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Verbal Complexes (review)

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This is a very ambitious volume, full of ideas to consider. The many examples give an excellent sense of the scope of CM data. Because M is a major figure in contact studies, the volume certainly deserves attention from contact scholars. Also, insofar as M shows that languages are not inviolate fortresses, the volume should interest researchers in morphology and syntax.

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Verbal complexes. By HILDA KOOPMAN AND ANNA SZABOLCSI (Current studies in linguistics 34.) Cambridge, MA. MIT Press, 2000. Pp. xii, 244.

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Hungarian and Dutch/German allow the verbs and the particle in a sentence like *Louis will begin to want to open up* to be ordered in different ways. However, not every combination is allowed: Some are only possible in well-defined environments (root, negative, or focus) while others are strictly impossible. These configurational options are constrained by formal (syntactic) principles which the present book attempts to elucidate.

The contribution of *Verbal complexes* is twofold: It provides a coherent taxonomy and analysis of these ordering restrictions and in doing so, presents and justifies a radically new approach to the issue. Verbal complexes are formed, the authors argue, *NOT* by verb movement or particle movement but by the displacement of large chunks of structure which *CONTAIN* the phonetically realized form or copy of the 'moved' verb. Technically: X^0 movement can always be disguised as XP movement. Rather than moving X^0 to or above Y^0, one might move $[_{XP}. . .X^0. . .]$ to or above $[_{YP}. . .Y^0. . .]$. This will give the impression that head movement is at work as long as XP contains no overt material other than its head. If there is overt material in XP (say, if X is a transitive verb with a direct object), then this material must be moved out first following which XP—emptied of everything but X^0—can move *QUA* verbal shell or, more precisely, as a *REMNANT* VP. Phrasal movement can conceal verb movement, but there are cases where disguises are not needed. These are cases in which an entire XP is pied piped by V or by some other head; indeed,

pied piping and remnant movement constitute the two extremes of XP movement. The virtue of the Koopman and Szabolsci approach is that, by reducing head movement to phrasal movement, it is able to formulate new generalizations about movement and its limits. The fundamental empirical claim of *Verbal complexes* is that the combination of pied piping and remnant movement is both necessary and sufficient to account for verb raising, verb-projection raising, particle movement, verbal modifier climbing, restructuring, and a host of other, related varieties of word-order alternations in Hungarian and Dutch/German.

The syntactic force(s) which drive 'verb' movement (e.g., the lexical requirement of auxiliary and of 'restructuring' verbs that their complement raise to their specifier or, more precisely, to the specifier of a proxy category VP+ above them) are constrained by both general and language-specific principles. Among the former are a ban on filling both spec and head of a projection, a cyclic constraint on derivations, a ban on covert movement, etc. The language-specific constraints are filter-like conditions designed to enforce pied piping or to disallow 'splitting' in particular grammars. They are very specific, shallow conditions regulating the complexity or heaviness of material targeted by movement from specifier positions. The difference between grammars boils down to the upper bound on the complexity of movable material in specifiers or to the splitting filters they must respect. These, somewhat like the constraints of optimality theory, are arbitrary, surface structure dependent, and weak in that they are violable to some degree.

The first, Hungarian, part of the book consists of a short, 'general assumptions about the language' chapter (Ch. 2) which presents Hungarian clausal structure and the basic facts pertaining to the separable prefixes in the language. Ch. 3 discusses inversion and argues that head movement cannot account for it and that only an XP-movement approach can capture the constraints on possible orders and 'mirror image'-like effects of inverted structures.

Ch. 4 is the heart of the analysis of Hungarian. It presents the details of the XP movement assumption, detailing the auxiliary assumptions and the mechanics of the different derivations. Argumental DPs and CPs are moved to 'licensing positions', that is, they are scrambled out of VP into various specifier positions. The VP or XP shells, which remain after their arguments have been scrambled out, are then raised to satisfy various conditions. In essence, both morphosyntactic 'feature checking' licensing and the satisfaction of lexical requirements require that the licensee move to the spec of (the category above) the licensor.

Ch. 5 develops some auxiliary arguments in favor of the XP movement approach. In the first part, scrambling and focus are examined while the second part of the chapter discusses the raising of verbal modifiers, i.e., movable prefixes (go *in*), directional and locative PPs, (go *into the room*), predicative APs and NPs (elect *president*), determinerless arguments (read *newspaper*) in neutral sentences, i.e., in nonfocus affirmative ones.

Transparency and, conversely, blocking effects on restructuring, are discussed in the shorter Ch. 6, entitled 'Are infinitival clauses full CPs'.

The second part of the book is dedicated to Dutch and to a lesser extent, to German. Ch. 7 presents a useful précis of Dutch clausal syntax, drawing on relatively familiar recent work. One novel idea is worth mentioning: The focus/topic properties of the Germanic Mittelfeld are very neatly expressed in this framework. It is argued that the Mittelfeld region is actually the same domain as that of the left periphery in other languages, except that it is not on the periphery, but tucked-in under CP. This makes Dutch and Hungarian look much more alike, and as a result, Hungarian looks a lot less exotic, a welcome result.

Ch. 8 deals with Dutch and German verbal complexes, rather familiar terrain. This chapter is bound to be the most controversial in the book. It deals with particle movement, sequences of infinitival verbs (with and without *to*) and the so-called IPP effect in German. In a sense, this chapter summarizes much of the current debate on the analysis of these phenomena and that, by itself, is a worthy achievement.

The appendices at the end are crucial. The first is a list of assumptions and claims without which the book would be extremely hard to read; the second is an extremely useful Hungarian database that is brilliantly presented. To a large extent, the appendices compensate for a rather skimpy index.

In K & S's theory, complexity filters do a lot of work. Their theoretical status is somewhat unclear, and it is not obvious how children acquire them. Another general issue is computational: Recent work in minimalism has tried to reduce the computational load by 'outputting' the result of local computations as soon as possible (Spellout). Although the approach developed in this book bears a lot of similarity to the highly derivational approach of recent Chomskyan minimalism, it differs from it in that each cycle in the derivation must preserve the history of the preceding cycle. Interpretation, whether semantic or phonetic, is not local but is spread out over the entire derivation. This is a prima facie problem since the computational load required by such derivations is immense.

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Reviewed by MARGARET THOMAS, *Boston College*

The 'Prix Volney' for scholarship in linguistics has been presented by the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres since 1822. It derives from a bequest made by Constantin-François Chassebœuf de Boisgirais (1757–1820), who in the style of his day invented for himself the name 'Volney', combining the first syllable of Voltaire's name with the last syllable of the name of Voltaire's estate, 'Ferney'. Volney was an adventurer and a 'rationalist and freethinker' (8) born into the provincial gentry. As one of the 'Idéologues', he was fully enmeshed in the intellectual and social turmoil of his day. He criticized the French bureaucracy, clergy, and nobility, and, on principle, opposed censorship and colonialism. Volney spent substantial intervals traveling around Egypt, Syria, and the United States. He was a friend to (among others) Thomas Jefferson and Napoleon while at another point in his life he served a prison term for debt. His writings are in such fields as would now be labeled history, ethnography, sociology, education, and philology.

In Volney's study of language, he neither allied himself with the tradition of general grammar linked to the late eighteenth-century Port-Royal grammarians nor participated in the on-coming wave of comparative-historical linguistics emanating from Germany. Instead, he learned Arabic, studied Sanskrit, dabbled in the Algonquian language Miami (deploring the loss of Native American languages already underway), and contributed to contemporary debates about the origin of language and the classification of languages. A particular interest of his was the invention of a 'harmonic alphabet', that is, a uniform script that could be used to transcribe all languages.

Volney's will provided for a prize to be awarded for the best essay, submitted anonymously, on the transcription question or more generally about 'the philosophical study of languages' (25). Judges were to be appointed from the membership of French academic societies. The earliest submissions addressed the transcription issue, and for a time the Volney Commission announced a topic for each year's competition. Some topics were quite specific: a grammatical analysis of