Introduction

# A semantic-pragmatic account of generalized subject obviation

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#### Outline

Introduction

- Introduction
  - Classical subject obviation (basics)
  - Previous accounts
- 2 Generalized obviation
- Generalized obviation as a semantic conflict
- 4 Further implications

Generalized obviation

Introduction

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Ban on coreference between matrix and embedded subject of directive and desiderative predicates (Romance, Hungarian,...):

```
[SUBJECT<sub>i</sub> {want, hope, insist,...} [SUBJECT<sub>i,*i</sub> ...VERB<sub>Subjunctive</sub>...]]
```

French

**Ruwet 1984** 

#### Classical subject obviation

Introduction

Ban on coreference between matrix and embedded subject of directive and desiderative predicates (Romance, Hungarian,...):

Semantic Account

```
[SUBJECT; {want, hope, insist,...} [SUBJECT; *i ... VERBSubjunctive...]]
```

- (1)a. \*Je veux que je parte. I want that I leave.SUB.I int.: 'I want to leave.'
  - b. Pierre; veut qu'il\*i, parte. wants that he leave.SUB.I Pierre wants that he ( $\neq$  Pierre) leave.

Introduction

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- (2) Su padre le ordenó a Ana que dejara de hablar del asunto. a. 'Her father ordered Ana that (she) stop.SUBJ talking about the matter.'
  - b. \*Ana se ordenó (a sí misma) que dejara de pensar en el asunto. 'Ana ordered herself that (she) stop.SUBJ thinking about the matter.'

Spanish, Kempchinsky 2009,10b,d

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[Subject; {want, hope, insist,...} [Subject; ** ... Verb<sub>Subjunctive</sub>...]]
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Obviation effect is alleviated if the matrix subject referent is not in control Ruwet 1984; Farkas 1988, 1992; Szabolcsi 2010

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- Non-agentive complements, passives,...:
  - (3) Je veux que je sois très amusant ce soir. I want for me to be quite amusing tonight.

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[Subject; {want, hope, insist,...} [Subjectj,*i ...Verbsubjunctive...]]
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- Non-agentive complements, passives, . . :
  - (3) Je veux que je sois très amusant ce soir. I want for me to be quite amusing tonight.
- Joint responsibility (Szabolcsi 2010: including focus on low subject)
  - (4) Je veux [ que tu partes et que je reste.]
    I want [ for you to go and for me to stay.] Ruwet 1984

References

# Existing accounts for subject obviation 1: Competition

Blocking by competitor (typically, control construction)

Bouchard 1983: Farkas 1992: Schlenker 2005....

- (5) Pierre; veux  $[que il_{*/\#}; parte]$ Pierre wants [that he leave.SUBJ]
  - Pierre veux [ PRO partir Pierre wants [ PRO leave.INF ]

References

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- (5) a. Pierre, veux [que il $_{*/\#}$ ; parte Pierre wants [ that he leave.SUBJ ]
  - Pierre veux [ PRO partir Pierre wants [ PRO leave.INF ]
- Semantic version: competitor carries additional meaning

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Generalized obviation

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- b. Pierre veux [ PRO partir Pierre wants [ PRO leave.INF ]
- Semantic version: competitor carries additional meaning
  - Control construction expresses de se-attitude

Chierchia 1987: Schlenker 2005

- (Scen1) Pierre sees his campaign add, fails to recognize himself and thinks the guy featured should leave.  $- \times (5b)$ de re
- (Scen2) Pierre: 'I want to leave!'. ✓(5b) de se

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(Scen2) Pierre: 'I want to leave!'. - ✓(5b) de se

Control construction expresses responsibility for course of events

Farkas 1988

Blocking by competitor (typically, control construction):

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(5) Pierre; veux que il; parte. Pierre wants that he leave.SUB.I

Generalized obviation

Pierre veux [ PRO partir ] Pierre wants [PRO to leave]

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Generalized obviation

Introduction

- b. Pierre veux [ PRO partir ]
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Generalized obviation

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- b. Pierre veux [ PRO partir ]
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- ♦ Obviation in the absence of a competitor (for Slovenian: Stegovec 2019)

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- Doesn't extend to matrix phenomena (generalized obviation)

Kempchinsky 2009: Stegovec 2019

Blocking by competitor (typically, control construction):

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Pierre wants that he leave.SUBJ

Generalized obviation

- b. Pierre veux [ PRO partir ]
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- ✓ Ban alleviated when competitor isn't suitable (i.e., lack of de se or responsibility)
- Deviation in the absence of a competitor (for Slovenian: Stegovec 2019)
- Doesn't extend to matrix phenomena (generalized obviation)

Kempchinsky 2009; Stegovec 2019

Cases of free variation

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Kempchinsky 2009

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- Doesn't extend to matrix phenomena (generalized obviation)

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- Cases of free variation Kempchinsky 2009
- Status of presumed additional meaning (control constructions without de se: Magidor 2015; Pearson and Roeper t.a.)

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- Cases of free variation Kempchinsky 2009
- Status of presumed additional meaning (control constructions without de se: Magidor 2015; Pearson and Roeper t.a.)
- Preview: Subjunctive encodes absence of the meanings attributed to control construction

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## Existing accounts for subject obviation 2: Anti-Locality

- Binding domain of lower subject extends to include the higher subject:
   Picallo 1985; Kempchinsky 1986,...
  - (6) [  $\underline{SUBJECT}_i$  want/hope/insist/... [  $\underline{SUBJECT}_{j,*i}$  ...  $\underline{VERB}_{Subj}$  ... ]]

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- Variant: perspectival operator interacts with subjunctive subject Stegovec 2019
  - (7) [SUBJECT<sub>i</sub> want/hope/insist/... [PERSPOP<sub>i</sub>...SUBJECT<sub>i</sub>,\*<sub>i</sub>...VERB<sub>Subj</sub>...]]

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- Variant: perspectival operator interacts with subjunctive subject Stegovec 2019
  - (7) [SUBJECT; want/hope/insist/... [PERSPOP;...SUBJECT; \*j...VERBSubj...]]
- Independent of a suitable competitor

Generalized obviation

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   Stegovec 2019
  - (7) [Subject; want/hope/insist/... [Perspop;...Subjectj,\*i...Verb $_{Subj}$ ...]]
- ✓ Independent of a suitable competitor

Generalized obviation

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Devil in syntactic details Kempchinsky 2009 (matrix direct objects, object clitics in embedded clause,...)

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  - (7) [ SUBJECT; want/hope/insist/... [ PERSPOP; ... SUBJECT; \*j... VERBSubj...]]
- Independent of a suitable competitor
- Devil in syntactic details Kempchinsky 2009 (matrix direct objects, object clitics in embedded clause,...)
- Unclear: impact of pragmatics Farkas 1992, but: Zu 2018
- Preview: adopt perspectival operator but derive conflicts in semantics

Responsibility ('control') relates to imperatives

Farkas 1988; Quer 1998; Kempchinsky 2009

(8) Lies dieses Buch! read.IMP this book 'Read this book!'

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German

Responsibility ('control') relates to imperatives

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German

• **Subjunctive:** anyone other than the matrix subject can be in control **Imperative:** no 1p imp.; anyone other than speaker can be in control

Responsibility ('control') relates to imperatives

Farkas 1988: Quer 1998: Kempchinsky 2009

(8) dieses Buch! Lies read IMP this book 'Read this book!'

Generalized obviation

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German

- Subjunctive: anyone other than the matrix subject can be in control **Imperative:** no 1p imp.; anyone other than speaker can be in control
- 'the imperative operator semantically binds an addressee-oriented logophoric element, the subjunctive operator semantically binds a subject-oriented antilogophoric element: it is in a sense the inverse of the imperative operator' Kempchinsky 2009

#### Kempchinsky's (2009) implementation:

• 'core case of subjunctive complements [...] appear with matrix verbs which introduce some set of alternative worlds which do not hold at the time of the matrix predicate [...] selection of uninterpretable W feature'

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- 'core case of subjunctive complements [...] appear with matrix verbs which introduce some set of alternative worlds which do not hold at the time of the matrix predicate [...] selection of uninterpretable W feature'
- 'quasi-imperative operator in the Fin head of the left-periphery [...] binds a subject-oriented antilogophoric element; it is in essence an instruction to the semantic component on how to interpret the pronominal subject of the subjunctive clause.'

```
\dots V_{W} \quad \text{[$_{\text{CP}}$ $_{\text{ForceP}}$ $_{\text{Force}}$ $_{\text{IW}}$] $_{\text{FinP}}$ $_{\text{Fin}}$ $_{\text{Op}}$ $_{\text{IP}}$ $_{\text{OP}}$ $_{\text{MoodP}}$ $_{\text{V+T+M}_{W}}$ $_{\text{TP}}$ $_{\text{IP}}$ $_{\text{IP}
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   selection
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     checking (Agree)
                                                                                                                                         (identification)
```

✓ Semantic intuitions are spot on.

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Introduction

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Introduction

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- ♦ No interpretation given. Impact of presumed control? Connection between antilogophoricity and modality? Meaning of matrix verbs?

References

#### Existing accounts for subj. obviation 3: Anti-Logophoricity

- ✓ Semantic intuitions are spot on.
- Integrated into account of lexically selected and free mood marking (subjunctive/indicative).
- ♦ No interpretation given. Impact of presumed control? Connection between antilogophoricity and modality? Meaning of matrix verbs?
- ♦ Can it extend to generalized obviation (see below)?

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Generalized obviation

Introduction

- ✓ Integrated into account of lexically selected and free mood marking (subjunctive/indicative).
- ♦ No interpretation given. Impact of presumed control? Connection between antilogophoricity and modality? Meaning of matrix verbs?
- ♦ Can it extend to generalized obviation (see below)?

 Preview: Subjunctive operator <u>is</u> imperative operator, shift of perspective happens independently

# My proposal in a nutshell

Introduction

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Directive subjunctives and imperatives form a paradigm of directives. Evidence: embedded imperatives and surrogate imperatives.

Stegovec 2019 for Slovenian

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  - Stegovec 2019 for Slovenian
- All directive clauses are subject to generalized obviation (which includes classical subject obviation).

### My proposal in a nutshell

Generalized obviation

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• Directive subjunctives and imperatives form a paradigm of directives. Evidence: embedded imperatives and surrogate imperatives.

Stegovec 2019 for Slovenian

- All directive clauses are subject to generalized obviation (which includes classical subject obviation).
- Interpretation of directives references an epistemic authority (director), who knows what is preferable, and an agent (instigator), who can carry out the relevant actions, in a way such that...

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- Interpretation of directives references an epistemic authority (director), who knows what is preferable, and an agent (instigator), who can carry out the relevant actions, in a way such that...
  - identity between director and instigator amounts to inconsistent discourse commitments for speaker/unresolvable presuppositions.

References

### My proposal in a nutshell

• Directives express that an optimal action is selected by a director for someone else, the instigator, to carry out.

# My proposal in a nutshell

Introduction

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- Directives express that an optimal action is selected by a director for someone else, the instigator, to carry out.
- Director and instigator are determined by interplay of grammar and pragmatics.

### My proposal in a nutshell

• Directives express that an optimal action is selected by a **director** for someone else, the **instigator**, to carry out.

Semantic Account

- Director and instigator are determined by interplay of grammar and pragmatics.
- Structure of directive clauses:
  - (9) [PERSPOP [IMPOP [SUBJECT ... Verb<sub>Subj/Imp</sub>]]]
    - a. typically: SUBJECT = Instigator
    - b. ImpOP: necessity modal + presuppositions; licenses directive subjunctive/imperative morphology
    - PERSPOP = Director;
       set grammatically to discourse participant or matrix subject (independently motivated mechanism)

#### Outline

Introduction

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Generalized obviation
  - Motivating a full directive paradigm
  - Generalized obviation in Slovenian
  - A more general pattern of perspectival dependence
  - Syntactic account for generalized obviation
  - Sem-prag effects on generalized obviation
- 3 Generalized obviation as a semantic conflict
- 4 Further implications

Morpho-syntactic marking of canonical imperatives in indirect speech:

(10) Rekel (ti) je, da mu pomagaj. Slovenian said.M (2.Dat) is that 3.M.DAT help.IMP.(2) Sheppard and Golden 2002 'He; said (to you) that you should help him;.k.'

### Imperatives as embedded 2p directives

Introduction

Morpho-syntactic marking of canonical imperatives in indirect speech:

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- (11) Hans hat gesagt ruf seinen Vater an.
  Hans has said call.IMP his father up
  'Mans,' said that you should call his,', father.'

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  'Hans; said that you should call his; I father.'
- (12) John<sub>i</sub> said call his<sub>i,k</sub> father.  $^{\%}$ English Crnič and Trinh 2009

# Imperatives as embedded 2p directives

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Also: Japanese (Han 1999), Korean (Pak, Portner & Zanuttini 2008), Mbyá (Thomas 2014), Old Scandinavian (Rögnvaldsson 1998), . . .

But not: Greek, French, Italian, Serbian,...

# Surrogate imperatives filling the paradigm

Type I surrogates fill gaps in imperative/directive paradigms:

Negative imperatives

Introduction

Zanuttini 1997; Zeiljstra 2006; Isac 2015

(13)Leggi! – Non {leggere, \*leggi}. read.IMP2 - not read.INF. read.IMP2 'Read!' - 'Don't read!'

Italian

# Surrogate imperatives filling the paradigm

Type I surrogates fill gaps in imperative/directive paradigms:

Negative imperatives

Introduction

Zanuttini 1997; Zeiljstra 2006; Isac 2015

- (13)Leggi! - Non {leggere, \*leggi}. Italian read.IMP2 - not read.INF. read.IMP2 'Read!' - 'Don't read!'
- Regulating course of events described with non-2p subject

'3rd person imperatives', Zanuttini et al. 2012

- (14)Naj pomaga! Slovenian, naj-subjunctive SBJV help.3 '(S)he should help!'
- (15)Tebulwa: sa:ph rahel table-Nom clean-Nom be-IMP3Sg

Bhojpuri Zanuttini et al. 2012

'Let the table be clean!'

# Surrogate imperatives replacing canonical 2p imperatives

Type II surrogates can replace canonical (i.e., 2p) imperatives in at least some functions:

(16) Greek:

Oikonomou 2016, (59a,b)

- a. Trekse tora amesos! run.IMP now immediately
- b. Na treksis tora amesos! na-subjunctive
  SBJV run now immediately
  'Run right now!' commands, invitations, advice,...
- (17) Slovenian
  - a. Pojdi levo! go.IMP left

b. Da mi greš levo! that 1.DAT go.2 left 'Go left!' imperative

imperative

da-clause

only command(-like);

strong directive von Fintel and latridou 2017

Fill morphological gaps in directive paradigm (dual omitted):

Person	Sg	PI
1(Excl)	naj pomaga-m I should help	naj pomaga-mo we.EXCL should help
1+2	-	pomaga-j-mo (we.INCL) let's help
2	pomaga-j (you.SG) help!	pomaga-j-te (you.PL) help!
3	naj pomaga (s)he should help	naj pomag-jo they should help

# Slovenian *naj-*subjuncti<u>ves</u>

Introduction

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Fill morphological gaps in directive paradigm (dual omitted):

Person	Sg	PI
1(Excl)	naj pomaga-m I should help	naj pomaga-mo we.EXCL should help
1+2	_	pomaga-j-mo (we.INCL) let's help
2	pomaga-j (you.SG) help!	pomaga-j-te (you.PL) help!
3	naj pomaga (s)he should help	naj pomag-jo they should help

Finding: Availability of forms is constrained

- matrix clause: by discourse function (committing/asking)
- embedded: by subject obviation

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```
Commitment: 'x should...!'
```

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- (18) Anyone but first person exclusive
  - a. \*Naj pomagam! \*Naj pomagamo! SBJV help.1 – SBJV help.1Pl
  - b. Pomagaj! Pomagajte! Pomagajmo!
     help.IMP.2 Help.IMP.2PI Help.IMP.1PI(Incl)
  - c. Naj pomaga! Naj pomagajo!SBJV help.3 SBJV help.3PI

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```
Commitment: 'x should...!'
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- (18)Anyone but first person exclusive
  - \*Naj pomagam! \*Naj pomagamo! SBJV help.1 - SBJV help.1Pl
  - Pomagaj! Pomagajte! Pomagajmo! help.IMP.2 - Help.IMP.2PI - Help.IMP.1PI(Incl)
  - Naj pomaga! Naj pomagajo! SBJV help.3 - SBJV help.3PI

Information seeking interrogatives: 'Should x...?'

- (19)Anyone but second person
  - Naj pomagam? Naj pomagamo? SBJV help.1 - SBJV help.1Pl
  - b. \*Pomagaj? \*Pomagajte? \*Pomagajmo? help.IMP2 - Help.IMP.2PI - Help.IMP.1PI(Incl)
  - Naj pomaga? Naj pomagajo? SBJV help.3 - SBJV help.3PI

Appendix

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# Generalized obviation in speech reports

(20)Anyone but attitude holder

- I said that \*I/you/he should... [naj V.1p]
- [IMP.2] You said that I/\*you/he should . . .
- (S)he; said (to Z) that  $I/you/(s)he_{*i/i}$  should... [naj V.3p]

Stegovec 2019

### Generalized obviation in speech reports

(20)Anyone but attitude holder

- I said that \*I/you/he should... [naj V.1p]
- [IMP.2] You said that I/\*you/he should ...
- (S)he; said (to Z) that  $I/you/(s)he_{*i/i}$  should... [naj V.3p]
- (21)Me: 'I should exercise more!' - Later you remind me:
  - a. \*Rekel si;, da več telovadi;. said.M are.2 that more exercise.IMP.(2) int: 'You said that you should exercise more.'

Obviation!

Rekel sii, da moraši več telovadit. said M are 2 that should 2 more exercise INF 'You; said that you; should exercise more.'

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#### Generalized obviation in speech reports

(20)Anyone but attitude holder

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- I said that \*I/you/he should... [naj V.1p]
- You said that I/\*you/he should ... [IMP.2]
- (S)he; said (to Z) that  $I/you/(s)he_{*i/i}$  should... [naj V.3p]
- (21)Me: 'I should exercise more!' - Later you remind me:
  - a. \*Rekel si;, da več telovadi;. said.M are.2 that more exercise.IMP.(2) int: 'You said that you should exercise more.' Obviation!
    - Rekel sii, da moraši več telovadit. said M are 2 that should 2 more exercise INF 'You; said that you; should exercise more.'

'It's ok to tell yourself what to do; just not with imperatives or disjunctives!'  $\Rightarrow$  an issue of conventional meaning of directives

#### Generalized obviation is a matter of grammar

Stegovec 2019

- Standard subject obviation with directive subjunctives is one corner of generalized directive obviation
- Something about directives (imperatives, directive *naj*-clauses) blocks subjects that refer to speaker/addressee or attitude holder.

#### Generalized obviation is a matter of grammar

Stegovec 2019

- Standard subject obviation with directive subjunctives is one corner of generalized directive obviation
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- Something about directives (imperatives, directive *naj*-clauses) blocks subjects that refer to speaker/addressee or attitude holder.
- Purely pragmatic account is implausible: self-directing can happen and can be reported.
- Similar patterns:
  - Interrogative flip (assertion/question) in dependence of epistemic modals, evidentials, speech act adverbials,... Speas and Tenny 2003: Faller 2002....
  - Japanese experiencer predicates

Kuno 1987; McCready 2007,...

Conjunct-disjunct agreement systems

- ...

Introduction

# Compare: Conjunct-disjunct agreement

Pattern of generalized obviation resembles conjunct-disjunct agreement, e.g. Newari (Sino-Tibetan): Hale 1980; Wechsler 2018; Zu 2018

- Main clause, commitment (assertion):
  - (22) DISJ for everyone other than speaker (1p.Excl):
    - a. Ji ana wan-ā.

      1P.ABS there go-PST.CONJ.

      'I went there.'
    - b. cha ana wan-a. you.ABS there go-PST.DISJ 'You went there.'
    - c. wa ana wan-a (s)he.ABS there go-PST.DISJ '(S)he went there.'

Pattern of generalized obviation resembles conjunct-disjunct agreement, e.g. Newari (Sino-Tibetan):

Hale 1980, Wechsler 2018, Zu 2018

Main clause, commitment (assertion):

- CONJ for Speaker
- Main clause interrogatives, information seeking:
  - (23) DISJ for everyone other than addressee (2p):
    - a. ji ana wan-a la I.ABS there go-PST.DISJ Q 'Did I go there?'
    - b. cha ana wan-ā lā you.ABS there go-PST.CONJ Q 'Did you go there?'
    - c. wa ana wan-a  $\overline{a}$ . (s)he.ABS there go-PST.DISJ Q 'Did (s)he go there?'

Pattern of perspectival obviation resembles conjunct-disjunct agreement, e.g. Newari (Sino-Tibetan): Hale 1980, Wechsler 2018, Zu 2018

- Main clause declarative, commitment (assertion): CONJ for Speaker
- Main clause interrogative, information seeking: CONJ for Addressee
- In speech reports:

Introduction

- (24) DISJ for everyone (also utterance speaker) other than matrix speaker (identified *de se*):
  - a. wõ: [wa ana wan-ā dhakā:] dhā (s)he.ERG (s)he there go-PST.CONJ that said '(S)he, said that (s)he, went there.'
  - b. wõ: [wa ana wan-a dhak $\overline{a}$ :] dh $\overline{a}$  (s)he.ERG (s)he there go-PST.DISJ that said '(S)he, said that (s)he, went there.'

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• Main clause interrogatives, information seeking: CONJ for Addressee

CONJ for MatrixSubj In speech reports:

Additionally, in Newari: subject of conjunct sentence has to control the event intentionally. (Zu 2015)

References

Stegovec 2019

### Syntactic account of generalized obviation

• Director is represented syntactically: perspectival PRO Perspectival center in the syntax: Tenny and Speas 2004; Wechsler 2018; Zu 2015

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{ COMMIT<sub>Speaker</sub>, QUESTION<sub>Addressee</sub> } \lambda x [ PRO<sub>x</sub> [ SUBJECT [ ... ]]]
In speech report:
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Alternative (here): Semantic infelicity (independent of Condition B).

# Lack of (presumed) control alleviates obviation

Generalized obviation

Introduction

- Obviation effects are alleviated in the absence of control
   Ruwet 1984; Farkas 1988, 1992; Szabolcsi 2010
  - (3) Je veux que je sois très amusant ce soir.I want for me to be quite amusing tonight.

# Lack of (presumed) control alleviates obviation

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   Ruwet 1984; Farkas 1988, 1992; Szabolcsi 2010
  - (3) Je veux que je sois très amusant ce soir.I want for me to be quite amusing tonight.
- Lack of control in matrix directives (commitment case) ⇒ √1p
   Directive Greek na-subjunctives obviate; (25) acceptable if speaker lacks control over when they wake up:

Oikonomou 2016:(38)

(25) Avrio na ksipniso stis 6:00am.
Tomorrow NA wake.1Sg at 6:00am.
'Tomorrow I should wake up at 6:00am.'

Same judgment for Slovenian naj-subjunctives (A. Stegovec, p.c.).

# Interrogative perspectives 1: Rhetorical questions

Newari rhetorical questions behave like declaratives Hale 1980:(100), Zu 2018

```
(26) a. ji ana wan-ā?
I there go-PST.CONJ
'Did I go there?' (=Of course I did not.)
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Imperatives in rhetorical (wh)-questions:

a. ji ana wan- $\bar{a}$ ?

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Sperber & Wilson 1988: Omotic (Southern Ethiopia);
Kaufmann and Poschmann 2013: *German
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Imperatives in rhetorical (wh)-questions:

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Suggests: rhetorical questions keep the speaker as the perspectival center.

Scope marking questions: Daval 1994

# Interrogatives perspectives 2: Context/Scope Marking

Interrogatives can be shifted to a non-addressee perspective:

Slovenian

- (28) Kaj je rekla? Kaj kupi?

  what AUX.3 said.F what buy.IMP.(2)

  'What did she say? What should you buy?
- (29) a. Ti na fas avrio? Greek
  what SUBJ eat.2 tomorrow? Oikonomou 2016:34
  'What could you eat tomorrow?' (deciding together)
  - b. Ti gnomi ehi i mama? Na pas sto parti? What opinion has the mom SUBJ go.2 at-the party 'Whats your moms opinion? Can/Should you go to the party?'

### Rising directives

Introduction

Portner 2018; Rudin 2018

Canonical imperatives and surrogates (with 2p subjects) are ok with rising intonation  $\Rightarrow$  Suggestions Portner 2018; Rudin 2018

- (30) a. Help him (maybe)?
  - b. Pomagaj? Slovenian help.IMP.2 'Should you help him?'
  - c. {Pročitaj / Da pročitaš} ovu knjigu? Serbian read.IMP2 / that read.2.Pfv this book
    - 'Read this book, maybe?'

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  - c. {Pročitaj / Da pročitaš} ovu knjigu? Serbian read.IMP2 / that read.2.Pfv this book 'Read this book, maybe?'
- Rising tune calls off speaker commitment, imperative content placed on the Table Farkas and Bruce 2010: Rudin 2018
- Perspectival center: speaker and addressee together.

### Outline

Introduction

- Generalized obviation as a semantic conflict
  - Directives as modalized propositions
  - Deriving generalized obviation

### Directives close gap between knowledge and action



Introduction





Introduction

• Directive speech acts: ≈Searle 1976 **Director** aims to get **Instigator** to bring about a specific course of events.

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Introduction

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   [PERSPOP [ImpOP[Subject ... Verb<sub>Subj/Imp</sub>]]]
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Semantic Account

- Directive operator ImpOP
  - $-\approx$  must. should: singles out 'Subject ... Verb<sub>Subj/Imp</sub>' as best course of events
  - imposes conditions on felicitious contexts of use (presuppositions) that can only be met if Director  $\neq$  Instigator.
- Extends semantics that is independently motivated for canonical 2p imperatives

Schwager 2006: Kaufmann 2012

References

Introduction

Kamp 1973

Two uses of declaratives with (deontic) modals . . .

- descriptive: describing what is permitted, commanded, recommended, . . .
  - (31)You should call your mother. [that's what she said]
    - You may take an apple. h.

[that's what the guy in the uniform said]

References

### Descriptive and performative modal verbs

Kamp 1973

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descriptive: describing what is permitted, commanded, recommended, . . .

Semantic Account

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- (31)a. You should call your mother. [that's what she said]
  - b. You may take an apple.

[that's what the guy in the uniform said]

- performative: issuing permissions, commands, recommendations,...
  - (32)a. You must clean up your desk now!
    - b. Ok, you may take an apple.

Evidence for performativity:

Kaufmann 2012

(33) a. #That's (not) true! [That's not true-test]

b. #... but I (absolutely) don't want you to do this.

[Distancing Ban]

Kaufmann [2006]/2012, 2016

 Modals: descriptive and performative is a distinction of use, not semantics. Kamp 1973; Schulz 2003 Context decides: descriptive context vs. performative context

Magdalena Kaufmann (UConn)

Introduction

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Modal flavor is considered decisive

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Decisive Modality (DM)

- Director is considered an authority
  - □ Epistemic Authority Condition (EAC)
- Imperatives contain an operator ImpOP similar to *must* that presupposes that context is performative

Simplification: quantificational force

#### Modal logic for modals and directives

- Translate into standard modal logic with  $\square$  and  $\lozenge$  indexed for epistemic and prioritizing interpretations w.r.t. a Frame  $F = \langle W, B, R \rangle$ , where:
  - W set of all possible worlds

Introduction

- − B maps individual a to a's belief relation  $B_a \subseteq W \times W$
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Introduction

- Mutual joint belief  $\square^{CG}$ 

Stalnaker 2002

indexed for transitive closure of  $B_S \cup B_A$  for Speaker and Addressee

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Mutual joint belief □<sup>CG</sup>

Stalnaker 2002

indexed for transitive closure of  $B_S \cup B_A$  for Speaker and Addressee

- Public Belief: Individual a is publicly committed to believing p:

$$\Box^{PB_a}p := \Box^{CG}\Box^{B_a}p$$

# Interpreting modals and directives in $F = \langle W, B, R \rangle$

 Prioritizing modals and imperatives (directives) are indexed for the salient prioritizing modal flavor R

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Introduction

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'must<sup>R</sup> \phi' imperative LF: [ImpOP<sup>R</sup> \phi]
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References

• Example:

Introduction

- (34)a. You must close the door!
  - Close the door!
- (34a) and (34b) translate to:  $\square^R$  close(you,the-door)
- (34a) and (34b) are true at w iff you close the door in all w' s.t. w'is R-accessible from w.

Introduction

 $Kaufmann\ [2006]/2012,\ 2016$ 

Appendix

 $\bullet$   $\it must \, \phi$  is used performatively in a performative context, else, it can be used descriptively.

Introduction

- must φ is used performatively in a performative context, else, it can be used descriptively.
- Imperative 'ImpOP  $\phi$ ' presupposes that the context is performative, thereby, the speaker is publicly committed to believing that it is.

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- Performative contexts are characterized by three conditions:

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- (EAC) Epistemic Authority Condition

  Director has perfect knowledge of what is necessary w.r.t. salient prioritizing modal flavor *R*.

Appendix

#### Performative contexts

Introduction

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- Performative contexts are characterized by three conditions:
- (EAC) Epistemic Authority Condition Director has perfect knowledge of what is necessary w.r.t. salient prioritizing modal flavor R.
- (EUC) Epistemic Uncertainty Condition (If not for the directive utterance), Director holds possible  $\phi$  and  $\neg \phi$ .

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- (DM) Decisive Modality (to be unpacked)
  - Speakers using directives become publicly committed to believing that EAC, EUC, and DM are mutual joint belief.

Introduction

• Given context set CS (the set of worlds compatible with mutual joint belief) and a salient partition  $\Delta$  on CS, the salient modal flavor R is decisive iff it constitutes the contextually agreed upon criteria to choose the perferred cell.

# Decisive Modality (DM)

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- $\Delta$  is a decision problem for an agent  $\alpha$  iff for all  $q \in \Delta$ , control $(\alpha, q)$ , where control( $\alpha, q$ ) := try( $\alpha, q$ )  $\rightarrow$  cause( $\alpha, q$ )

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Semantic Account

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Kaufmann and Kaufmann 2012

- R being the decisive modality implies:
  - If  $\square^R q$ , no participant effectively prefers  $\neg q$ .
  - If  $\Delta$  is a decision problem for  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha$  tries to find out if  $\Box^R q$  for any  $a \in \Delta$ .
  - If  $\alpha$  learns that  $\square^R q$  for  $q \in \Delta$ ,  $\alpha$  tries to realize q.

Introduction

#### Generalized obviation as a clash in discoure commitments

Any performative context meets Director's Anticipation: If Director D is publicly committed to believing that Instigator  $\alpha$  believes that  $p \in \Delta$  is R-necessary, then D is publicly committed to believing that p will come true:

$$\Box^{PB_D}\Box^{B_\alpha}\Box^R p\to\Box^{PB_D} p$$

Appendix/Kaufmann 2020 for proof.

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#### Roughly:

- Modal flavor R is decisive: if  $\alpha$  believes p is necessary according to R,  $\alpha$  will try to realize
- Presumed control:  $\alpha$  can realize p

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- Presumed control:  $\alpha$  can realize p
- If Director = Instigator: clashes with Epistemic Uncertainty and/or Epistemic Authority (obviation).

No first person directives:

(35) \*'I should...!'

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Introduction

• By grammar of perspective setting: Director = Speaker

No first person directives:

\*'I should...!' (35)

- By grammar of perspective setting: Director = Speaker
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No first person directives:

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- But then, Epistemic Uncertainty Condition fails

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- Speaker publicly commits to  $\Box^R p$
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- But then, Epistemic Uncertainty Condition fails

fInconsistent presuppositions  $\Rightarrow$  speaker incurs conflicting discourse requirements

#### Classical subject obviation:

- (36) a. \*I said that I should...
  - b. \*You said that you should/V.IMP.2p . . .
  - c. (S)he<sub>i</sub> said that (s)he<sub>j,\*i</sub> should...

#### Classical subject obviation:

- a. \*I said that I should... (36)
  - b. \*You said that you should/V.IMP.2p ...
  - c. (S)he<sub>i</sub> said that (s)he<sub>i,\*i</sub> should...
- By grammar of perspective setting: Director = Matrix subject

#### Classical subject obviation:

- (36) a. \*I said that I should...
  - b. \*You said that you should/V.IMP.2p ...
  - c. (S)he<sub>i</sub> said that (s)he<sub>j,\*i</sub> should...
- By grammar of perspective setting: Director = Matrix subject
- Presuppositions as in matrix case should be anchored to the speech event described by the matrix predicate

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References

#### Matrix case: questions

Introduction

No directives in information seeking interrogatives:

(37) 'Should you...?'/'Do...?'

Introduction

- 'Should you...?'/'Do...?' (37)
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Introduction

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# Alleviating generalized obviation

Introduction

• No presumed control for subject: Grammatical subject (= Director)  $\neq$  Instigator No Director's Anticipation! Introduction

# Alleviating generalized obviation

- No presumed control for subject: Grammatical subject (= Director) ≠ Instigator
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Introduction

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Appendix

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  - Rhetorical questions:
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#### Outline

- 4 Further implications
  - Directive and desiderative subjunctives
  - Promising

#### Back to classical subject obviation

Introduction

Subjunctive and imperative inflection signals presence of licensing clause-mate perspective dependent modal operator.

Oikonomou 2016

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Oikonomou 2016

```
Here: ImpOP
```

```
[\begin{array}{c} \textbf{SUBJ}_i \ \{ \textbf{want, hope, insist,...} \end{array} \} \ [\begin{array}{c} \textbf{PerspOP} \ \textbf{ImpOP}[\textbf{SUBJ}_{j, *_i} \ ... \ \textbf{VERB}_{\textit{Subjunctive}} ... ]]]]
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[Subj; {want, hope, insist,...} [PerspOP ImpOP[Subj;*; ... Verb_Subjunctive...]]]
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- Modal meaning in obviative subjunctives has to be harmonic w.r.t. matrix predicate Kratzer 2006; Moltmann 2008; Stegovec 2019
  - (39)Sie verlangte, dass alle das Buch lesen sollten. she requested, that everyone the book read.INF should 'She requested that they (should) all read the book.'

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  - (39)Sie verlangte, dass alle das Buch lesen sollten. she requested, that everyone the book read.INF should 'She requested that they (should) all read the book.'

Content of request: that they read the book, not: that they are under an obligation to read the book

References

#### An issue with desiderative predicates?

Introduction

```
[ SUBJ_i {want, hope, insist,... } [ PerspOPImpOP[SUBJ_{i,*i} ... VERB_{Subjunctive}...]]]
```

• So far: focus on directive predicates.

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```
[ SUBJ_{i} \{ want, hope, insist, ... \} [ PerspOPImpOP[SUBJ_{j,*_{i}} ... VERB_{Subjunctive} ... ]]]
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- Extends to desiderative predicates ('want') if they express effective preferences (realistic, basis for action)
   Condoravdi and Lauer 2012

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- ✓ Weaker desire for course of events not under control is non-obviative

  Kempchinsky 2009 after Ruwet
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Semantic Account

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- ImpOP may not be only operator licensing obviating subjunctives

(e.g. Slovenian, German, English; exception: Turkish; Oikonomou 2016)

## Promising speculations

Introduction

Promising involves identity between Director and Instigator and is an outlier in mood-marking:

• Korean: special promissive clause type Pak et al. 2008 Cross-linguistically extremely rare, antiquated in Korean (Jungmin Kang, Jayeon Park, p.c)

with declaratives)

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- 'promise'-verbs should select subjunctive; stubbornly: indicative, problematic for theories of mood selection Zanuttini et al. 2012 Explanation: embedded directive (or desiderative) subjunctives signal gap between epistemic authority and control of events

Generalized obviation Semantic Account Further implications References

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#### Conclusions

Introduction

• Classical subject obviation is an instance of generalized obviation

Appendix

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- Subjunctives are licensed by a modal operator that presupposes a gap between director and instigator (knowledge and action)

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• . .

#### Conclusions

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- Subjunctives are licensed by a modal operator that presupposes a gap between director and instigator (knowledge and action)

\*Thanks for zooming in!\*

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## Director's Anticipation

Generalized obviation

Introduction

(41) Director's Anticipation: If director d is publicly committed to believing that instigator a believes that  $p \in \Delta$  is R-necessary, then d is publicly committed to believing that p will come true:

$$\Box^{PB_d}\Box^{B_a}\Box^R p\to\Box^{PB_d} p$$

(42) a. 
$$\Box^{PB_d}\Box^{B_s}\Box^R p$$
 Assumption

- b.  $\Box^{PB_d}(\Box^{B_s}\Box^R p \to \operatorname{try}(a,p))$  Decisive Modality c.  $\Box^{PB_d}\Box^{B_s}\Box^R p \to \Box^{PB_d}\operatorname{try}(a,p)$  K
- d.  $\Box^{PB_d}$ try(a, p) 1, 3, MP
- e.  $\Box^{PB_d}p$  presumed control (decision problem)

#### Conflict: Commitment Case

Introduction

a.  $\Box^{PB_d}\Box^R p$ b.  $\Box^{PB_d}\Box^{B_d}\Box^R p$ (43) $\Box^{PB_d} p$  $\Box^{PB_d}(\Diamond^{PB_d}p \wedge \Diamond^{PB_d}\neg p)$ e.  $\neg \Box^{PB_d} p$ f.  $\Box^{PB_d} p \wedge \neg \Box^{PB_d} p$ 

Committing utterance by d Def. of PB b, Director's Anticipation EUC d, System K c.e: £

# Conflict: Information Seeking Question

(44) a. 
$$\{\Box^R p, \Box^R \neg p\}$$

Introduction

Semantic answers

b. 
$$\Box^{PB_5}(\Box^R p \vee \Box^R \neg p)$$
 Interrogative commitment

c. 
$$\Box^{PB_S}(\Box^R p \leftrightarrow \Box^{B_A}\Box^R p) \land \Box^{PB_S}(\Diamond^{B_A} p \land \Diamond^{B_A} \neg p)$$
 EAC, EUC

d. 
$$\Box^{PB_S}((\Box^R p \wedge \Box^{B_A}\Box^R p \wedge \Diamond^{B_A} \neg p) \vee (\Box^R \neg p \wedge \Box^{B_A}\Box^R \neg p \wedge \Diamond^{B_A} p))$$

b,c; EAC

## Subjects of morphosyntactic canonical imperatives

English subjects in morphosyntactic canonical imperatives:

- (45) a.  $\{\emptyset, You\}$  read the book!
  - b. Nobody  $\{\emptyset$ , of you $\}$  move!
  - Kids, Sebastian open the door and Tobias put away the toys.

Subject referent cannot be disjoint from an existing addressee:

Downing 1969; pace Potsdam 1989, Zanuttini, Pak, Portner 2012

- (46) a. Maître'd, someone seat the guests.
  - b. #Maître'd, one of your underlings seat the guests.
- (47) Rain! Don't rain!

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- (46) a. Maître'd, someone seat the guests.b. #Maître'd, one of your underlings seat the guests.
- (47) Rain! Don't rain!
- (48) English 2p imperative subjects: Kaufmann 2012
  When construed as a quantifier, if there is non-empty set of addressees, the domain of the imperative subject contains at least one of them.

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- (40) a. Maitre'd, someone seat the guests.b. #Maitre'd, one of your underlings seat the guests.
- (41) Rain! Don't rain!
- (43) German generalization: Kaufmann 2012
  The domain of the imperative subject is the set of addressees. –
  \*(39c), \*(41).

# Wish-imperatives

Introduction

(44) a. Get well soon! Wishb. Please have the keys with you! Wish

c. Please don't have broken another vase! Wish

(45) a. #Get tenure!b. Get work done on the train! Command, #Wish

New proposal: Canonical morphosyntactic 2p-imperatives p! in English presuppose:

If it is possible that some agent controls p, then the addressee controls p.

# Wish-imperatives

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 Absent any controlling agent, decisive modality is compatible with a mere wish-reading.

## Wish-imperatives

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Wish Please don't have broken another vase!

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- (In)felicity of passives depends on presumed control: Farkas 1988
  - (46)a. Be seen by a specialist! ✓ Command/Advice b. #Be hit by Mary!

## Wish-imperatives

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> Wish Please don't have broken another vase!

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- Greek: \*(44a) Oikonomou 2016; ok: (44b,c) (D.O., p.c.)

#### Addressees of embedded '2p' imperatives

Kaufmann 2016

Canonical imperatives differ cross-linguistically in who ends up being the addressee under embedding:

- (47)A said (to B) that IMP.2Sg.
- Korean, Japanese: B (matrix indirect object, ≈ object control)

Semantic Account

- Slovenian: utterance addressee
- English: B or utterance addressee
  - (48)[Context: Peters visa is about to expire. His good friend Mary tells him:] I talked to a lawyer yesterday, and he said marry my sister.
  - (49)[Context: Mary has lost her wallet. She tells her husband:] I talked to John, and he said call his bank.
- German: B has to be utterance addressee Kaufmann & Poschmann 2011)

## Compare conjunct-disjunct

Different perspectival phenomena have been associated with:

Semantic Account

- Seat of knowledge
- Responsibility
- Internal perspective
  - (50)I imagined driving around town in this car.
    - h. I imagined myself driving around town in this car.

Note: dream-self vs. doxastic alternative:

(51)I dreamed I was Brigitte Bardot and I kissed myself. Lakoff; Pearson 2018

Zu (2015) proposes an implicational hierarchy of what aspects are involved in a particular phenomenon, encoded by movement in syntactic structure: Newari-conjunct marking appears only if all three are met. Control/non-control in imperatives cannot be done in this way—seat of knowledge vs. control are disjoint either way (pace Speas & Tenny 2004, who assume that imperatives have the Addressee as the Seat of Knowledge—at odds with the obviation data).

Kempchinsky 2009: Spanish object control freely alternates between control and subjunctive (issue for blocking, issue for domain extension) (her 10a-d):

(52)Su padre le ordenó a Ana dejar de hablar del asunto. a. 'Her father ordered Ana to stop talking about the matter.'

Semantic Account

- Su padre le ordenó a Ana que dejara de hablar del asunto. b. 'Her father ordered Ana that she stop(SUBJ) talking about the matter.'
- (53)Ana se ordenó (a sí misma) dejar de pensar en el asunto. a. 'Ana ordered herself to stop thinking about the matter.'
  - b. \*Ana se ordenó (a sí misma) que dejara de pensar en el asunto. 'Ana ordered herself that she stop(SUBJ) thinking about the matter.'

But compare Farkas 1992: obviative overt pronouns remain obviative in Serbo-Croatian (her 20a,b):

(54)Ana je naterala Mariju; da  $e_{i/*k}$  dodje. a. Ana forced M. that (she) come

## Hungarian extraposition and focus, Farkas 1992

Semantic Account

(55)Ha az-t akarod, hogy velünk gyere, viselked-i szépen. if that-ACC want that us-with come.SUBJ, behave.SUBJ well 'If you want to come with us, behave well. ' her (17)

azt construction is impossible with infinitive complements:

(56)\*János; az-t akarja velünk jön-ni. János that-ACC wants with us come-INF

Fn 6: mere presence of az is insufficient:

(57)János; az-t akarja, hogy e; jöjjön velünk. 'If you want János that-ACC wants that (he<sub>i</sub>) us-with come.SUBJ to come with us. behave well.

Ok also if complement subject is focused (her (19), that HE come, and not László)