very flattering.
 - * Condition C effects in RCs have been argued to reappear once reconstruction is independently required (e.g. for idiom interpretation/variable binding), cf. Sauerland (2003), but see Heycock (to appear) and Salzmann (2006, 2017: 158–167) for counter-evidence
 - argument-adjunct asymmetry
 - * What qualifies as an argument/adjunct? Noun-complement clauses may not be complements after all (Stowell 1981); the status of PP-modifiers is contested; the clearest contrasts seem to involve event nominals, cf. Safir (1999: 589, note 1)
 - * asymmetry has been generally called into question, cf. Fischer (2004: 161f.) for ex. showing reconstruction with adjuncts and non-reconstruction with arguments
 - confound: implicit PRO:

Normally, both pronouns and reflexives are possible inside picture NPs, cf. (8-a); in some semi-idiomatic expressions, however, only the reflexive is possible, (8-b); possible explanation: these NPs contain an implicit PRO that binds the reflexive, cf. (8-c) → binding can obtain in the absence of reconstruction; (9) is thus ungrammatical independently of reconstruction:

 - (8) a. Lucie_i saw a picture of her_i/herself_i.
 - b. Lucie_i told a story about *her_i/herself_i.
 - c. Lucie_i told [PRO_i a story about *her_i/herself_i].
 - (9) *[Which PRO_i picture of John_i] did he_i take __?

→ one should test nouns where a coreferential PRO is ruled out, either because the PRO would be disjoint or because the noun is unaccusative and thus lacks an external argument (Bianchi 1999: 118–119, Cecchetto 2005: 16–18)
- experimental work (Adger et al. 2017, Bruening and Al Khalaf to appear) provides evidence against Condition C reconstruction (with arguments) and argument-adjunct asymmetries

1.2.2 German

- Principle C effects are robust in *wh*-movement/topicalization but weak/absent in relativization, according to Salzman (2006, 2017, to appear):

- (10) a. *[Welche Nachforschungen über Peter_i]₁ hätte er_i dir lieber __₁
 which investigations about Peter] had.SBJV.3SG he you.DAT rather
 verschwiegen?
 conceal.PTCP
 lit.: ‘Which investigations about Peter_i would he_i have rather concealed from you?’
- b. die [Nachforschungen über Peter_i], [die er_i mir lieber __ verschwiegen
 the investigations about Peter which he me rather conceal.PTCP
 hätte]
 have.SBJV.3SG
 ‘the investigations about Peter_i that he_i would have rather concealed from me’

- Condition C effects remain absent in relativization even if reconstruction is independently required (e.g. for idiom interpretation; lit.: break a fight off the fence = ‘start a fight’; cf. Salzman 2017: 163ff.):

- (11) Der [Streit über Peter’s Kritik an Maria_i], [den sie_i __ vom Zaun gebrochen
 the fight about Peter’s criticism of Mary which she off.the fence break.PTCP
 hat], nervt mich.
 have.3SG annoy.3SG me
 ‘The fight about Peter’s criticism of Mary_i that she_i started annoys me.’

2 Experiments: Reconstruction in German A'-movement

2.1 Method

- We did not directly ask for coreference judgments as in Adger et al. (2017)
- We adapt the embedding method from Bruening and Al Khalaf (to appear):
 - indirect questions
 - participants are presented with two potential antecedents for a pronoun: the R-expression inside the moved *wh*-phrase and an R-expression in the matrix clause
 - a question after the item then asks for the referent of the local subject
- But we explicitly asked for each of the readings whether it is possible or not (two separate yes/no questions), as illustrated in the (translated) example below; cf. app. 1 for German ex.

Maria tells us how proud of Anna she is.

Can this sentence be interpreted such that...

...Mary is proud?

Yes

No

...Anna is proud?

Yes

No

- explicit information about coreference possibilities
- optionality can be captured; we partly did this as we were also investigating reconstruction for Principle A (binding in final and intermediate landing sites, cf. Appendix 3)
- In the questions, we did not use pronouns in order to exclude potential Principle A or C effects there. For example, we avoided asking questions like “Is Mary proud of Mary?” (cf. Featherston 2002, who used sentences like “Martin saw Martin” to enforce the intended reading in their experiment on binding in double objects).
- The presentation order of referents (*Mary/Anna*) in the answers was balanced (50:50).
- Five experiments (32/48/36/36/32 participants, respectively), using www.socisurvey.de.
- Participants recruited within Uni Potsdam for Exps 1–4, externally for Exp5 (prolific.ac).
- Latin Square Design, 1:1 proportion of items and fillers
- Fillers also investigated interpretation possibilities with two referents in various constructions (control, asymmetric coordination, ambiguity etc., see appendix 2). They were used to test whether subjects paid attention and understood the task as intended.

2.2 Design

Factors

- in situ vs. moved
 - distance between pronoun and R-expression (linear and structural)
 - DPs (arguments) vs. APs (predicates)
 - R-expression inside argument vs. R-expression inside adjunct (DP-arguments only)
 - *wh*-movement vs. relativization
- For an example of a complete item set (in German), see appendix 1.

2.2.1 Principle C in *wh*-movement – Conditions

- (12) APs (predicates)
- a. **Mary** tells (us) that she is very proud of **Anna**. *in situ*
- b. **Mary** tells (us) [how proud of **Anna**] she is _____. *moved*
- Principle C predicts: coreference between *she* and *Anna* impossible.
- (13) DPs – R-expression inside argument
- a. **Mary** tells (us) that she saw a statue of **Anna**. *in situ*
- b. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of **Anna**] she saw _____. *moved*
- Principle C predicts: coreference between *she* and *Anna* impossible
- (14) DPs – R-expression inside adjunct
- a. **Mary** tells (us) that she saw a statue on the desk of **Anna**. *in situ*
- b. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue on the desk of **Anna**] she saw _____. *moved*
- Late merger predicts: coreference between *she* and *Anna* is possible
- argument vs. adjunct: R-expression contained in PP argument or PP adjunct to N
 - PP-arguments mostly involved selected prepositions: *an* ‘at/to’, *über* ‘about’, *für* ‘for’ etc.
 - ~50% of the nouns were event nominals (*ung*-derivations), ~50% were underived (e.g. statue, portrait, rumor) or verb-related (anger, hate, attack) → the former are more likely to take proper arguments (*ung*-derivations vs. other nouns did not end up behaving differently in the experiments)
 - a coreferential implicit PRO was ruled out (either unacc. noun or disjoint agent, cf. rumor)
 - linear distance (local extraction): by means of NP-coordination, the linear distance between the R-expression and the pronoun in the *moved* condition was increased.
- (15) a. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of **Anna**] she saw _____. *short*
- b. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of **Anna** and the siblings] she saw _____. *coord*
- structural distance (another level of embedding):
 - ‘embedding 1’: R-expression and pronoun are not clausemates underlyingly.
 - ‘embedding 2’: R-expression and pronoun are clausemates underlyingly.
- (16) a. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of **Anna**] she thinks that you saw _____. *emb 1*
- b. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of **Anna**] you think that she saw _____. *emb 2*
- These conditions were adopted from Adger et al. (2017) and served to test the predictions of approaches in terms of Vehicle Change:
 - Ellipsis: R-expression in antecedent can correspond to pronoun in ellipsis site:

(17) John likes Mary and she thinks that I do, too < like **her** >.
 - Vehicle Change extended to A'-movement chains (Safir 1999): R-expression in higher copy can correspond to pronoun in lower copy.
 - Under Vehicle Change, the Principle C effect should vanish with nouns and adjectives, but in the ‘embedding 2’ structure, a Principle B effect should arise with adjectives (not with nouns):

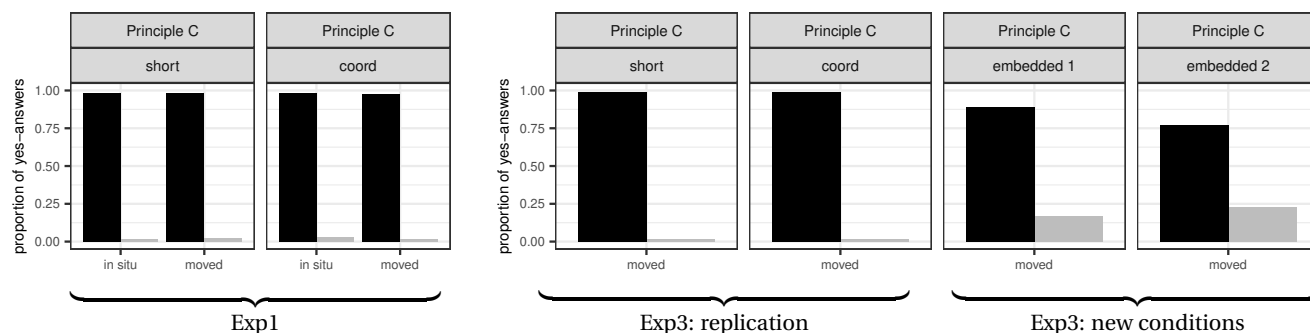
(18) a. How proud of Anna does she think that you are < how proud of her >. *emb 1*

b. *How proud of Anna do you think that she is < how proud of her >. *emb 2*

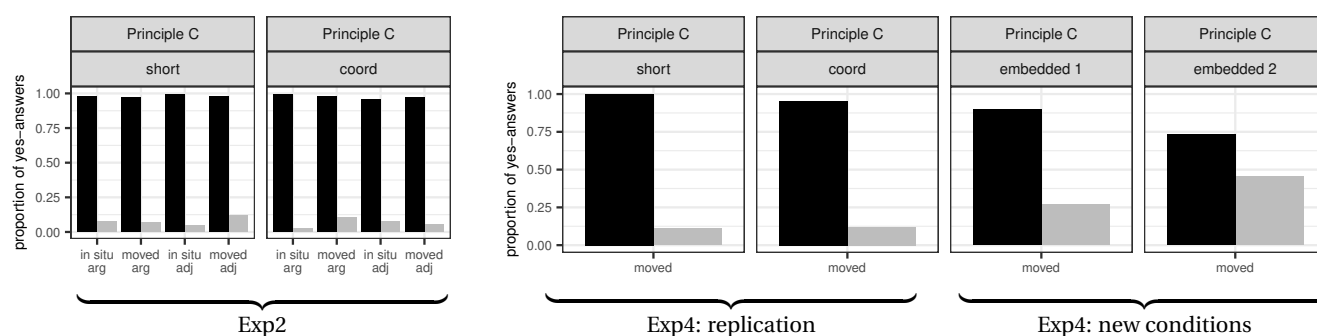
2.2.2 Principle C in *wh*-movement – Results

PRINCIPLE C IN *wh*-MOVEMENT – APS

■ Q1 (matrix subject), ■ Q2 (local subject)



PRINCIPLE C IN *wh*-MOVEMENT – DPs



2.2.3 Principle C in *wh*-movement – Main findings¹

- Reconstruction is very robust across conditions, and with both DP-arguments and adjectival predicates²
- No support for the predicted argument-adjunct asymmetry (argues against a late-merger approach)³
- Significant effect of embedding (but not of linear distance),⁴ but unlike in Adger et al. (2017), there remains a clear preference for non-coreference
- No evidence for Vehicle Change (reverse pattern: more acceptance of coreference with the lower R-expression for embedding 2 than embedding 1)

¹All statistical results reported in this section are based on univariate GLMMs with yes-answers to Q2 (main indicator of Principle C violations) as the dependent variable. They were fit following the recommendations for identifying parsimonious models by Bates, Kliegl, Vasishth and Baayen (2015) using the R packages lme4 and lmerTest (R Core Team 2016, Bates, Mächler, Bolker and Walker 2015, Kuznetsova et al. 2017).

²No significant effect of/interaction with movement in the Principle C conditions of exp 1 (linear distance: $z = 0.96$, $p = 0.33$; movement: $z = 0.52$, $p = 0.60$; dist:mov: $z = -1.04$, $p = 0.30$; all binary factors sum-coded). See next footnote for a qualification concerning exp 2.

³In exp 2, there is a numerically small but significant three-way interaction between distance, movement, and arg./adj. ($z = 2.83$, $p = 0.005$): there is less reconstruction with adjuncts in the short conditions; in the coord. conditions, the opposite holds. But it is not the case that there is generally less reconstruction with adjuncts.

⁴In comparison to the short, local baseline increasing linear distance via coordination does not make a significant difference in exps 3 + 4, but embedding does (exp3: coord: $z = -0.009$, $p = 0.99$; emb1: $z = 3.30$, $p < 0.001$; emb2: $z = 3.92$, $p < 0.001$; exp 4: coord: $z = 0.23$, $p = 0.81$; emb1: $z = 3.17$, $p = 0.002$; emb2: $z = 5.65$, $p < 0.001$).

2.2.4 Principle C in relativization – Conditions

Peter mentioned every statue of Robert which he saw.

Can this sentence be interpreted such that...

...Peter saw the statues? Yes No

...Robert saw the statues? Yes No

- A universal quantifier was used to ensure a restrictive reading of the relative clause.
- Proper names and head nouns were chosen in such a way (with respect to number and gender) that the interpretation of the relative pronoun was unambiguous (was only compatible with the head noun).

(19) Factor distance in relativization

- Peter** mentioned [every statue of **Robert**] which he saw ____. *short*
- Peter** mentioned [every statue of **Robert** and the deer] which he saw ____. *coord*
- Peter** mentioned [every statue of **Robert**] which he thinks that you saw ____. *emb1*
- Peter** mentioned [every statue of **Robert**] which you think that he saw ____. *emb2*

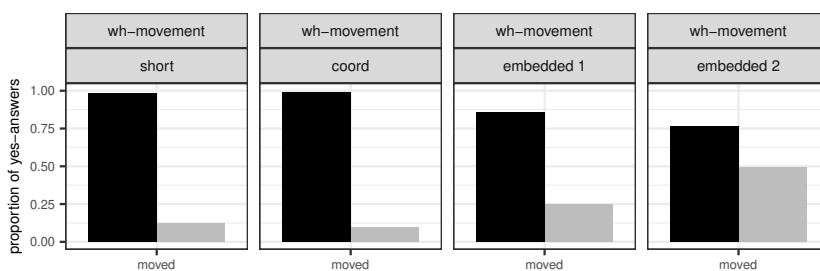
(20) *wh*-movement vs. relativization:

- Peter** mentioned [which statue of **Robert**] he saw _____. *wh-movement*
- Peter** mentioned [every statue of **Robert**] which he saw _____. *relativization*

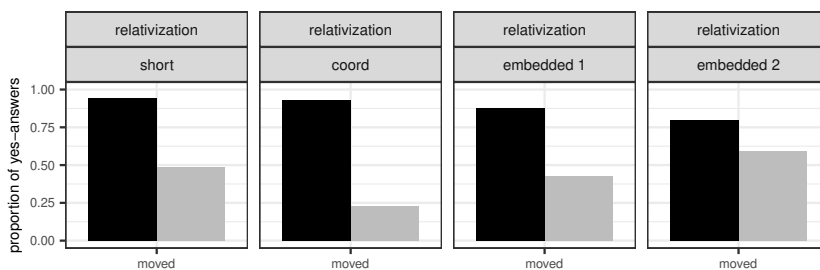
2.2.5 Principle C in relativization – Results

PRINCIPLE C IN *wh*-MOVEMENT VS. RELATIVIZATION

■ Q1 (matrix subject), ■ Q2 (local subject)



Exp5: replication



Exp5: new conditions

2.2.6 Principle C in relativization – Main findings

- In the short condition, there is less reconstruction in relativization than in *wh*-movement.⁵
- In all other conditions, the difference between *wh*-movement and relativization is less pronounced.⁶
- *Wh*-movement differs significantly from relativization in the following conditions: short, coordination, and embedded 1.⁷
- possible theoretical interpretations
 - the findings argue against a full representation of the external head in the RC-internal bottom position as under the head raising analysis
 - a recoverability-based account can motivate the higher acceptance of coreference (but not why it is lower than non-coreference), but cannot explain the difference between the distance conditions
 - A vehicle change account can motivate the higher acceptance of coreference (but not why it is lower than non-coreference), but cannot explain the difference between the distance conditions if speakers accept coreferential pronouns within NPs:

- (21)
- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| a. | He _i likes the statue of him _i (and the deer) | <i>short/coord</i> |
| b. | He _i thinks that you like the statue of him _i . | <i>emb1</i> |
| c. | You think that he _i likes the statue of him _i . | <i>emb2</i> |

- A vehicle change account fails completely if speakers do not accept coreferential pronouns within NPs: *emb1* should be much better than *short/coord* and *emb2*

3 Methodological insights

- The basic findings from experiments 1–2 were replicated in experiments 3–5, supporting the reliability of our method.
- The responses to the fillers were consistent and mostly in line with the expectations (see appendix 2), confirming that subjects understood the task as intended and were paying attention.
- In experiment 3–5, we additionally collected acceptability ratings for the sentences (on a 1–7 scale), because the acceptability of long-distance movement varies between speakers. A first inspection of the data suggests that the coreference judgment patterns are robust even for speakers who gave long-distance movement items low acceptability ratings.
- We did not find support for speaker groups with clearly distinct grammars: a by-subject analysis did not reveal a split between participants with respect to reconstruction possibilities, but rather a gradient pattern (unimodal distribution, at least in the short + coord conditions).

⁵Significant effect of movement type at the short baseline level of distance: $z = 6.67$, $p < 0.001$.

⁶Significant interaction between movement type and distance at all other levels in comparison to the short baseline condition: *coord*: $z = 2.07$, $p = 0.04$, *emb1*: $z = 2.92$, $p = 0.004$, *emb2*: $z = 4.12$, $p < 0.001$.

⁷According to a post-hoc Tukey test with $\alpha = 0.05$.

4 Conclusion

- *wh*-movement
 - reconstruction is very robust across conditions, with both DP-arguments and adjectival predicates
 - no argument-adjunct asymmetry; the type of noun (unaccusative vs. transitive, event nominal vs. underived) had no influence
 - small effect of embedding, but (unlike in experiments on English) there remains a strong preference for non-coreference
- Relativization
 - reconstruction is less robust than in *wh*-movement: significant difference in short, coord, and embedding 1 conditions
 - the difference is most pronounced in the short condition
- theoretical implications
 - robust reconstruction in *wh*-movement suggests the presence of a full representation of the antecedent in the bottom position, especially with predicates
 - absence of an argument-adjunct asymmetry argues against Late Merger
 - reduced reconstruction in relativization argues against analyses that posit a full representation of the external head inside the RC; alternatives such as the matching analysis with vehicle change or optional deletion of the lower copy seem descriptively more adequate but cannot do justice to the full paradigm
 - Some of the facts, especially the embedding effect, suggest that non-syntactic factors play an important role
- further observations
 - the results for long-distance relativization, which is quite degraded in Standard German, are similar to those for prolepsis (part of the fillers), the unmarked strategy for long-distance relativization; this is in line with claims in Salzmann (2006, 2017):

(22) die Statue von Peter_i, von der du denkst, dass er_i sie gesehen hat
the statue of Peter of which he thinks that you it seen have.2SG
'the statue of Peter_i of which he_i thinks that you saw it'
 - RC-extraposition (part of the fillers) slightly increases the possibility of coreference (\approx 43% vs. 52%)

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5 Appendix 1: Items: original German version

Experiment 1: adjectival predicates (local movement)

- (23) Principle A
- a. **Maria** erzählt, dass **Anna** sehr stolz auf **sich** (und die Mannschaften) ist. *in situ*
- b. **Maria** erzählt, [wie stolz auf **sich** (und die Mannschaften)] **Anna** __ ist. *moved*
- Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass jmd stolz auf **Maria** (und die Mannsch.) ist?
- Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass jmd stolz auf **Anna** (und die Mannsch.) ist?
- (24) Principle C
- a. **Maria** erzählt, dass **sie** sehr stolz auf **Anna** (und die Mannschaften) ist. *in situ*
- b. **Maria** erzählt, [wie stolz auf **Anna** (und die Mannschaften)] **sie** __ ist. *moved*
- Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Maria** stolz ist?
- Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Anna** stolz ist?

Experiment 2: nominal arguments (local movement)

- (25) Principle A
- a. **Maria** erzählt, dass **Anna** die Statue von **sich** (und den Geschwistern) gesehen hat. *in situ*
- b. **Maria** erzählt, [welche Statue von **sich** (und den Geschw.)] **Anna** __ gesehen hat. *moved*
- Q1: ...so verstehen, dass jmd eine Statue von **Maria** (und den Geschw.) gesehen hat?
- Q2: ...so verstehen, dass jmd eine Statue von **Anna** (und den Geschw.) gesehen hat?
- (26) Principle C (argument)
- a. **Maria** erzählt, dass **sie** die Statue von **Anna** (und den Geschwistern) gesehen hat. *in situ*
- b. **Maria** erzählt, [welche Statue von **Anna** (und den Geschw.)] **sie** __ gesehen hat. *moved*
- Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Maria** eine Statue gesehen hat?
- Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Anna** eine Statue gesehen hat?
- (27) Principle C (adjunct)
- a. **Maria** erzählt, dass **sie** die Statue auf dem Tisch von **Anna** (und...) gesehen hat. *in situ*
- b. **Maria** erzählt, [welche Statue auf dem Tisch von **Anna** (und...)] **sie** __ gesehen hat. *moved*
- Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Maria** eine Statue gesehen hat?
- Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Anna** eine Statue gesehen hat?

Experiment 3: adjectival predicates (local and long-distance movement)

- (28) Principle A (only additional conditions):
- a. **Maria** erzählt, dass **Anna** denkt, dass du sehr stolz auf sich bist. *in situ, emb 1*
 - b. **Maria** erzählt, [wie stolz auf sich] **Anna** denkt, dass du ___ bist. *moved, emb 1*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du stolz auf **Maria** bist?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du stolz auf **Anna** bist?
 - c. **Maria** erzählt, dass du denkst, dass **Anna** sehr stolz auf sich ist. *in situ, emb 2*
 - d. **Maria** erzählt, [wie stolz auf sich] du denkst, dass **Anna** ___ ist. *moved, emb 2*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass jemand stolz auf **Maria** ist?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass jemand stolz auf **Anna** ist?
- (29) Principle C (only additional conditions):
- a. **Maria** erzählt, [wie stolz auf **Anna**] sie denkt, dass du ___ bist. *moved, emb 1*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Maria** denkt, dass du stolz bist?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Anna** denkt, dass du stolz bist?
 - b. **Maria** erzählt, [wie stolz auf **Anna**] du denkst, dass sie ___ ist. *moved, emb 2*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass **Maria** stolz ist?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass **Anna** stolz ist?

Experiment 4: nominal arguments (local and long-distance movement)

- (30) Principle A (only additional conditions):
- a. **Maria** erzählt, dass **Anna** denkt, dass du die Statue von sich gesehen hast. *in situ, emb 1*
 - b. **Maria** erzählt, [welche Statue von sich] **Anna** denkt, dass du ___ gesehen hast. *mvd, emb 1*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du eine Statue von **Maria** gesehen hast?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du eine Statue von **Anna** gesehen hast?
 - c. **Maria** erzählt, dass du denkst, dass **Anna** eine Statue von sich gesehen hat. *in situ, emb 2*
 - d. **Maria** erzählt, [welche Statue von sich] du denkst, dass **Anna** ___ gesehen hat. *mvd, emb 2*
 → Q1: ...so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass jmd eine Statue von **Maria** gesehen hat?
 → Q2: ...so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass jmd eine Statue von **Anna** gesehen hat?
- (31) Principle C (only additional conditions):
- a. **Maria** erzählt, [welche Statue von **Anna**] sie denkt, dass du ___ gesehen hast. *mvd, emb 1*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Maria** denkt, dass du eine Statue gesehen hast?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Anna** denkt, dass du eine Statue gesehen hast?
 - b. **Maria** erzählt, [welche Statue von **Anna**] du denkst, dass sie ___ gesehen hat. *mvd, emb 2*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass **Maria** eine Statue gesehen hat?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass **Anna** eine Statue gesehen hat?

Experiment 5: *wh*-movement vs. relativization

- (32) Relativization in Principle C (only additional conditions)
- a. **Hans** erwähnte jede Statue von **Peter** (und dem Team), die er gesehen hat.
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Hans** die Statuen gesehen hat?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Peter** die Statuen gesehen hat?
 - b. **Hans** erwähnte jede Statue von **Peter**, die er denkt, dass du gesehen hast. *emb1*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Hans** denkt, dass du die Statuen gesehen hast?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass **Peter** denkt, dass du die Statuen gesehen hast?
 - c. **Hans** erwähnte jede Statue von **Peter**, die du denkst, dass er gesehen hat. *emb2*
 → Q1: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass **Hans** die Statuen gesehen hat?
 → Q2: Kann man den Satz so verstehen, dass du denkst, dass **Peter** die Statuen gesehen hat?

6 Appendix 2: Fillers

- (Almost) the same filler materials were included in all experiments.
- They were all constructed in such a way that two yes/no questions could be asked about their interpretation, to keep the task constant.
- Description of the filler groups:
 1. Subject/object control

Anja hat Markus versprochen, in der WG die Möbel umzustellen.
 ‘Anja promised Markus to rearrange the furniture in the shared apartment.’
 → Will Anja/Markus rearrange the furniture?
 2. VP coordination (1/3: SVO, 2/4: OVS)

Die Chefin rief den Assistenten an und machte sich Notizen. SVO
 ‘The boss[NOM] called the assistant[ACC] and took some notes.’
 → Did the boss/assistant take notes?

Den Kollegen kritisierte die Ingenieurin und ging nach draußen. OVS
 ‘The colleague[ACC] criticized the engineer[NOM] and left.’
 → Did the colleague/engineer leave?
 3. Relative clauses (1/3: non-ambiguous, 2/4: ambiguous)

P. hat erzählt, dass der Schüler, den er geärgert hat, eine Strafarbeit bekommen hat. *non-amb*
 ‘Peter told us that the student who he teased got a punishment.’
 → Did Peter/the student tease someone?

Leyla hat erzählt, dass die Verwandte, die sie besucht hat, in Budapest wohnt. *amb*
 ‘Leyla told us that the relative {who she visited | who visited her} lives in Budapest.’
 → Did Leyla/the relative visit someone?
 4. Case ambiguity

Die Königin hat die Herzogin eingeladen.
 ‘The queen[ACC/NOM] invited the duchess[ACC/NOM].’
 → Did the queen invite someone?
 5. PP attachment ambiguity

Linus hat erzählt, dass er den Nachbarn mit dem Teleskop beobachtet.
 ‘Linus told us that he observes the neighbor with a telescope.’
 → Does the neighbor/Linus have/use a telescope?
 6. Long movement

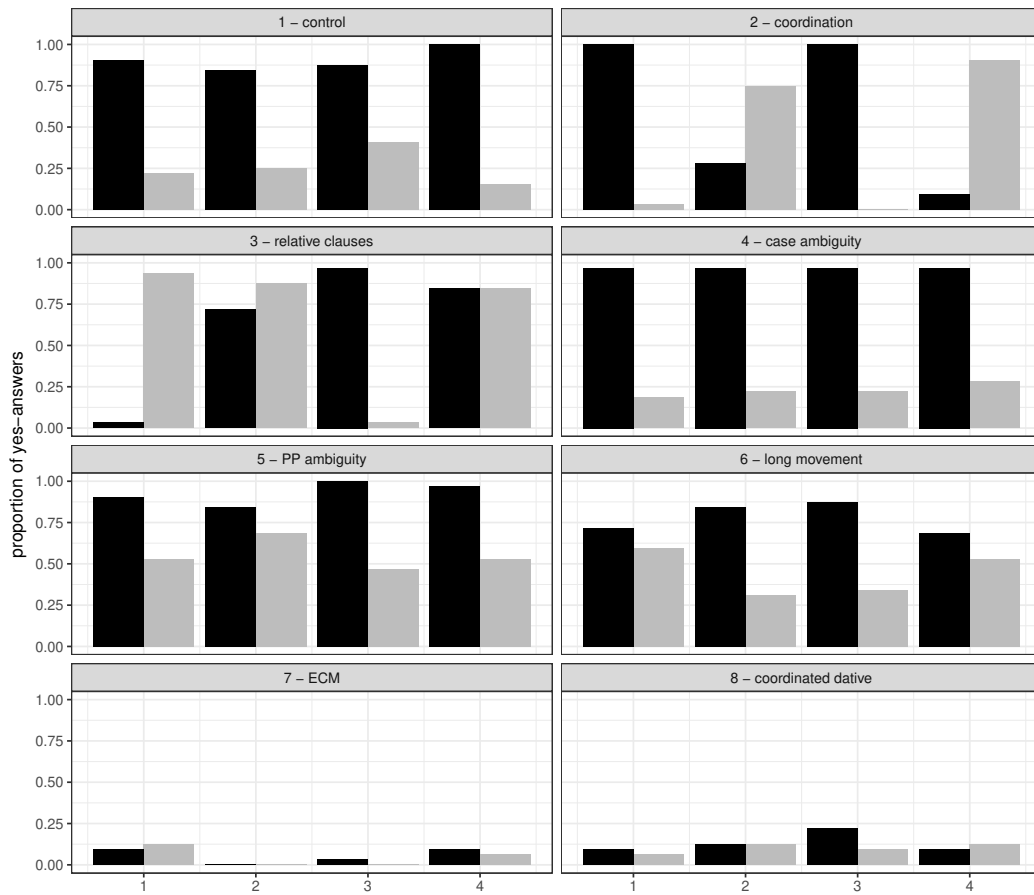
Welches Bild von sich denkt Paula, dass Isabell hochgeladen hat?
 ‘Which picture of herself does Paula think that Isabell uploaded?’
 → Is the sentence about a picture of Paula/Isabell?
 7. ECM

Gustav hat erzählt, dass Karl und Jonas ihn Bücher einscannen ließen.
 ‘Gustav told us that Karl and Jonas had him scan books.’
 → Did Karl/Jonas scan books?
 8. Coordinated dative

Gabriel hat Egon und Lars erzählt, dass er nach München ziehen will.
 ‘Gabriel told Egon and Lars that he wants to move to Munich.’
 → Did Egon/Lars move to Munich?

FILLER RESULTS (FROM EXPERIMENT 1)

■ Q1 (matrix subject), ■ Q2 (local subject)



7 Appendix 3 – Principle A

7.1 Principle A in *wh*-movement – conditions

(33) Principle A: APs (predicates)

a. **Mary** tells (us) that **Anna** is very proud of herself. *in situ*

b. **Mary** tells (us) [how proud of herself] **Anna** is _____. *moved*

Principle A predicts: coreference between *herself* and *Anna* possible (obligatory if AP contains trace of subject).

(34) Principle A: DPs

a. **Mary** tells (us) that **Anna** saw the statue of herself. *in situ*

b. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of herself] **Anna** saw _____. *moved*

Principle A predicts: coreference between *herself* and *Anna* possible.

- linear distance between anaphor and R-expression: increased by means of NP-coordination

(35) a. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of herself] **Anna** saw _____. *short*

b. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of herself and the teams] **Anna** saw _____. *coord*

- structural distance: embedding

- ‘embedding 1’: R-expression and anaphor are not clausemates underlyingly.

- ‘embedding 2’: R-expression and anaphor are clausemates underlyingly.

(36) a. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of herself] **Anna** thinks that you saw _____. *emb 1*

b. **Mary** tells (us) [which statue of herself] you think that **Anna** saw _____. *emb 2*

- if full reconstruction is obligatory, *Anna* and *herself* can be coreferential only in emb 2

- if binding in intermediate position is possible, *Anna* and *herself* can be coreferential in emb 1 as well (at least with DPs)

- if Vehicle Change is possible (*herself* → *her*), *Anna* can be antecedent for *herself* in emb 1 without binding in intermediate position

- Further predictions of Vehicle Change for Principle A

- binding by matrix subject *Mary* possible (even if interpretation in final landing site impossible)

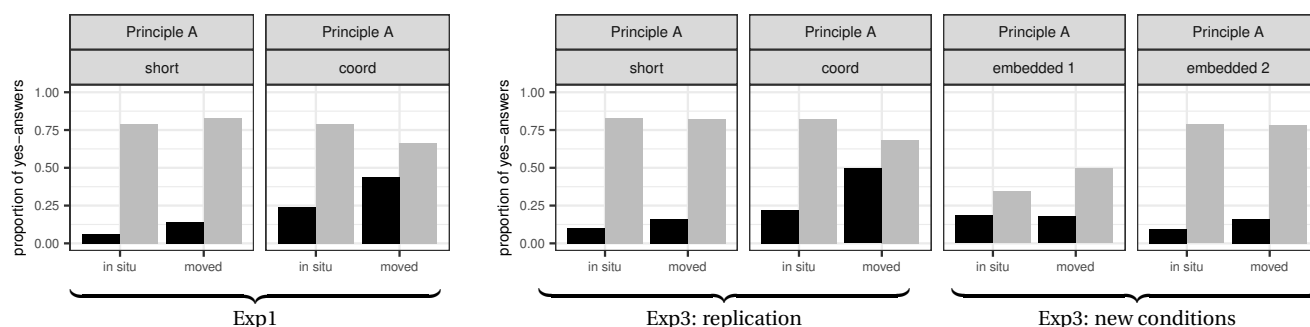
- matrix binding should then only be possible in the moved condition but not in-situ (Vehicle Change only applies to movement chains)

- Vehicle Change should have the same effect with APs and DPs (w.r.t. matrix and intermediate binding)

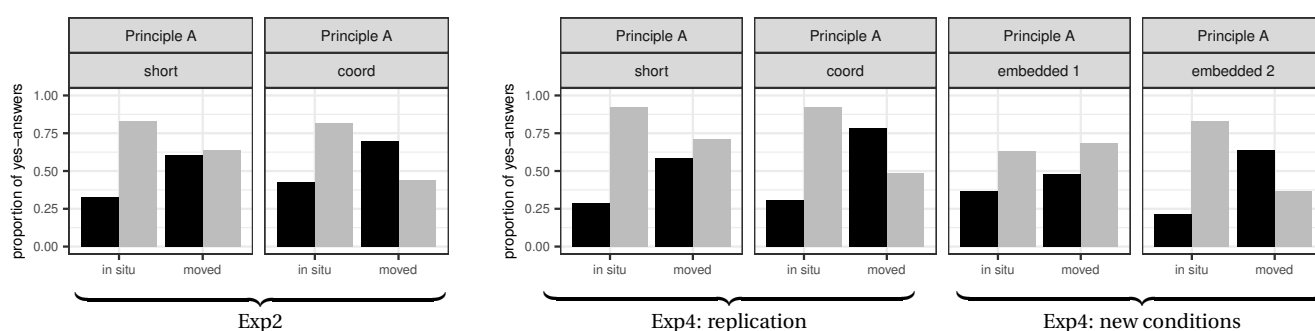
7.2 Principle A in *wh*-movement – Results

PRINCIPLE A IN *wh*-MOVEMENT – APs

■ Q1 (matrix subject), ■ Q2 (local subject)



PRINCIPLE A IN *wh*-MOVEMENT – DPs



7.2.1 Principle A in *wh*-movement – Main findings

- Reconstruction for Principle A is less systematic than for Principle C⁸
- Reconstruction for Principle A is more likely with predicates than with arguments
- APs (predicates): reconstruction all the way down preferred, but
 - intermediate binding accepted by 50% (argues against obligatory trace of subject within AP)
 - matrix binding much less acceptable (argues against Vehicle Change)
- DPs:
 - Intermediate binding accepted by 70% (against claims in the literature); fillers testing intermediate binding also showed a high acceptance rate: 65–87%
 - Matrix binding accepted by 50–60% (against claims in the literature)
 - Both argue against the presence of a silent PRO within DP
- Open issues:
 - With DPs, there is a surprisingly high proportion of matrix binding even in the short in situ condition. Can this be considered evidence for logophoric anaphor binding in German?
 - The presence of coordination has a strong effect on the availability of matrix binding with adjectival predicates⁹. This could mean that a larger linear distance between the anaphor and the potential local binder makes this binding relation less likely. But then, the same effect would be expected for the ‘embedding 2’ structure; there, a similar increase of matrix binding is observed only for nominals, but not for adjectives.

⁸Sign. interaction between movement and linear dist. in exp 1 ($z = -2.44$, $p = 0.01$) and exp 2 ($z = -2.29$, $p = 0.02$).

⁹According to a univariate GLMM with yes-answers to Q1 as the dependent variable, there was a significant effect of linear distance in exp 1: $z = 3.25$, $p = 0.001$.