Coordination and Binary Branching

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Abstract

In "Subordination and Binary Branching", a recent (2023) *Syntax* paper, Ad Neeleman and colleagues propose a new analysis of subordination. The main aim of this remark is to refute that analysis, using data from the coordination of unlike categories and unlike grammatical functions. Additionally, building on Neeleman et al.'s observations about the arbitrarily n-ary – not just binary – nature of coordination, I sketch a more Minimalist approach to subordination and coordination that is devoid of the problems that Neeleman et al.'s analysis faces, but otherwise covers a similar range of data. On this approach, "subordination" is a synonym of "result of PairMerge" and "coordination" is a synonym of "result of SetMerge", where SetMerge is understood as an operation creating an arbitrary set, as opposed to the usual more specialized Merge operation, which creates a binary set.
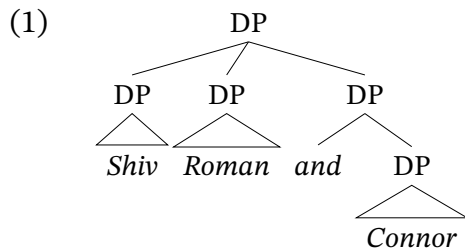
Keywords

subordination, coordination of unlike categories, heterofunctional coordination, SetMerge, PairMerge, Minimalism, Polish

Contents

1 Introduction

In *Subordination and Binary Branching* (SBB), Neeleman et al. (2023) review the well-known – but often ignored – arguments for flat (symmetrical) coordinate structures (see, e.g., Borsley 1994, 2005) and adduce a new argument, based on the scope of modification. Given that such arguments have never been convincingly addressed in the thread of research that assumes the binary (asymmetrical) structure of coordination, I embrace SBB's conclusion that coordinations with n conjuncts involve n-ary branching, as in (1), and I assume it without further discussion in the rest of this paper.

(1)

```
                    DP
        ┌───────────┼───────────┐
       DP          DP          DP
      ╱╲          ╱╲          ╱  ╲
    Shiv       Roman       and    DP
                                  ╱╲
                               Connor
```

Given that coordinations involve n-ary branching, Neeleman et al. (2023: 80) note that "an account of [coordination] based on an all-purpose binary Merge operation must be rejected". At the same time they provide a theory of subordination that does not assume binary Merge but still results in strictly binary subordinate structures. §2 summarizes their theory of subordination and coordination.

   The main aim of this reply to SBB is to refute Neeleman et al.'s (2023) analysis of subordination. §3 shows that it overgenerates: it furnishes some coordinate structures with subordinate analyses and it generates some ungrammatical coordinations of unlike categories. More importantly, §4 demonstrates that it also undergenerates: it is incompatible with the so-called *wh&wh* constructions common in Slavic and some neighbouring languages.[1] An additional aim is to sketch a possible way of preserving the view of SBB, namely, that subordinations are

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[1]Appendix A compares this construction to similar constructions in English, while Appendix B refutes an analysis of Slavic *wh&wh* which – if correct – would invalidate the argument of §4.

strictly binary and coordinations are arbitrarily *n*-ary, and to reconcile it with the Minimalist view that all structure is built via simple Merge-like operations. In this conceptual rather than empirical §5, I reconsider the types of Merge postulated in the literature and propose that structure is built via two operations: PairMerge, combining exactly two elements into an ordered pair, and SetMerge, but understood as combining *any* number of elements into an unordered set. On this view, "subordination" is a synonym of "result of PairMerge" and "coordination" is a synonym of "result of SetMerge". §6 concludes the paper.

2   Generalized Licensing Criterion and its Predictions

This section presents the *Generalized Licensing Criterion* (GLC) – the main principle postulated by Neeleman et al. (2023) in SBB – and discusses its intended predictions regarding subordination (in §2.1) and coordination (in §2.2).
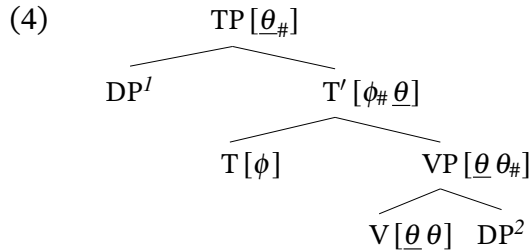
2.1   Subordination

GLC consists of two clauses: GLC-A in (2) and GLC-B in (3):

(2)   Subordination of YP to X^n requires a relation between X^n and YP that discharges a selectional requirement α (where $\alpha \in \{\theta, \phi, \mu, \sigma_{XP}, \sigma_X\}$).

(3)   No node created by subordination may be the locus of discharge of more than one selectional requirement taken from $\{\theta, \phi, \mu, \sigma_{XP}, \sigma_X\}$.

In (2)–(3), θ is the requirement of assigning a theta role (internal or external; the latter marked as $\underline{\theta}$) by a lexical item, ϕ is the analogous requirement by a functional head (e.g., the expectation of T to combine with VP), μ is the selectional requirement of a modifier with respect to the modified projection, and σ_{XP} and σ_X are selectional requirements of constituents containing original positions of moved elements – a phrase (in the case of σ_{XP}) or a head (in the case of σ_X) – eventually satisfied by the moved element.

The way θ and ϕ come into being, percolate, and are discharged is illustrated in (4).

(4)
```
              TP [θ_#]
          ╱          ╲
       DP¹            T′ [φ_# θ̲]
                   ╱        ╲
                T [φ]        VP [θ̲ θ_#]
                          ╱        ╲
                      V [θ̲ θ]      DP²
```
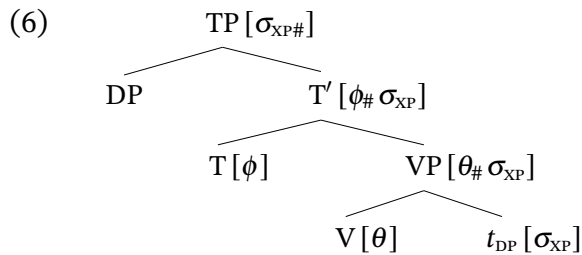
The lexical items V and T come with selectional requirements: an internal theta role θ and an external role $\underline{\theta}$ in the case of V and the selection for a VP, ϕ, in the case of the functional head T. DP² satisfies θ, so θ is marked as discharged, $\theta_{\#}$, at VP. On the other hand, $\underline{\theta}$ is not discharged here, so it percolates up the tree to VP. Similarly, ϕ is discharged by the VP, so it is marked as such at T′. And finally, $\underline{\theta}$ is discharged by DP¹ at the top of the tree in (4).
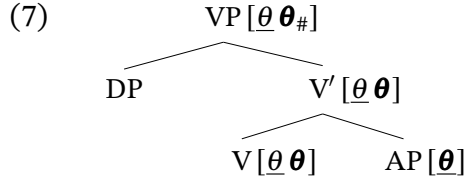
The way μ works is similar, the only difference being that it originates in a non-head (namely, a modifier); a typical configuration in which μ is discharged is given in (5).

(5)
```
        VP [μ_#]
      ╱       ╲
    VP        AdvP [μ]
```
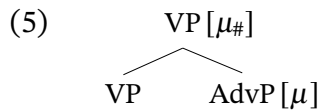
Finally, σ_{XP} and σ_{X} are introduced by traces and they percolate up to be discharged by the moved element. The following tree illustrates this in the case of σ_{XP} (ignoring $\underline{\theta}$ possibly introduced by V).

(6)
```
               TP [σ_XP#]
          ╱            ╲
        DP              T′ [φ_# σ_XP]
                     ╱          ╲
                  T [φ]          VP [θ_# σ_XP]
                              ╱          ╲
                          V [θ]          t_DP [σ_XP]
```

Apart from such direct ways of discharging a selectional requirement, Neeleman et al. (2023) also allow for discharging via 'identification', i.e., via the unification of two (or more) requirements. This happens, for example, when the external theta role of a secondary predicate (e.g., *raw*) is identified with an internal theta role of a verb (e.g., *ate*, as in *She ate the fish raw*). This is schematically shown in (7), where the unified theta roles are in bold.

(7)

$$\text{VP}\,[\underline{\theta}\,\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\#}]$$

```
        VP [θ θ#]
       /        \
     DP          V′ [θ θ]
                /      \
            V [θ θ]    AP [θ]
```

In this case, GLC licenses the node V′ as created by subordination because two roles – $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ in V (*ate*, in the example at hand) and $\underline{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ in AP (*raw*) – are reduced to the single $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ role in V′ (*ate raw*), discharged in VP by the DP (*the fish*).
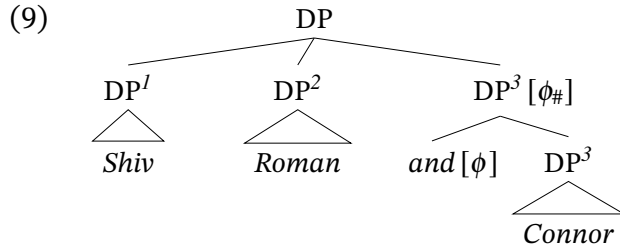
Note that, in accordance with GLC in (2)–(3), exactly one selectional requirement is discharged in each nonterminal node in all trees (4)–(7). An example of a configuration forbidden by GLC is given in (8), where two selectional requirements σ_{XP} are discharged at the topmost node.

(8)   *

```
               … [σ¹XP# σ²XP#]
              /      |        \
          DP¹      DP²         … [σ¹XP θ# σ²XP]
                              /            \
                          t¹DP [σ¹XP]       VP [θ θ# σ²XP]
                                           /         \
                                       V [θ θ]        t²DP [σ²XP]
```
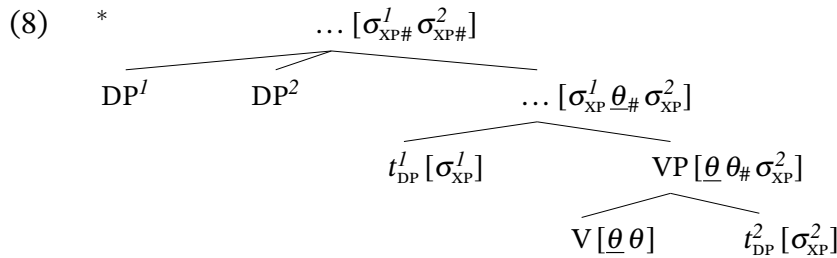
2.2 Coordination

Since the scope of GLC is limited to *subordinate* structures, coordination is not restricted to binary branching. SBB reviews well-known arguments against such a restriction (see, e.g., Borsley 1994, 2005) and adds a new strong argument (from the scope of modification) for flat coordinate structures. I accept the validity of such arguments and, for reasons of space, do not discuss them here. Let us just note that such arguments have long been considered conclusive within theories such as LFG and HPSG, where all conjuncts are taken to be sisters (see, e.g., Dalrymple et al. 2019: ch. 6 and Abeillé & Chaves 2021).

The specific structure for a coordination such as *Shiv, Roman, and Connor* is given in (9):

(9)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{DP} \\ \diagup \quad | \quad \diagdown \\ \text{DP}^1 \qquad \text{DP}^2 \qquad \text{DP}^3\,[\phi_\#] \\ \triangle \qquad \triangle \qquad \diagup\ \diagdown \\ \textit{Shiv} \quad \textit{Roman} \quad \textit{and}\,[\phi] \quad \text{DP}^3 \\ \triangle \\ \textit{Connor} \end{array}$$
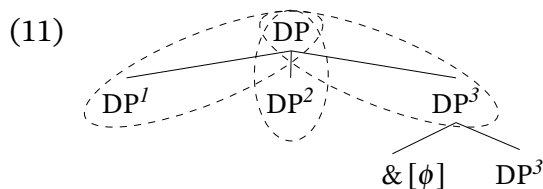
The coordinator, *and*, is treated here as a functional head, a total functor that selects (via ϕ) an argument (here, DP^3) and passes up all the properties of this argument, so that the higher DP^3 in (9) has exactly the same features as the lower DP^3.

Neeleman et al. (2023) assume that such structures are created via *multiple* adjunction. A typical *single* adjunction structure is that in (5), repeated with some notational modifications in (10):[2]

(10)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{VP} \\ \diagup\ \diagdown \\ \text{VP} \qquad \text{AdvP}\,[\mu] \end{array}$$
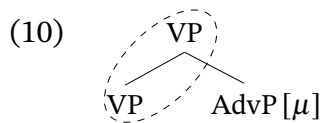
In such structures, there are multiple nodes corresponding to a single category. In the case of (10), the two nodes marked as VP are segments of the single VP category, as indicated by the dashed ellipse.

Similarly, in coordinate structures, each conjunct adjoins to all other conjuncts, so the structure in (9) may be represented as in (11); there are three bisegmental categories here: DP–DP^1, DP–DP^2, and DP–DP^3.

(11)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{DP} \\ \diagup\ |\ \diagdown \\ \text{DP}^1 \quad \text{DP}^2 \quad \text{DP}^3 \\ \diagup\ \diagdown \\ \&\,[\phi] \quad \text{DP}^3 \end{array}$$

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[2] I assume that – while, say, AdvP $[\mu]$ in (5) and (10) indicates that the AdvP node contains the selectional requirement μ – VP $[\mu_\#]$ in (5) does *not* mean that the VP node contains a feature $\mu_\#$. That is, I assume that $\alpha_\#$ in Neeleman et al.'s (2023) trees (for any selectional requirement α) is just a notational convention for making explicit the lack of the selectional requirement α on a given node. Hence the disappearance of $[\mu_\#]$ in (10).

SBB extends this analysis to cases of unlike category coordination, such as the classical (12) (Sag et al. 1985: 117, (2b)), involving coordination of a noun phrase *a Republican* and an adjectival phrase *proud of it*; the corresponding bisegmental categories in (13) are $\varnothing$–NP and $\varnothing$–AP.

(12)   Pat is [a Republican and proud of it].

(13)
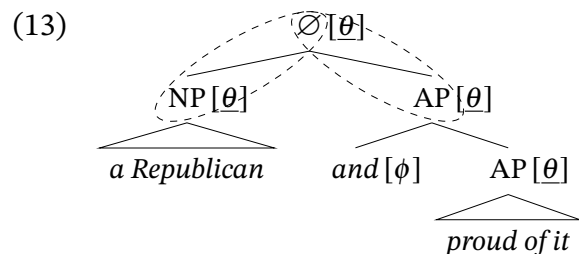
The assumption that makes this analysis possible is formulated in Neeleman et al. 2023: 56 as follows:

(14)   A node α is part of the same category as a node β that it immediately dominates iff (i) the categorial features of α are a subset of β, and (ii) α and β are identical in arity.

In (13), the empty set $\varnothing$ is a subset of the set of categorial features represented as NP, and similarly for AP, so the two bisegmental categories $\varnothing$–NP and $\varnothing$–AP satisfy condition (i) of (14). They also satisfy condition (ii), as all relevant nodes have the same selectional requirement of an external theta role $\underline{\theta}$.

Given that the topmost node in such unlike category coordinations belongs to all multisegmental categories, which contain categorial features of particular conjuncts, restrictions on this node must be satisfied by all conjuncts. For example, to the first approximation, BECOME selects for an NP (as in *Danny became a political radical*) or an AP (e.g., *Danny became very antisocial*), but not, say, a PP (hence, *Danny became under suspicion*), and these restrictions must be satisfied by all conjuncts, as the following examples demonstrate (Neeleman et al. 2023: 57–58, (29a) and (33a–e)).
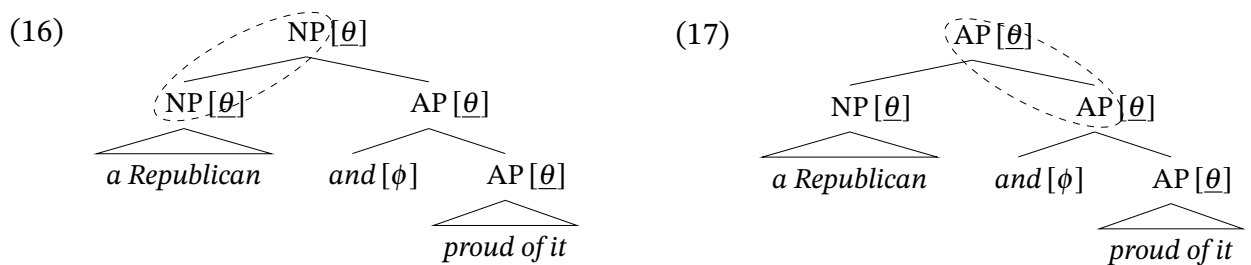
(15) a.   Danny became [a political radical and very antisocial].

     b.   Danny became [very antisocial and a political radical].

     c.   *Danny became [under suspicion and a political radical].

     d.   *Danny became [a political radical and under suspicion].

     e.   *Danny became [under suspicion and very antisocial].

     f.   *Danny became [very antisocial and under suspicion].

This is a very attractive picture of coordination, one that does not try to explain unlike category coordination away.[3] The next two sections argue that the approach to *subordination* sketched in §2.1 is less attractive.

3   Coordination of Predicates

Consider again the structure of *a Republican and proud of it* in (13) in §2.2. It shares an important aspect of the analysis of secondary predication in (7) in §2.1, namely, the identification of two selectional requirements. This means that structures of this kind are also licensed by GLC and may be analysed as cases of subordination:

(16)

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\text{NP}[\theta] \\
\nearrow \quad \nwarrow \\
\text{NP}[\theta] \qquad \text{AP}[\theta] \\
\text{a Republican} \quad \text{and}[\phi] \quad \text{AP}[\theta] \\
\text{proud of it}
\end{array}
$$

(17)

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\text{AP}[\theta] \\
\nearrow \quad \nwarrow \\
\text{NP}[\theta] \qquad \text{AP}[\theta] \\
\text{a Republican} \quad \text{and}[\phi] \quad \text{AP}[\theta] \\
\text{proud of it}
\end{array}
$$

In both (16)–(17), the top node is licensed by GLC because the two external theta roles of *a Republican* and of *proud of it* are identified and reduced to one. As a result, the top node's cat-

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[3]See Bruening & Al Khalaf 2020 for such an attempt, Patejuk & Przepiórkowski 2023 for a rebuttal, Bruening 2023: 1 for an acknowledgement that "[Patejuk & Przepiórkowski 2023] are correct, and there is no requirement that conjuncts match in syntactic category", and Przepiórkowski 2022b for further arguments for the coordination of unlikes.

egorial features are shared with only one of the conjuncts, i.e., these analyses correspond to asymmetrical approaches to coordination of the kind explicitly argued against in Neeleman et al. 2023: §3. This means that GLC overgenerates by allowing for subordinate analyses of certain coordinate structures.

But the problem is more serious, as it also leads to successful analyses of ungrammatical strings. Note that *a Republican and proud of it* is an NP on the analysis in (16), and an AP according to (17). More generally, an arbitrary coordinate structure of predicates, with any number of conjuncts, may be analysed via binary subordination, with the category of the whole coordination the same as that of any of the conjuncts. This is exemplified in (18)–(19), where coordinations of an NP and a PP are analysed as NPs, i.e., as satisfying selectional restrictions of BECOME, contrary to facts in (15c–d).

(18)

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\text{NP}[\theta] \\
\diagdown \\
\text{PP}[\theta] \quad \text{NP}[\theta] \\
\textit{under suspicion} \quad \textit{and}[\phi] \quad \text{NP}[\theta] \\
\textit{political radical}
\end{array}
$$

(19)

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\text{NP}[\theta] \\
\text{NP}[\theta] \quad \text{PP}[\theta] \\
\textit{political radical} \quad \textit{and}[\phi] \quad \text{PP}[\theta] \\
\textit{under suspicion}
\end{array}
$$
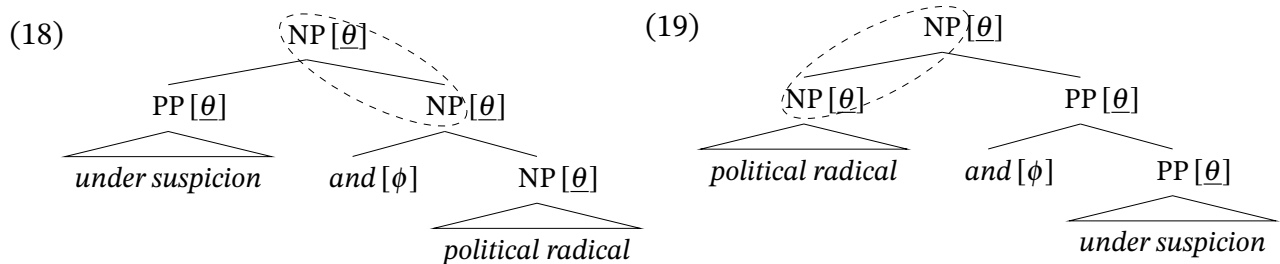
This means that – on the setup presented in SBB – coordination of categorially unlike predicates is predicted to be grammatical as long as at least one of the conjuncts satisfies selectional restrictions. In particular, all of unacceptable (15c–f) are in fact predicted to be grammatical, as they all contain an NP conjunct or an AP conjunct.[4]
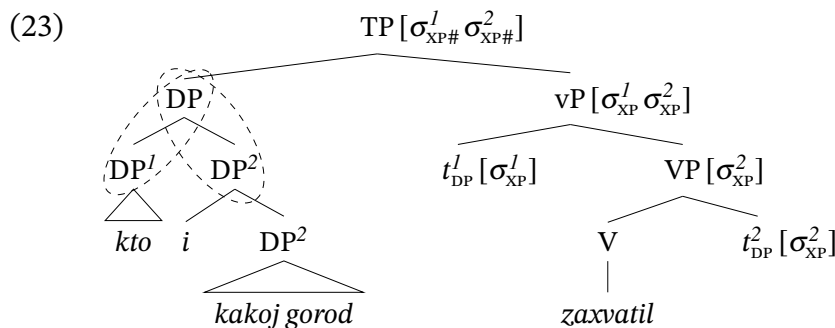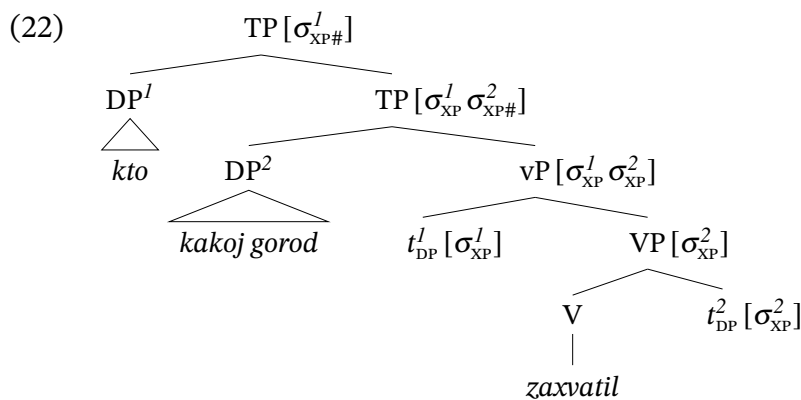
I do not consider this overgeneration problem to be fatal to Neeleman et al.'s (2023) analysis. The simplest solution would be to require that discharging a selectional requirement in GLC be understood more narrowly, as a direct elimination of a requirement (i.e., as slash elimination, in terms of categorial grammars), to the exclusion of elimination via identification. This would

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[4]As mentioned by an anonymous reviewer, on the SBB account, any coordination of unary predicates gives rise to a similar subordination analysis, which results in spurious ambiguities (but not necessarily in overgeneration, as in the case of unlike category predicates discussed above).

require a different analysis of secondary predication than that envisaged in SBB, but it is not difficult to imagine such an analysis.[5] Nevertheless, this challenge suggests that perhaps the role of GLC in delineating subordination and coordination should be reconsidered.

4 Heterofunctional Coordination

Slavic languages are multiple *wh*-fronting languages (see (20)), and it is well known that the fronted *wh*-phrases may be coordinated (see (21); both examples from Gribanova 2009: 134, with (21) originally from Kazenin 2001).

(20) Kto   kakoj   gorod   zaxvatil?   (Russian)
       who.NOM which.ACC city.ACC conquered.3SG
       'Who conquered which city?'

(21) [Kto   i   kakoj   gorod] zaxvatil?   (Russian)
        who.NOM and which.ACC city.ACC conquered.3SG
       'Who conquered which city?', lit. '[Who and which city] conquered?'

The so-called *wh&wh* construction in (21) illustrates a broader phenomenon – called, variously, Lexico-Semantic Coordination, Hybrid Coordination, and, most transparently, Heterofunctional Coordination (HC) – in which certain quantificational expressions bearing different grammatical functions may be coordinated.[6] As repeatedly argued, in Slavic and at least Hungarian, such constructions cannot all be analysed in terms of ellipsis; the relevant arguments

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[5]For example, the secondary predicate, apart from requiring an external theta role, could also select for an internal theta role, to be discharged by the verb (whose internal theta role would have to be identified with the external theta role of the secondary predicate in the process).

[6]On the empirical scope of HC, see especially Paperno 2012: ch. 3 and Patejuk 2015: ch. 5, with semantic analyses provided by Paperno 2012: chs. 4–5 and Przepiórkowski 2022c,a. An anonymous reviewer asks whether there is a connection between Slavic HC and English constructions such as *He read the book and quickly*. It seems that there is not; see Appendix A for discussion.

may be found, e.g., in Kazenin 2001, Gribanova 2009: 136–137, and Paperno 2012: 99–102 (for Russian), in Skrabalova 2007: §§2 and 5 (for Czech), and in Lipták 2003 and Bîlbîie & Gazdik 2012: §3.3 (for Hungarian), and they are not repeated here for reasons of space.[7] That is, I take it as established that examples such as (21) involve direct coordination of *wh*-phrases.

The vanilla multiple *wh*-fronting example in (20) is not a problem for GLC; its schematic structure – showing that selectional requirements associated with phrase movement are discharged one by one – is given in (22).[8]

(22)

$$
\begin{array}{l}
\text{TP}[\sigma^1_{XP\#}] \\
\quad \text{DP}^1\ (kto) \\
\quad \text{TP}[\sigma^1_{XP}\ \sigma^2_{XP\#}] \\
\qquad \text{DP}^2\ (kakoj\ gorod) \\
\qquad \text{vP}[\sigma^1_{XP}\ \sigma^2_{XP}] \\
\qquad\quad t^1_{DP}[\sigma^1_{XP}] \\
\qquad\quad \text{VP}[\sigma^2_{XP}] \\
\qquad\qquad \text{V}\ (zaxvatil) \\
\qquad\qquad t^2_{DP}[\sigma^2_{XP}]
\end{array}
$$

(23)

$$
\begin{array}{l}
\text{TP}[\sigma^1_{XP\#}\ \sigma^2_{XP\#}] \\
\quad \text{DP}\ (\text{DP}^1\ kto\ \ i\ \ \text{DP}^2\ kakoj\ gorod) \\
\quad \text{vP}[\sigma^1_{XP}\ \sigma^2_{XP}] \\
\qquad t^1_{DP}[\sigma^1_{XP}] \\
\qquad \text{VP}[\sigma^2_{XP}] \\
\qquad\quad \text{V}\ (zaxvatil) \\
\qquad\quad t^2_{DP}[\sigma^2_{XP}]
\end{array}
$$

What is incompatible with GLC is the HC example in (21), whose structure is shown in (23). This kind of structure – but with the usual derivational representation of coordination as headed

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[7]The case of Romanian is less clear (see, e.g., Bîlbîie & Gazdik 2012 and Citko & Gračanin-Yüksek 2013). See also Zhang 2007: §2.2 for arguments pertaining to English, Russian, and Chinese.

[8]For readability, this structure ignores various heads, projections, and selectional requirements other than σ_{XP}, and it assumes that fronted *wh*-phrases are adjoined to TP (cf. Gribanova 2009).

by the conjunction (as in Munn 1987, Zoerner 1995, Johannessen 1998, etc.) – is argued for, and generated via sideward movement, in Zhang 2007: §2.3, and it is assumed by Gribanova 2009: §2.2 to be valid for all languages that allow for the coordination of heterofunctional *wh*-phrases. It is also assumed in Gračanin-Yüksek 2007: ch. 6 as one of two structures of such coordinations in Croatian, in Haida & Repp 2011, in Citko & Gračanin-Yüksek 2013: §2.2 as the only representation of such coordinations in Bulgarian and one of two or three representations of HC available in each of the other Slavic languages, etc., and most recently in Bošković 2022, 2023. In brief, the availability of structures such as (23) in all Slavic languages is almost universally assumed by scholars working on HC. (An exception is discussed – and refuted – in Appendix B.)

The structure in (23) should be compared with Neeleman et al.'s (2023) example in (8) above, simplified below as (24), of a structure rejected by GLC.

(24)   * $\quad\quad\quad\quad\quad$ ... $[\sigma^1_{\text{XP\#}}\,\sigma^2_{\text{XP\#}}]$

$$\text{DP}^1 \quad\quad \text{DP}^2 \quad\quad ...\,[\sigma^1_{\text{XP}}\,\sigma^2_{\text{XP}}]$$

$$t^1_{\text{DP}}\,[\sigma^1_{\text{XP}}] \quad\quad \text{VP}\,[\sigma^2_{\text{XP}}]$$

$$\text{V} \quad\quad t^2_{\text{DP}}\,[\sigma^2_{\text{XP}}]$$
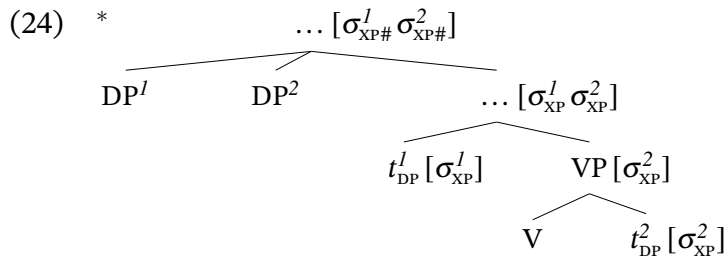
In both the problem is exactly the same: two σ_{XP} selectional requirements are discharged at one node, in direct violation of the part of GLC in (3) ("No node created by subordination may be the locus of discharge of more than one selectional requirement...").

Neeleman et al. 2023: 51 admit that their proposal "cannot be correct if we find instances of subordination in which multiple selectional requirements are discharged". In particular, GLC cannot be repaired by the following modification of GLC-B, consisting in adding the words *type of*:

(25)   No node created by subordination may be the locus of discharge of more than one *type of* selectional requirement taken from $\{\theta, \phi, \mu, \sigma_{\text{XP}}, \sigma_{\text{X}}\}$.

On the positive side, such a version of GLC would license the binary HC structure in (23),

where two requirements of type σ_{XP} are discharged, and it would also make it possible to analyse reflexivization via a simultaneous assignment of two θ-roles, as postulated, e.g., in Reinhart & Siloni 2005 and Dimitriadis & Everaert 2014, but without the need to first bundle them into a single θ-role. Unfortunately, this version of GLC would also allow for n-ary subordinate structures such as (24) or such as a VP dominating a ditransitive V and its both arguments simultaneously licensed via a multiple discharge of the V's requirements of type θ. I see no way of repairing GLC that would not require a stipulation of the binary nature of subordination. But such a stipulation would result in GLC losing much of its explanatory appeal.

5   A Minimalist Alternative

Let us take stock. Given that – as convincingly argued by Borsley (1994, 2005), Neeleman et al. (2023), and others – coordinations may involve arbitrarily n-ary structures, the usual Merge, as defined in (26), cannot be the (only) structure-building operation in syntax.

(26) $Merge(\alpha, \beta) = \{\alpha, \beta\}$

However, as demonstrated in §§3–4, the alternative view proposed in Neeleman et al. 2023 to explain the existence of binary subordinations and n-ary coordinations both overgenerates and undergenerates. How could this conundrum be solved within the Minimalist set of assumptions?[9] Let us start by taking a closer look at Merge-like operations postulated in the Minimalist literature.

It is sometimes pointed out that the single Merge operation defined in (26) is not sufficient to explain all linguistic phenomena, including adjunction and coordination. For these phenomena, the additional operation of PairMerge was introduced in Chomsky 2000, 2004 and

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[9]Throughout this paper, I *assume* Minimalism without necessarily *endorsing* it. As argued, e.g., in Pullum & Scholz 2001, 2005, as well as in Langendoen & Postal 1984 and Postal 2004, 2023, there are good reasons to prefer model-theoretic approaches, such as HPSG or LFG, to proof-theoretic approaches, such as Categorial Grammar or Minimalism.

has since been assumed in countless analyses:[10]

(27) $PairMerge(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$

Unfortunately, PairMerge is even less helpful than ordinary Merge in building a symmetrical n-ary coordination structure advocated in SBB, as it is not only strictly binary, but also inherently asymmetric.

A more specialized "FormSequence" operation creating an arbitrarily n-ary ordered list is suggested in Chomsky 2020, whose simplified version may be defined as in (28).[11]

(28) $SequenceMerge(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) = \langle \alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n \rangle$

Chomsky 2020: 50 argues that an ordered list is necessary to represent coordination, citing examples involving *respectively*, e.g.:

(29) John and Bill are young and tall, respectively.

However, while an operation such as (28) does form a structure out of n elements, it is an *asymmetric* structure, in which the order of the elements matters. As such, it does not faithfully model the n-ary *symmetric* structure argued for in SBB.

Moreover, as convincingly argued by Chaves (2012: 301), "the correct generalization is that a one-to-one mapping between pluralities [in *respectively* constructions] is established via some pragmatic ranking due to context, surface order, or world knowledge". An example of non-linguistic context providing the mapping is (30) (Chaves 2012: (8a)), which does not involve any coordinate structures:

(30) The following two sections will deal with these two issues, respectively.

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[10]To emphasize the contrast, the usual binary Merge in (26) is sometimes called SetMerge, but I will define SetMerge more generally in (31) below.

[11]As noted in Freidin 2021: 18, n. 34, it is not clear whether this sequence-forming operation is in addition to or a replacement of PairMerge.

Hence, *respectively* facts do not provide an argument for the *ordered n*-ary SequenceMerge.

However, the three types of Merge-like operations discussed above immediately suggest another one, one that completes the square of oppositions: ordered vs. unordered and binary vs. *n*-ary, namely, the arbitrarily *n*-ary unordered SetMerge:

(31) $SetMerge(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n\}$

I propose that the two types of structures in natural languages – *n*-ary coordinations and binary subordinations – are best analysed within Minimalism as a direct consequence of the availability of exactly two of the four potential structure-building operations listed above, namely, SetMerge and PairMerge. That is, syntactic structures may be recursively defined as follows:[12]

(32)   **Syntactic Structures** (SSs):

1. if α is an element of the lexicon, then α is a SS (call such a SS "lexical item"),

2. if α and β are SSs, then so is $PairMerge(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$
   (call such a SS "subordination"),

3. if $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n$ are SSs, then so is $SetMerge(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n\}$
   (call such a SS "coordination"),

4. nothing else is a SS.

On this view, "coordination" is a linguistic term for the result of SetMerge and "subordination" is a term for the result of PairMerge. It immediately follows from this definition that coordinations may consist of an arbitrary number of constituents (at least two, if a non-trivial structure is to be built), while subordinations are strictly binary.

I also assume two conditions on these two operations, analogous to those in SBB:

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[12]According to this recursive definition, PairMerge and SetMerge are recursive operations in the same sense in which programming routines may be recursive: outputs of these operations may act as inputs to these operations. This should be contrasted with an operation such as, say, Herd: if $e_1, \ldots, e_n$ are elephants, then $Herd(e_1, \ldots, e_2) = \{e_1, \ldots, e_2\}$. Since only single elephants (and not whole herds) may be arguments of this operation, its result – a herd of elephants – cannot be an argument of Herd, so this is not a recursive operation.

(33) **PairMerge Condition**:

Any structure created by PairMerge is the locus of discharge of exactly one type α of selectional requirements (where $\alpha \in \{\theta, \sigma_{\text{XP}}, \dots\}$).

(34) **SetMerge Condition**:

Any structure created by SetMerge 1) has the same selectional requirements as each argument, 2) is a segment of the same category as each argument.

The PairMerge Condition in (33) is an analogue of GLC, but the requirement that exactly one selectional requirement is discharged is relaxed here to the requirement that exactly one *type of* selectional requirement is discharged. The empirical motivation for this relaxation is provided by the Heterofunctional Coordination facts discussed in §4, and perhaps also by multiple theta role assignment to arguments of reflexive verbs, which currently requires bundling these theta roles into a single role (Reinhart & Siloni 2005, Dimitriadis & Everaert 2014). Apart from that, this condition has a similar effect to GLC: it does not allow for different kinds of requirements to be discharged in a single subordination node, so it would be falsified by a proof that the movement theory of control is right (where both θ and σ_{XP} are discharged) or by a structure where an element is simultaneously an argument and a modifier (where θ and μ would be discharged).

Moreover, as argued in §3, the identification of selectional requirements cannot count as discharging a requirement for the purpose of PairMerge Condition. On the other hand, the identification of *all* selectional requirements (if any) is a necessary feature of structures created by SetMerge. This is regulated by the SetMerge Condition in (34), which repeats SBB's assumptions about coordinate structures almost verbatim.

In fact, while replacing GLC with the similar PairMerge Condition makes it possible to avoid the problems discussed in §§3–4, otherwise the proposal of this section may be viewed as a relatively minor variant of the account in SBB. To see that, note first that Neeleman et al. 2023 are not explicit about the nature of fundamental syntactic operations, but – given their

analysis of coordination – they are bound to assume the existence of an operation that forms a symmetric structure out of n elements, i.e., an operation such as SetMerge.

Where I postulate another operation which creates subordinate structures, PairMerge, they aim to restrict SetMerge to a binary operation via GLC in the case of subordination. This seems to be a major difference between the two views, but it is not clear to me that it really is substantial. The reason is that, on the view in SBB, subordination is not just asymmetrical in the sense that a selectional restriction of one element gets discharged, but also in the orthogonal sense that one element is the head and provides the label for the whole structure. As discussed in SBB, these are different asymmetries: the element whose selectional restriction is discharged may be either the head (in the case of θ, ϕ, and σ_{XP}), or the non-head (in the case of μ and σ_x). So, also on the setup in SBB, there must be a mechanism – perhaps a labelling algorithm of the kind discussed in Chomsky 2013 – that distinguishes one of the two elements of subordinate structures, effectively creating a pair.[13] That is, where I explicitly assume PairMerge, Neeleman et al. 2023 must also assume some kind of a pair-forming operation, which distinguishes one element of the binary set as the head.

In summary, the explicit adoption of PairMerge and SetMerge as the two structure-building operations in syntax, regulated by the conditions in (33)–(34), results in empirical predictions which are very similar to those in SBB, but it is immune to the problems discussed in §§3–4.

6   Conclusion

The key claim in SBB is that subordination is necessarily binary while coordination is arbitrarily n-ary. A new principle, the *Generalized Licensing Criterion* of (2)–(3), is postulated to

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[13]Chomsky's (2005: 15–16) dissent notwithstanding, a two element set with one element distinguished is nothing less than a pair. This is made explicit in Kuratowski's (1921) definition of a pair $\langle a,b \rangle$ as the set $\{\{a,b\},\{a\}\}$ – or, even more so, in its short version, as the set $\{\{a,b\},a\}$ – i.e., a structure consisting of the two-element set $\{a,b\}$ and (the singleton set containing) the distinguished element a.

explain this state of affairs, a principle that lists specific kinds of subordination relations and contains a stipulation that exactly one selectional requirement must be discharged in each node involving subordination. This opens the possibility that, when such requirements are not discharged, nodes do not have to be binary, and Neeleman et al. (2023) argue that coordination is indeed arbitrarily *n*-ary.

The main aim of this paper was to present two challenges to GLC. The first, discussed in §3, concerned the coordination of predicates, which – according to GLC – may be analysed as subordination, which in turn leads to overgeneration of unlike category coordinations. The second and more serious challenge, presented in §4, was based on the phenomenon of Heterofunctional Coordination, where a number of selectional requirements are discharged at one node, in direct violation of GLC. Unless these problems find nonstipulative solutions, GLC cannot be maintained in its current form.

However, this does not mean that the claim about binary subordination and *n*-ary coordination needs to be given up. In §5, I suggested that this dichotomy immediately follows from the availability of two recursive structure-building operations in syntax, namely, PairMerge (resulting in binary subordinations) and SetMerge (resulting in *n*-ary coordinations). A case could be made for the higher cognitive plausibility of these two operations – corresponding to non-recursive operations available to some non-linguistic organisms – than the more specialized binary Merge,[14] but I do not attempt to fully develop such a case here.

Whether the proposal sketched in §5 turns out to be on the right track or not, I hope that the challenges presented in §§3–4 inspire research on empirically adequate theories of binary subordinations and arbitrarily *n*-ary coordinations.

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[14]It is well known that many animals have cognitive representations of various relations (see, e.g., Hauser 2000, de Waal 2016, etc.), including social and family relations, so such animals, including higher primates, must have cognitive representations of ordered pairs that are independent of language. Similarly, they must have language-independent representations of at least certain kinds of sets ("this pride of lions", "that herd of elephants", etc.). By contrast, it is not clear that animals have representations of binary sets distinct in any way from general representations of arbitrary sets.

Data-availability statement

Many of the data presented in this article are taken from the literature; for these data, appropriate references are provided. Example (39) in Appendix A was offered by a reviewer. Two examples in the appendix which illustrate prosody, (40)–(41), are the author's, and were discussed with native speakers. Two further examples come from the English Web 2015 corpus: (42)–(43). Most of the Polish examples in Appendix B are from Citko 2013 (and are explicitly marked as such), but (51)–(52) and (57) are the author's and were confirmed by other native speakers of Polish. Additionally, the attested (58) was found via Google.

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Appendices

A Heterofunctional Coordination in English

As discussed, e.g., in Gračanin-Yüksek 2007, English displays a phenomenon similar to Slavic HC, but it is limited to the coordination of optional dependents (Gračanin-Yüksek 2007: 28):

(35)   What and where did Sally sing?

(36)   *What and where did Sally buy?

Different analyses have been proposed for English HC, but most of them agree that the above contrast may be explained by the underlying biclausality of this construction.[15] That is, the grammaticality of (35) directly reflects the grammaticality of both underlying clauses indicated in (37), while the ungrammaticality of (36) is the result of the ungrammaticality of the second underlying clause, as shown in (38).

(37)   What ~~did Sally sing~~ and where did Sally sing?

(38)   What ~~did Sally buy~~ and *where did Sally buy?

In Slavic and Hungarian, direct translations of *both* (35)–(36) are fully grammatical, which is one of the many arguments for the direct coordination analysis of HC in these languages found in the literature. Hence, the argument in §4 was based on Slavic-type HC, and it could not have been based on English.

An anonymous reviewer asks for a comparison between Slavic-type HC and English constructions such as (39).

(39)   She read the book and quickly.

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[15]See Larson 2013 and Potter & Frazier 2021 for a voice of dissent.

On the analysis of Progovac 1999: 154–157, this is a coordination of two predicative structures (PredPs): one corresponding to *(She) read the book*, and the other to the predication of *quickly* over the event introduced by the preceding verb. This results in a rather different structure than Slavic-type HC, which involves direct coordination of dependents. In fact, the two constructions have a very different prosodic structure, which suggests different underlying syntactic structures. HC – both Slavic-type and English-type – does not necessitate a prosodic break before the conjunction and after the second conjunct, and does not require additional stress on the second conjunct. That is, the prosody indicated in (40) is possible but not typical.

(40)   What – and WHERE – did Sally sing?

On the other hand, structures such as (39) typically involve such a break before the conjunction and some additional stress on the second conjunct:

(41)   She read the book – and QUICKLY.

This is confirmed by corpus data. In the English Web 2015 corpus accessible via SketchEngine,[16] the sequence *and quickly* typically occurs without any preceding punctuation in direct coordinations with other adverbs (e.g., *She responded curtly and quickly…*), but usually with a preceding comma or dash indicating a prosodic break in the discussed construction, as in the following examples:

(42)   Now we need the President to appoint another worker rights champion to follow in her footsteps – *and quickly.*

(43)   The diversity of positive responses to the letter reflects the strong feeling that the widespread use of disproportionate force must be addressed*, and quickly.*

The current consensus seems to be that such constructions are coordinations of underlying VPs with subsequent ellipsis (Zhang 2009: 186; Bruening & Al Khalaf 2020: 4). Progovac

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[16]http://www.sketchengine.eu/ (Kilgarriff et al. 2008, 2014)

1999: 156–157 constructs an argument against ellipsis based on 1) her observation that *both* forces multiple eventualities (so, e.g., *Both Maria and Peter will bring a bottle of wine* necessarily involves two events of bringing a bottle, while the version without *both* is ambiguous and may refer to a single event), 2) the ungrammaticality of examples such as (44), and 3) the assumption that *read the book* introduces an event, and – on the ellipsis analysis – *quickly* introduces a state (of this event being quick).

(44) *She both read the book and quickly.

On the assumption 3), the coordination in (44) involves two eventualities (an event and a state), so the condition 1) on *both* is satisfied, so (44) should be grammatical, contrary to 2). I agree with 1) and 2), and I believe they can be reconciled with the ellipsis analysis if, instead of 3), it is assumed that *quickly* simply predicates over the event, rather than introducing a state. That is, the (dynamic) semantic representation of *read the book* would be $\exists e.\, read(e) \wedge theme(e) = \iota x.book(x)$, while the representation of *quickly* would simply be $quickly(e)$ (rather than, say, $\exists s.\, quickly(s) \wedge arg(s) = e$). Then both conjuncts refer to the same event e, violating the requirement of *both* and thus resulting in the ungrammaticality of (44).

To summarize, whether constructions such as (39) are treated as the coordination of underlying PredPs, as in Progovac 1999, or underlying VPs, as in more recent literature, their structure is very different from Slavic-type HC, which involves direct coordination of dependents, and also from English-type HC, which – on many accounts – involves coordination of underlying CPs.

B   Against Arguments for Bulk Sharing in HC

In §4, I showed that Heterofunctional Coordination directly falsifies the Generalized Licensing Criterion postulated in Neeleman et al. 2023. The only potential escape hatch that I can see which would make it possible to avoid this conclusion is to argue, against almost all of the literature, that all apparently monoclausal instances in Slavic and Hungarian HC are in fact

always biclausal and involve multidominance structures of the kind proposed in Raţiu 2011 and Citko 2013 (so-called bulk-sharing structures). On such a biclausal analysis, example (45) has the structure in (46) (Citko 2013: 324–325, (72)–(73)).

(45) [Co   i   komu]   Jan   dał?   (Polish)
       what.ACC and whom.DAT Jan.NOM.SG.M gave.3SG.M
      'What did Jan give to whom?'

(46)
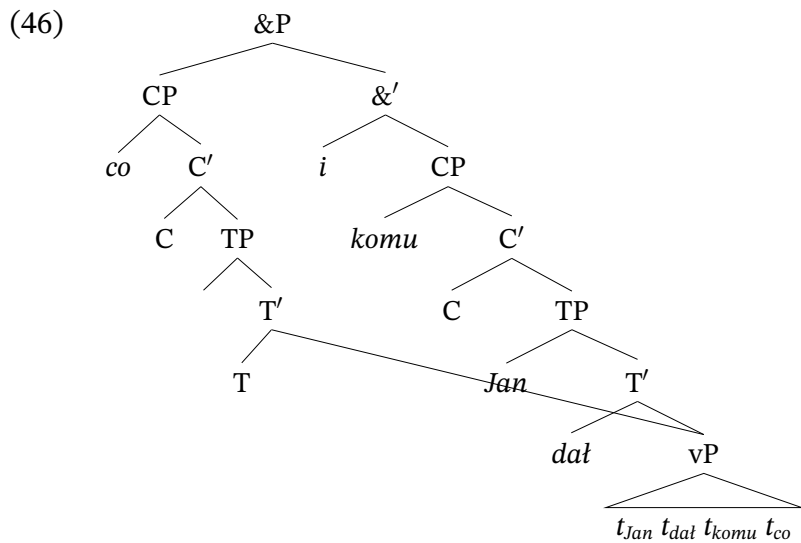
This is essentially a coordination of two CPs, which happen to share a vP from which the subject, the head verb, and the two *wh*-phrases originate. Assuming that the selectional requirement σ_{XP} related to *co* 'what' percolates along the spine of the left CP, and the analogous requirement related to *komu* 'whom' percolates along the spine of the right CP, these two requirements are discharged in different places, and GLC is not violated.

The one exception – signalled above – to the common assumption that all Slavic languages and at least Hungarian allow for monoclausal Heterofunctional Coordination, in which *wh*-phrases are coordinated directly, is the claim in Citko 2013 that Polish in fact only allows for biclausal structures of HC: structures such as (46) and another kind of biclausal multidominance structure (called non-bulk-sharing), which is the only possible structure for similar ex-

amples in English.[17] If it were possible to extend that analysis to all Slavic languages and to Hungarian, then GLC would be saved from the challenge discussed in §4.

However, there are multiple reasons for rejecting Citko's (2013) analysis of HC that assumes bulk-sharing instead of direct coordination.

First of all, the bulk-sharing analysis goes against the commonly accepted view and, hence, it would require providing alternative explanations for the multiple arguments for monoclausal structures found in the literature. To the best of our knowledge, such alternative explanations have not been offered. In fact, the claim of Citko 2013 that Polish involves *only* biclausal HC is absent in a subsequent publication, Citko & Gračanin-Yüksek 2013,[18] which assumes three kinds of structures for HC in various languages, including the monoclausal structure as the only possibility in Bulgarian and as one of two or three possibilities in other Slavic languages, including Polish.

Second, and perhaps most seriously, there is a very general problem with such bulk-sharing structures, namely, it is far from clear how such structures are to be interpreted semantically. Recall that, in the standard generative semantics setup (Heim & Kratzer 1998, Coppock & Champollion 2022), syntactic trees provide the backbone for compositional semantics, traces are interpreted as variables, and moved quantifiers (including *wh*-phrases) trigger lambda abstraction, which binds such variables. However, in the structure in (46), the CP on the left contains two traces corresponding to *wh*-phrases (t_{komu} and t_{co}), but only one binder (*co* 'what'), and so does the CP on the right (where the binder is *komu* 'whom').[19] This problem is not

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[17]See Potter & Frazier 2021: 357–358 for arguments *against* such a non-bulk-sharing approach do English. See also Appendix A.

[18]While both publications are dated 2013, Citko 2013 was written in 2009 (as mentioned in Citko 2013: 295, fn.*) and Citko & Gračanin-Yüksek 2013 was first submitted in September 2010. Also, as explicitly stated in Citko & Gračanin-Yüksek 2013: 2–3, the proposal presented in that paper "draws on accounts advanced by [Gračanin-Yüksek (2007) and Citko (2013)]" and "combines the insights of both of these accounts".

[19]Compare the related criticism of the bulk-sharing approach to HC in Gračanin-Yüksek 2007: 166–174, as well as other arguments against bulk-sharing and for the direct coordination in Croatian HC in Gračanin-Yüksek 2007: 195–206. Such arguments are not addressed either

solved by proposals such as that in Johnson 2012, which aim at providing compositional semantics for simple multidominance structures resulting from movement. So until a more general and robust theory of semantic interpretation of multidominance structures is developed, such structures should be treated with suspicion.

Finally, as demonstrated in the remainder of this appendix, all arguments offered in Citko 2013 for preferring biclausal (multidominance) structures such as (46) over the usual monoclausal (non-multidominance) structures are flawed and some of them may actually be understood as arguing *against* the (solely) biclausal analysis.

The first argument for the biclausal analysis of Polish HC (Citko 2013: 316–317) is based on the grammaticality contrast between (47c) and (48c).

(47) a. Kto   i   komu   i   co   dał?   (Polish)
           who.NOM and whom.DAT and what.ACC gave.3SG.M

'Who gave what to whom?'

      b. Kto,   komu   i   co   dał?   (Polish)
           who.NOM whom.DAT and what.ACC gave.3SG.M

'Who gave what to whom?'

      c. Kto   i   komu   co   dał?   (Polish)
           who.NOM and whom.DAT what.ACC gave.3SG.M

'Who gave what to whom?'

(48) a. Jan   i Piotr   i Tomasz   (Polish)
           Jan.NOM and Piotr.NOM and Tomasz.NOM

'Jan and Piotr and Tomasz'

      b. Jan,   Piotr   i Tomasz   (Polish)
           Jan.NOM Piotr.NOM and Tomasz.NOM

‘Jan, Piotr and Tomasz’

c. *Jan   i   Piotr   Tomasz   (Polish)

   Jan.NOM and Piotr.NOM Tomasz.NOM

The argument is this: if apparently coordinated fronted *wh*-phrases, such as those in (47), were really directly coordinated, then such a coordination should allow for the same conjunction placement possibilities as ordinary coordination, illustrated in (48). But while ordinary co-ordination of three elements does not allow for the single conjunction to be placed between the first and the second conjuncts (see (48c)), apparent coordination of *wh*-phrases allows that (see (47c)). Hence, such an apparent coordination is not direct coordination. In particular, (47c) must be analysed as a biclausal coordination of the CPs *kto dał* ‘who gave’ and *komu co dał* ‘whom what gave’, with the latter CP involving multiple *wh*-fronting of *komu* ‘whom’ and *co* ‘what’ and with both CPs sharing the vP *dał* ‘gave’. However, this argument does not go through, as there is a monoclausal structure readily available for (47c), one that does not violate conjunction placement constraints:

(49)
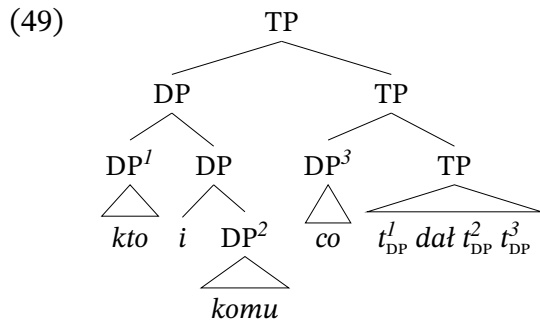
In (49), the two *wh*-constituents adjoined to TP are the HC *kto i komu* ‘who and whom’ and the vanilla *wh*-phrase *co* ‘what’. Hence, the acceptability of (47c) does not provide an argument against the monoclausal analysis of HC.[20]

Another argument (Citko 2013: 317) is based on the following contrast:

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[20]This reasoning assumes that (47c) is indeed grammatical on the intended interrogative interpretation. Lipták (2011: 183) rejects Citko's (2013) argument discussed here on different grounds, by claiming that (47c) and (48c) have the same grammaticality status on the intended interpretation of (47c), in which – according to her informants – *co* cannot be interpreted as

(50) a. I Ewa i Ania przyszła na zebranie. (Polish)

and Ewa.NOM and Ania.NOM came.3SG.F to meeting

'Both Ewa and Ania came to the meeting.'

b. *I kto i komu dał jabłko? (Polish)

and who.NOM and whom.DAT gave.3SG.M apple.ACC

intended: 'Who gave apple to whom?'

This again is supposed to show that the apparent coordination of *wh*-phrases is not a direct coordination, as coordination allows for the repetition of the conjunction *i* 'and' on each DP conjunct (see (50a)), unlike the only apparent coordination of *wh*-DPs (see (50b)). However, this contrast is an immediate consequence of two well-known facts. First, as indicated by the translation of (50a), the effect of such omnisyndetic coordination in Polish is – just as in some other languages (see, e.g., Progovac 1999 on French, Italian, and – especially – Serbo-Croatian) – distributivity, i.e., (50a) is necessarily understood as referring to two coming events. This is made clear when such a coordination is the subject of a collective verb, such as SPOTKAĆ SIĘ 'meet'. So, while (51a), involving the usual monosyndetic coordination, may be understood as referring to a single event of Ewa and Ania meeting at a cafe, the omnisyndetic (51b) does not have such an interpretation and may only refer to the separate events of Ewa meeting someone and Ania meeting someone at a cafe.

(51) a. Ewa i Ania spotkały się w kawiarni. (Polish)

Ewa.NOM and Ania.NOM met.3PL.F in cafe

'Ewa and Ania met at a cafe.'

b. #I Ewa i Ania spotkały się w kawiarni. (Polish)

and Ewa.NOM and Ania.NOM met.3PL.F in cafe

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the interrogative 'what', but must rather be understood as the indefinite 'whatever'. The judgements are not very clear here, so I do not attempt to resolve the issue of grammaticality of (47c); whether it is grammatical or not, this argument does not go through.

'Both Ewa and Ania met (with someone) at a cafe.'

This makes omnisyndentic coordination incompatible with HC, as – and this is the second well-known fact, discussed also in Citko 2013 – in HC all conjuncts are understood as referring to the same event (which, in turn, favours single-pair interpretations of questions involving HC). So the contrast in (50) does not require an explanation in terms of different coordinations in the two sentences: direct coordination of DPs in (50a) and biclausal coordination of CPs in (50b).

In fact, the said contrast may be construed as providing an argument *against* the biclausal analysis HC. This is because omnisyndetic coordination is perfectly compatible with the co-ordination of CPs; compare (50a) above with the synonymous (52) below.

(52) I   Ewa   przyszła   na zebranie i   Ania   przyszła   na zebranie. (Polish)
     and Ewa.NOM came.3SG.F to meeting and Ania.NOM came.3SG.F to meeting
     'Both Ewa came to the meeting and and Ania came to the meeting.'

Hence, the ungrammaticality of (50b), also involving coordination of CPs on the biclausal analysis, requires some explanation on that analysis (perhaps based on the fact that omnisyndetic coordination cannot combine questions).

The third argument (Citko 2013: 317–318) is based on the purported grammaticality contrast between (53b) and (54b).

(53) a. Kiedy ile   Jan   zjadł   pączków?   (Polish)
         when how.many.ACC Jan.NOM ate.3SG.M doughnuts.GEN
         'How many doughnuts did Jan eat when?'

     b. Ile   kiedy Jan   zjadł   pączków?   (Polish)
         how.many.ACC when Jan.NOM ate.3SG.M doughnuts.GEN
         'How many doughnuts did Jan eat when?'

(54) a. Kiedy i   ile   Jan   zjadł   pączków?   (Polish)
   when and how.many.ACC Jan.NOM ate.3SG.M doughnuts.GEN

35

'When and how many doughnuts did Jan eat?'

b. *Ile   i   kiedy Jan   zjadł   pączków?   (Polish)

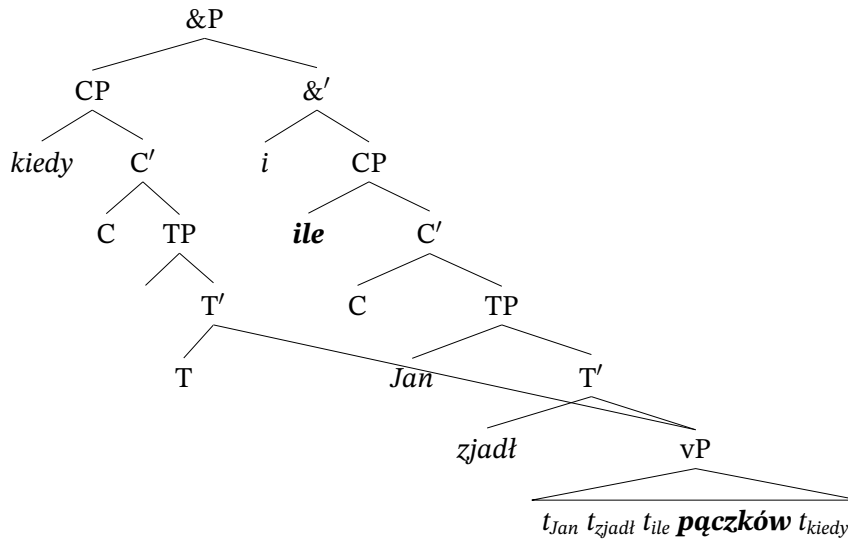   how.many.ACC and when Jan.NOM ate.3SG.M doughnuts.GEN

   intended: 'When and how many doughnuts did Jan eat?'

As Polish does not exhibit superiority effects, the grammaticality of the two monoclausal (co-ordination-less) examples in (53a–b) is expected, but what is unexpected on the monoclausal analysis of HC is that the apparent Left Branch Extraction (LBE) of *ile* 'how many' triggers superiority effects, as illustrated in (54a–b). On the other hand, on the biclausal analysis, the structure of the apparently ungrammatical (54b) would have to be as in (55), where "the left-branch extracted quantifier and its restriction end up in two distinct conjuncts, which suggests the ungrammaticality can be attributed to an independent constraint that the quantifier and its restriction cannot be separated by an island boundary" (Citko 2013: 322).

(55)
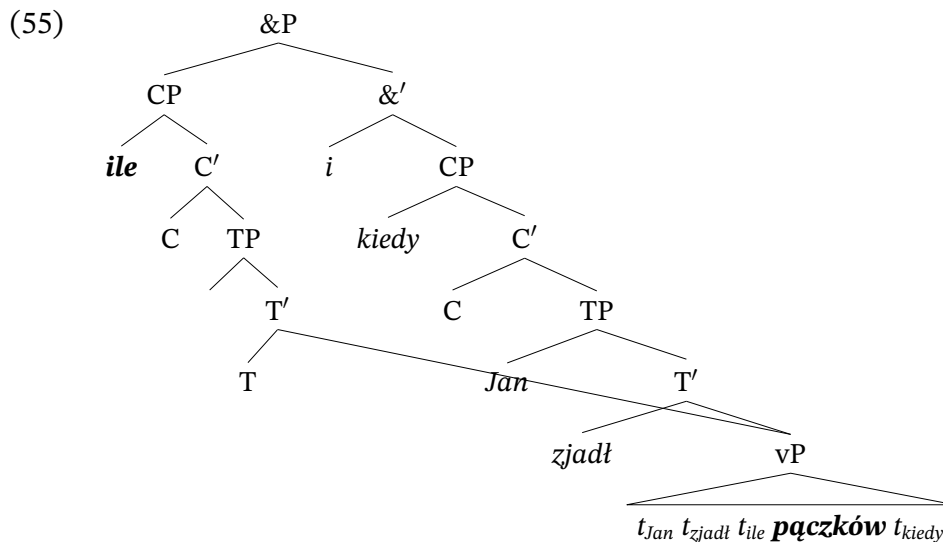
This attempt at the explanation of the contrast in (54) is directly contradicted by the fact that the fully acceptable (54a) displays identical configurational relation between the quantifier and its restriction:

(56)

&P
├─ CP
│   ├─ *kiedy*
│   └─ C′
│   ├─ C
│   └─ TP
│   └─ T′
│   └─ T
└─ &′
    ├─ *i*
    └─ CP
        ├─ **ile**
        └─ C′
            ├─ C
            └─ TP
                ├─ *Jan*
                └─ T′
                    ├─ *zjadł*
                    └─ vP
                        └─ t_{Jan} $t_{zjadł}$ t_{ile} **pączków** t_{kiedy}

So, whatever is meant by the statement that "the left-branch extracted quantifier and its restriction end up in two distinct conjuncts" (they are in fact in the same conjunct in both cases: the left CP in (55) and the right CP in (56)), it applies to both (54a–b) and cannot account for the purported contrast.

Note that whatever the reason for that contrast, it cannot be explained in terms of LBE. In fact, the extraction of the numeral *ile* 'how many' is *not* a typical LBE, as the numeral is the head of the numeral phrase *ile pączków* 'how many doughnuts' – it bears the accusative case of the direct object position, while *pączków* 'doughnuts' is in the genitive assigned by the numeral. More typical examples of LBE are (57a–b), where the left-extracted element is the adjectival modifier *które* 'which'.

(57) a. Kiedy i które Jan zjadł pączki? (Polish)
    when and which.ACC Jan.NOM ate.3SG.M doughnuts.ACC
    'When and which doughnuts did Jan eat?'

   b. Które i kiedy Jan zjadł pączki? (Polish)
    which.ACC and when Jan.NOM ate.3SG.M doughnuts.ACC
    'When and which doughnuts did Jan eat?'

But here the contrast observed in (54a–b) disappears – both are acceptable.

I believe that the contrast in (54a–b) is only apparent, i.e., that both are grammatical even if (54a) is clearly preferred. The reason is that sentences of the same structure as in (54b) occur naturally and are accepted by at least some native speakers, e.g.:[21]

(58)   Ale nie określiła,   ile   i   kiedy zostanie wypłaconych odsetek.

   but not specified.3SG.F how.many.ACC and when will.be   paid.GEN   interests.GEN
                                                                                   (Polish)

   'But she did not specify how much and when interest will be paid.'

One possible explanation of the acceptability contrast in (54a–b) is that there is an interpretation of these sentences on which (54a) is grammatical and (54b) is not, namely, the sluicing interpretation of the first conjunct. That is, (54a) can be uttered after somebody said that John devoured lots of doughnuts, and it receives the meaning 'When (did it happen) and how many doughnuts (exactly) did he eat?'. On the other hand, (54b) does not have such an interpretation: the initial *ile* 'how many' could be understood as a very brief way of asking 'How many doughnuts did he eat, then?', but then the second conjunct would have to be an acceptable CP, and it is not, as *pączków* 'doughnuts' occurs in the genitive instead of the expected accusative.[22] Such a difference in the availability of a sluicing reading is absent in (53a–b) (neither can be interpreted via slucing) and in (57a–b) (both can be), which explains why the acceptability contrast is only felt in (54a–b). But whether this explanation is on the right track or not, the biclausal analysis does not offer any advantage in explaining the acceptability contrast in (54a–b) over the standard monoclausal analysis of HC.

The final argument for the biclausal analysis (Citko 2013: 318–319) is based on the following pair (again, acceptability marks are Citko's, but the translation of (59b) is mine):

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[21]https://www.parkiet.com/Analizy/309229949-WykresDnia-Evergrande--reaktywacja.html

[22]Verbs such as ZJEŚĆ 'eat' also combine with genitive themes, understood then as unspecified and partitive, but such an interpretation is not available in this dialogue, as doughnuts have already been mentioned and the question about their quantity was asked in the first – sluiced – conjunct.

(59) a. Który profesor$_i$ ilu   ze swoich$_i$ studentów przeegzaminował?   (Polish)

which professor how.many of his   students   examined.3SG.M

'Which professor examined how many of his students?'

b. *Który profesor$_i$ i   ilu   ze swoich$_i$ studentów przeegzaminował? (Polish)

which professor and how.many of his   students   examined.3SG.M

'Which professor examined his students and how many students did he examine?'

On the biclausal analysis, the purported ungrammaticality of (59b) "can be linked to an in-dependent fact that variable binding is generally impossible across clauses" (Citko 2013: 322). Unfortunately, this one-sentence explanation is based on assumptions that are not made ex-plicit (about the exact nature of variable binding in the multidominance framework), so it is difficult to verify it. Nevertheless, this explanation cannot be on the right track, as in fact there is no acceptability contrast of the kind reported in Citko 2013. To ascertain this, I conducted a small opportunistic experiment involving 14 native speakers of Polish – computational lin-guists mostly with no background or interest in syntactic theories or in issues discussed in this paper. The respondents evaluated (59a–b) on the 5-point Likert scale from -2 (totally unac-ceptable) to 2 (totally acceptable). 10 of them (i.e., 71%) judged (59b) as totally acceptable and 12 (i.e., 86%) judged (59b) as equally or more acceptable than (59a). Statistically, (59b) scored on average 1.14 (vs. 0.55 for (59a)),[23] with median 2.00 (vs. 1.00), and standard deviation 1.56 (vs. 1.44).[24] So if the biclausal analysis really predicts that (59a) is grammatical and that (59b) is ungrammatical, then these examples provide an argument against that analysis.

    In summary, all of the arguments *for* the biclausal analysis adduced in Citko 2013 are im-mediately refutable, and some may in fact be reinterpreted as arguments *against* that analysis,

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[23]The difference in means is statistically marginally significant according to the one-tailed Wilcoxon signed rank test ($0.05 \leq p < 0.1; V = 11$). While, strictly speaking, it is not appropriate to report means and standard deviations for ordinal data (such as Likert scale), I follow the common linguistic practice in doing so anyway.

[24]See Lipták 2011: 184 for another report on nonreplicability of the judgements in (59).

so there is no reason to prefer that analysis over the standard monoclausal analysis of HC.[25]

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[25]Citko 2013 also mentions an argument from Tomaszewicz 2011, based on the possibility of the occurrence of "sentential adverbials" within Polish HC, but this argument may at best be construed as an argument for the availability English-type biclausal structures in Polish, apart from the standard monoclausal structures, similarly to the situation argued at length for Croatian in Gračanin-Yüksek 2007; however, this is actually a non-argument, given that such adverbials may occur in uncontroversial cases of direct coordination (Condoravdi et al. 2019). Moreover, Citko 2013 mentions that biclausal structures do not violate the Law of the Coordination of Likes (LCL), but this is not a valid argument for biclausal structures, given that LCL cannot be maintained, as extensively argued in Patejuk & Przepiórkowski 2023 and in Przepiórkowski 2022b.