

"'Language' is a great invention, but
I keep getting syntax errors."

GENUINE TOPIC VERB-SECOND STRUCTURES IN OLD ENGLISH

SWELL, 25 March 2011

Neuchâtel

Richard Zimmermann

OUTLINE OF THE TALK

1. Introduction to the V2 Constraint in OE
2. Diachronic development of Genuine Topic-V2
 - Variable Rules Analysis
 - Other evidence...
3. Independence of verb-position and topicalization
4. Conclusion



1. INTRODUCTION

Intro

TopV2 Development

Rule Independence

Conclusion



1. INTRODUCTION

V2 = XP – finite verb – Subject



Intro

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1. INTRODUCTION

V2 = XP – finite verb – Subject

- (1) a. Maran kyððe habbað englas to God þonne men
more affinity have angels to God than men
'Angels are closer to God than men.'

(cocathom1, ÆCHom_I, _1:178.14.15)



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V2 = XP – finite verb – Subject

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- b. [**XP-position** [verb position [subject position]]]



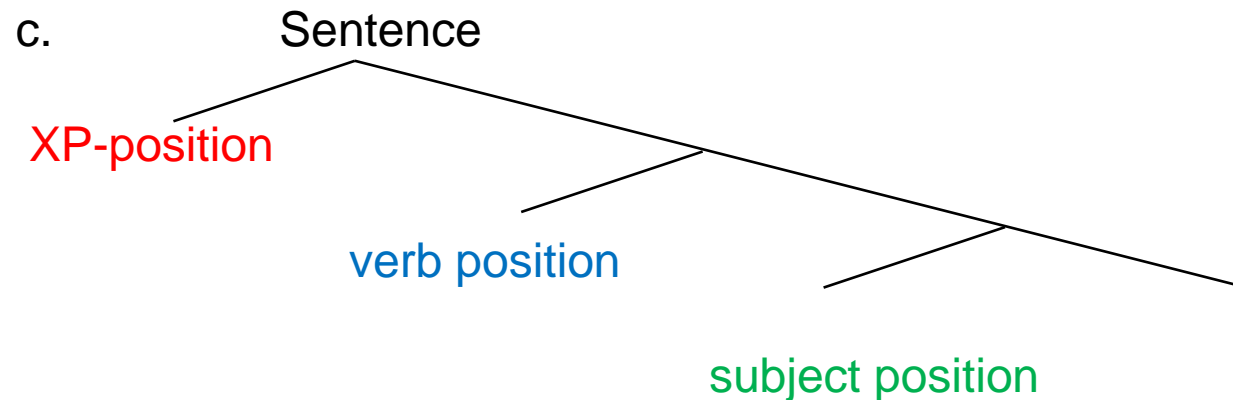
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V2 = XP – finite verb – Subject

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b. [XP-position [verb position [subject position]]]



1. INTRODUCTION

word order “split” with pronominal subjects

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word order “split” with pronominal subjects

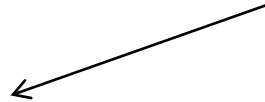


“genuine V2” XP – finite verb –spro	
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1. INTRODUCTION

word order “split” with pronominal subjects



“genuine V2” XP – finite verb –spro categorically in questions	
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(2) hwæt do ic þæt ic ece lif age?

what do I that I eternal life get

‘What do I have to do to obtain the eternal life?’

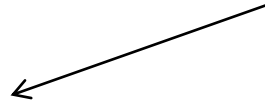
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1. INTRODUCTION

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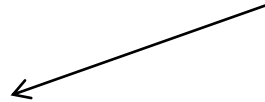
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word order “split” with pronominal subjects



“genuine V2” XP – finite verb –spro often after certain adverbs	
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- (3) a. Nu wat ic to soþan, þæt hi synd uncre bearn.
now know I to truth that they are our children
‘Now I know truly that they are our children.’

(coeust,LS_8_[Eust]:374.404)

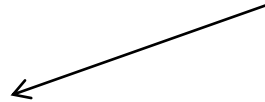
- b. Nu ic wat teala
now I know rightly
‘Now I’m in my right mind’ (cobede,Bede_3:9.186.9.1867)



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1. INTRODUCTION

word order “split” with pronominal subjects



“genuine V2” (∅) – finite verb –spro often after no constituent	
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(4) a. Forlet he on his cyricean æt Eoforwicceastre Iacobum
left he in his church at York- city Jacob
‘He left Jacob the deacon in his church at York’
(cobede, Bede_2:16.150.23.1447)

b. he þa hrædlice forlet þa burg þe he on geseten wæs
he then quickly left the city which he on set was
‘Then, he quickly left the city that he had occupied’
(coorosiu, Or_6:30.148.13.3132)



Intro ^{b.}	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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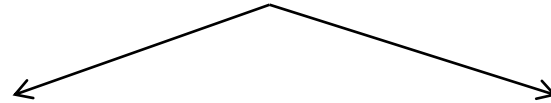
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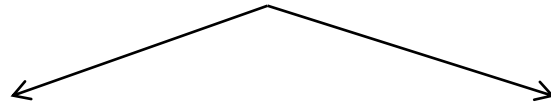


“genuine V2” XP – finite verb –spro	“Topic V3” XP – spro – finite verb
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1. INTRODUCTION

word order “split” with pronominal subjects



“genuine V2” XP – finite verb –spro	“Topic V3” XP – spro – finite verb
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- (5) þis he cwæð mid siccetunge and mid sarlicum wope.
this he said with sighing and with sorrowful weeping
‘He said this with a sigh and sorrowful weeping.’

(coaelhom, ÆHom_27:97.3983)

- (6) Be ðam ylcan andgyte he cwæð on oðre stowe,
about the same meaning he spoke in other place
‘He spoke about the same meaning in another place’

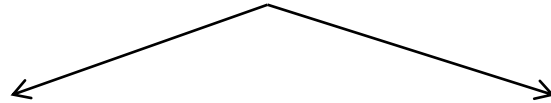
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accounting for the split...



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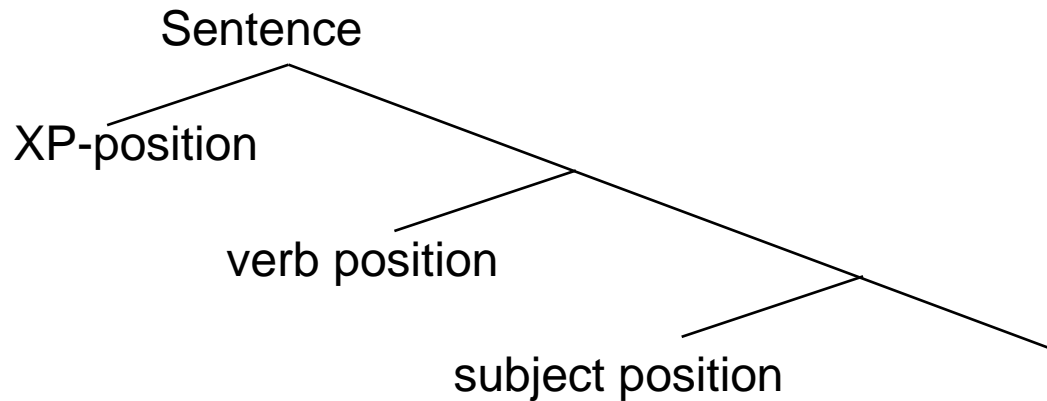
TopV2 Development

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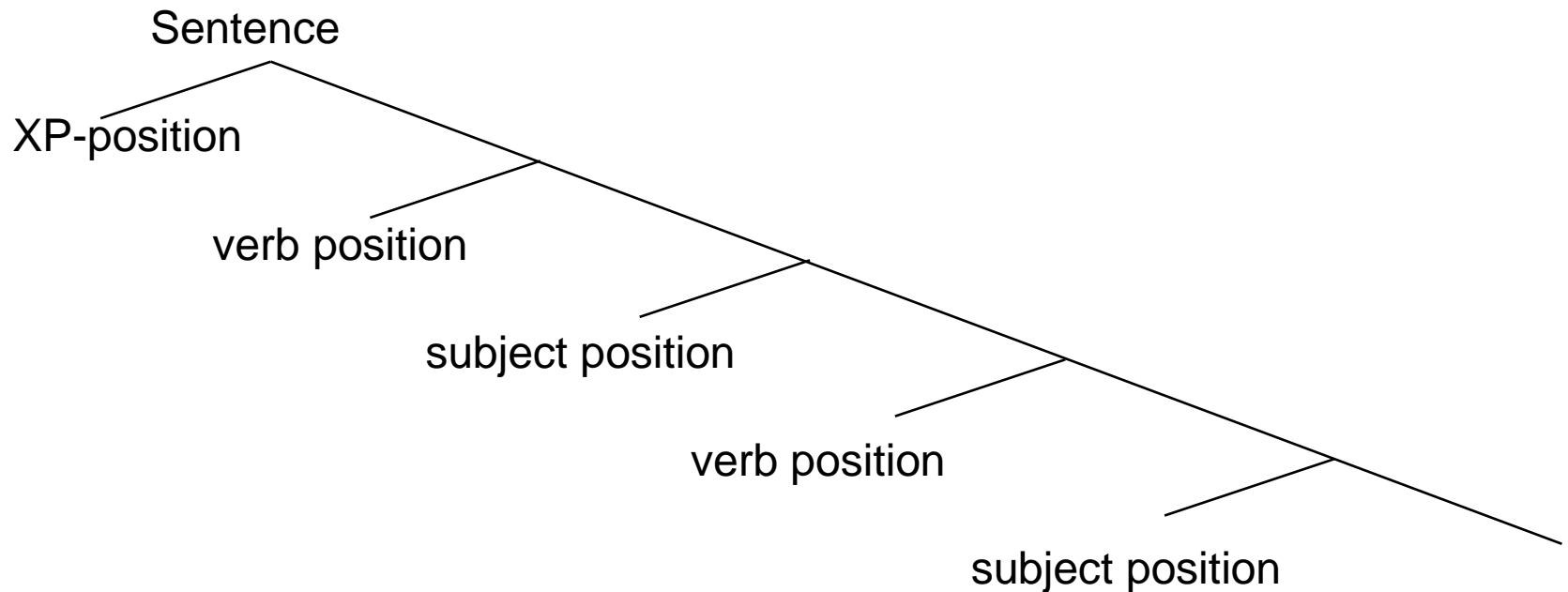
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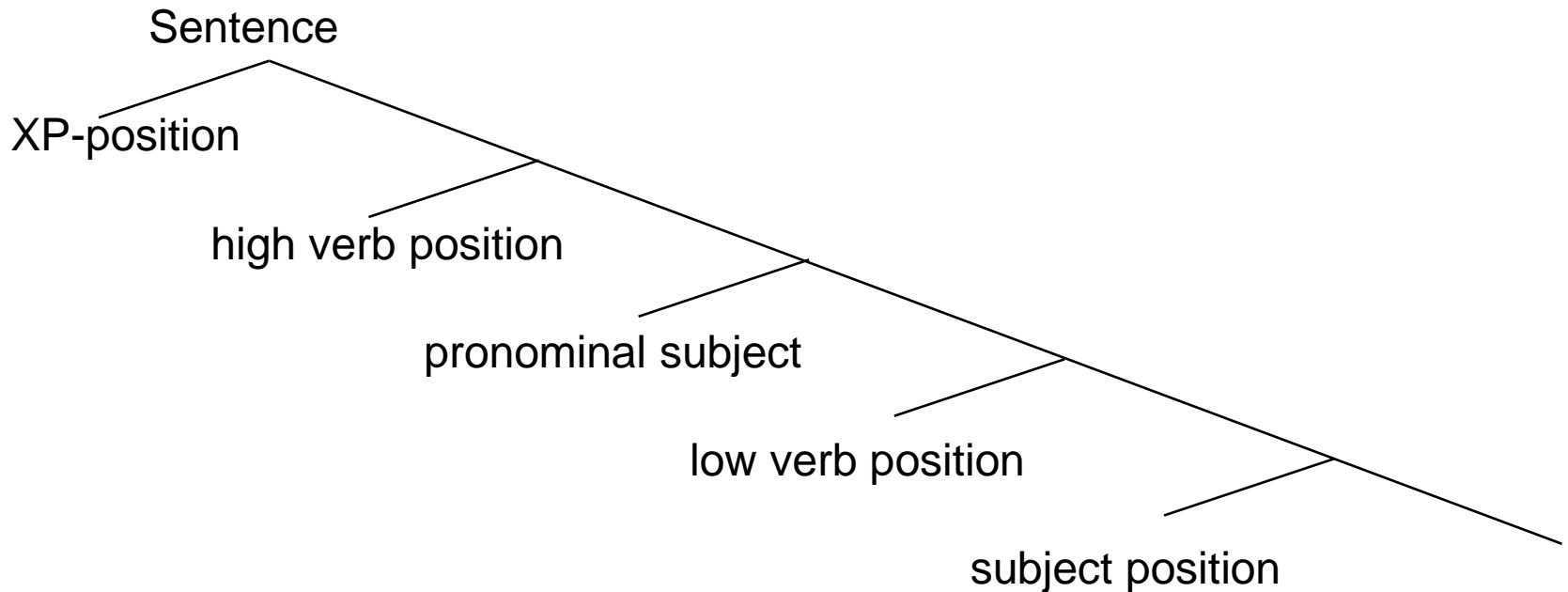
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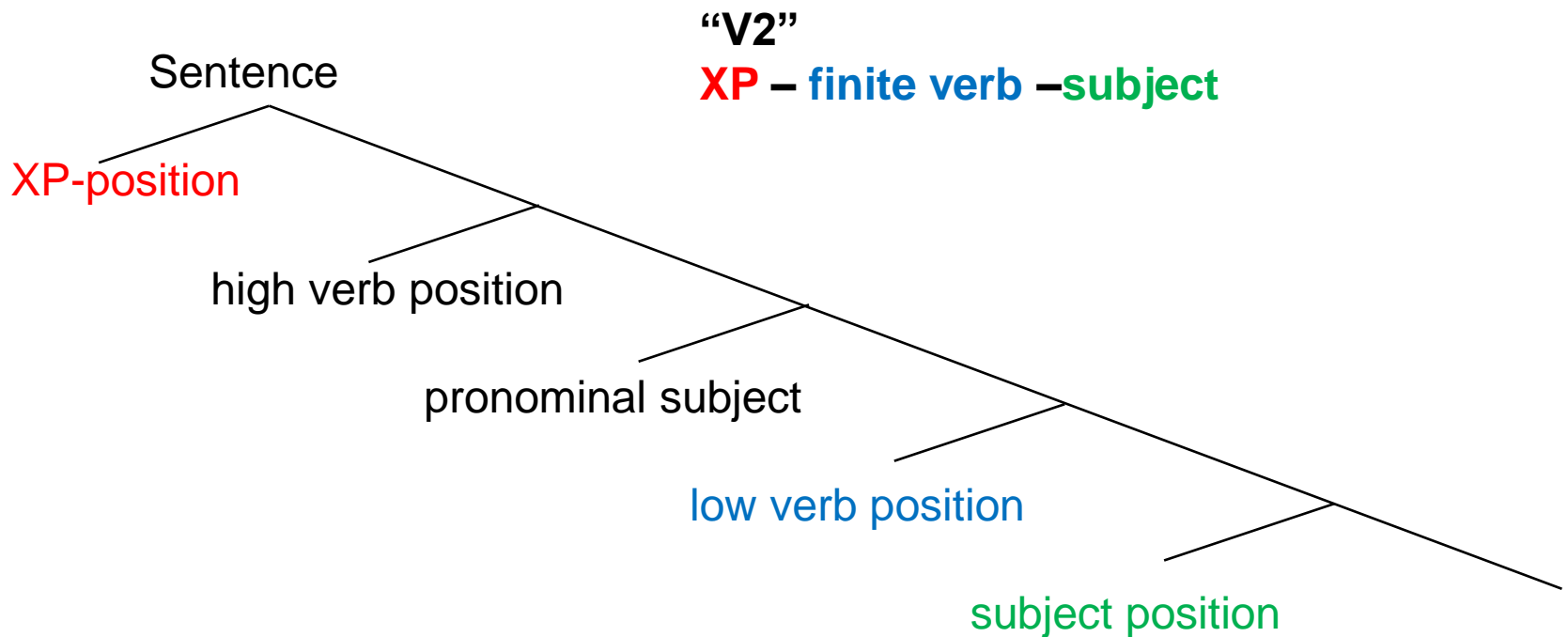
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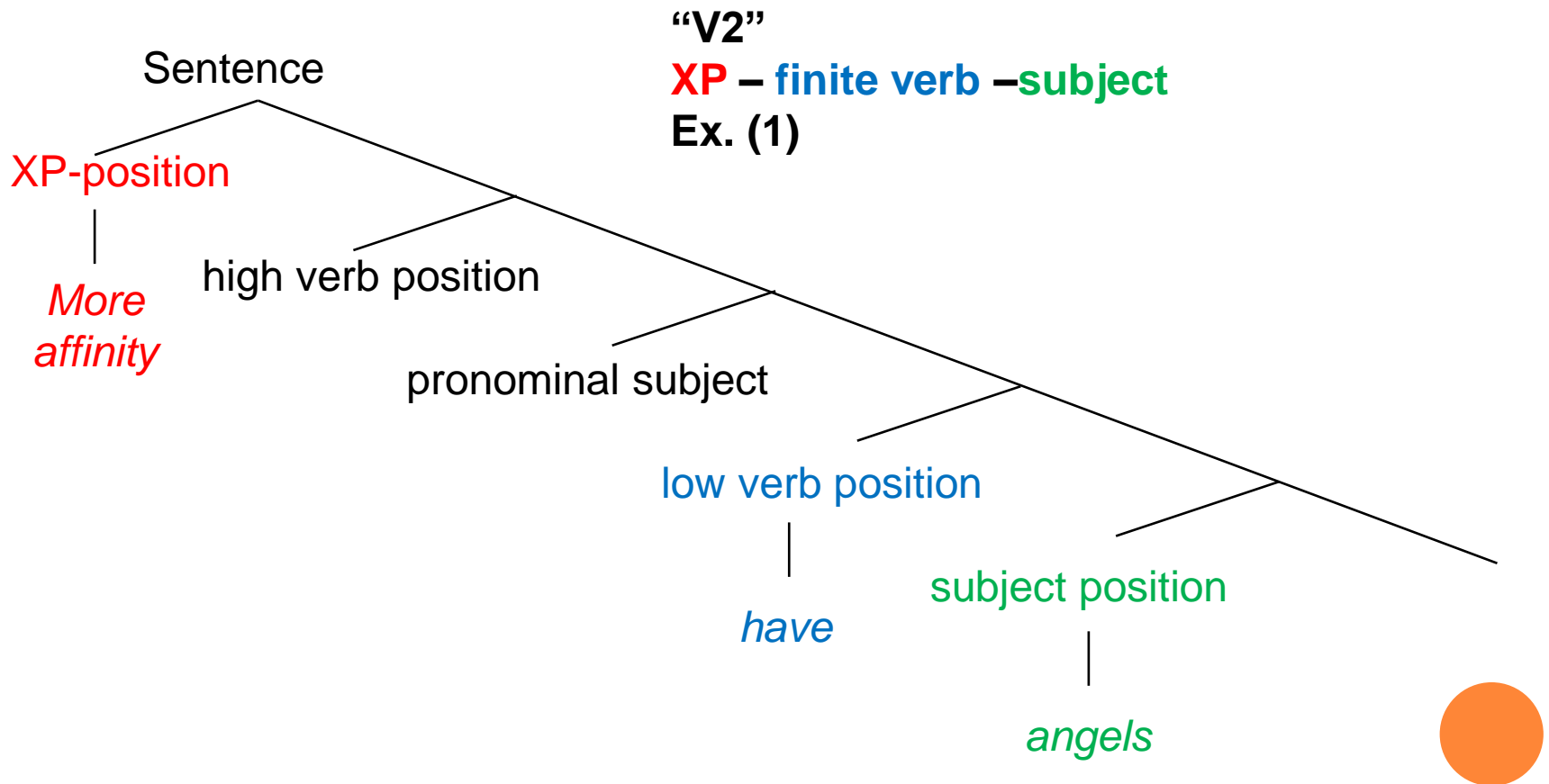
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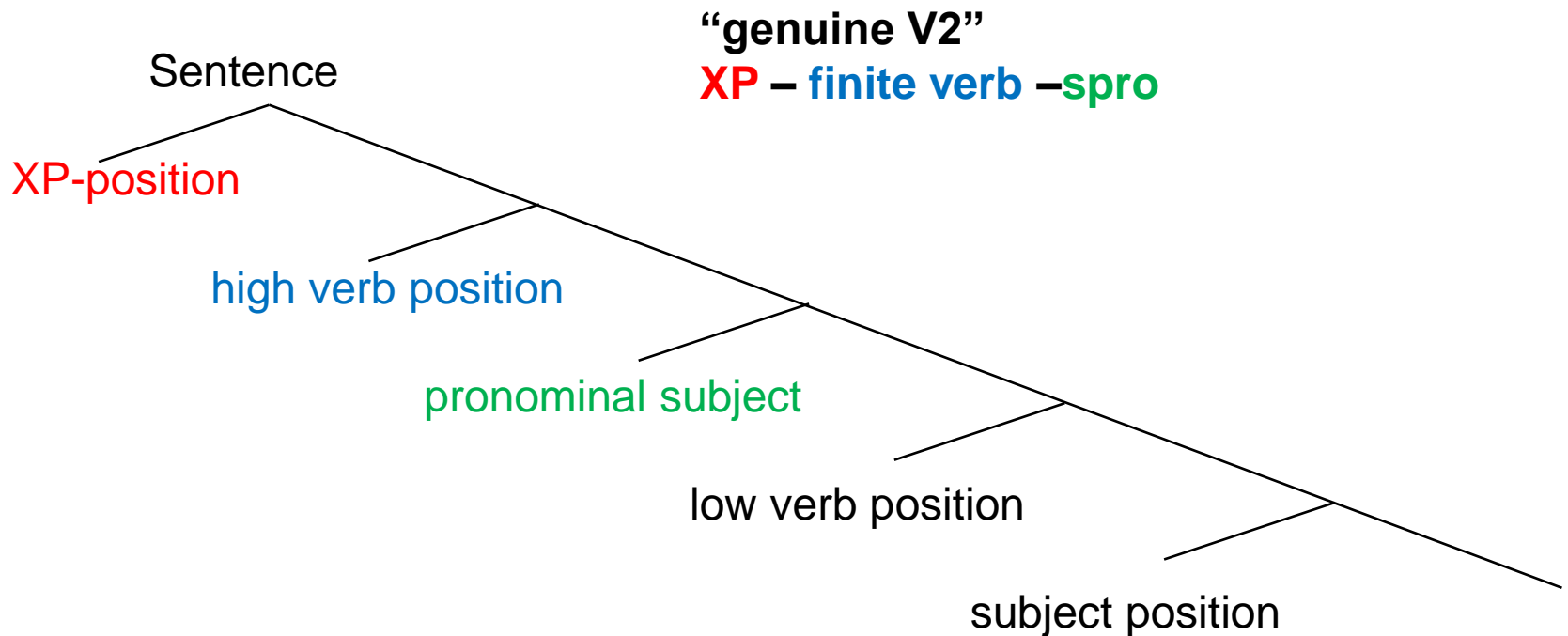
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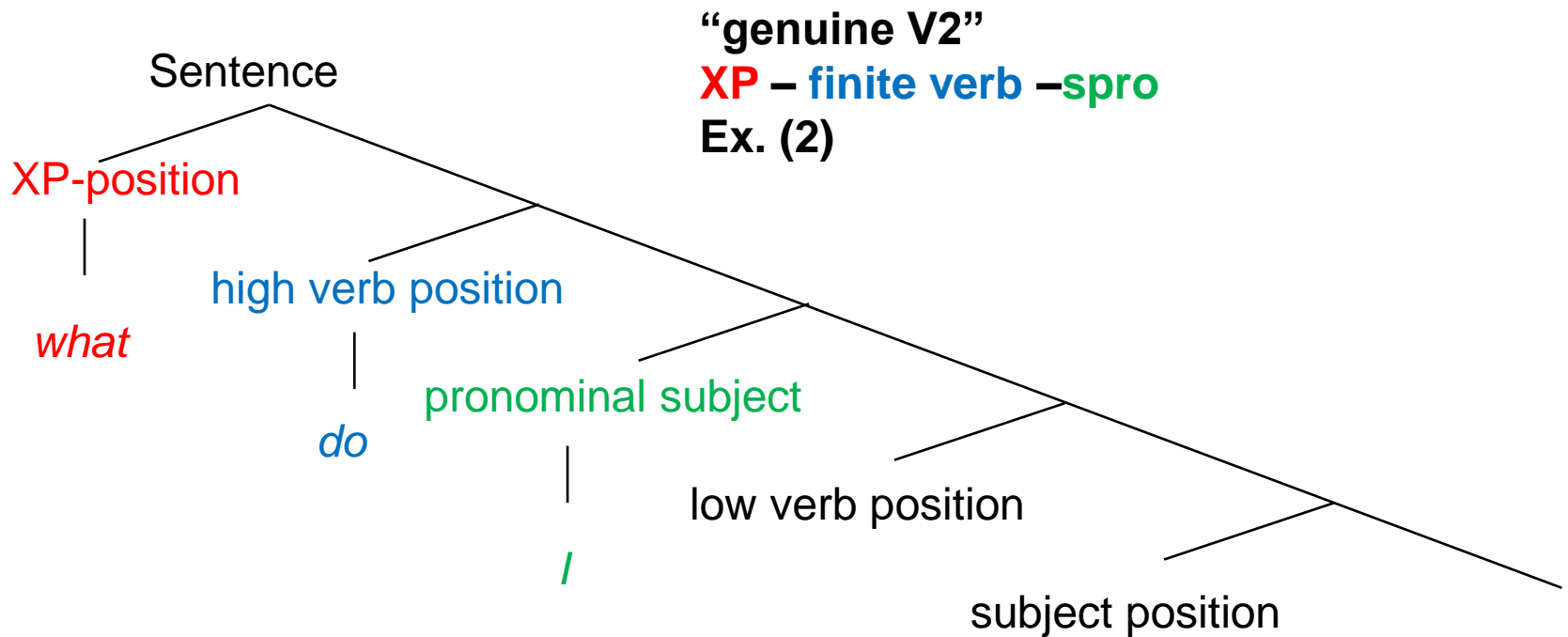
1. INTRODUCTION

accounting for the split...



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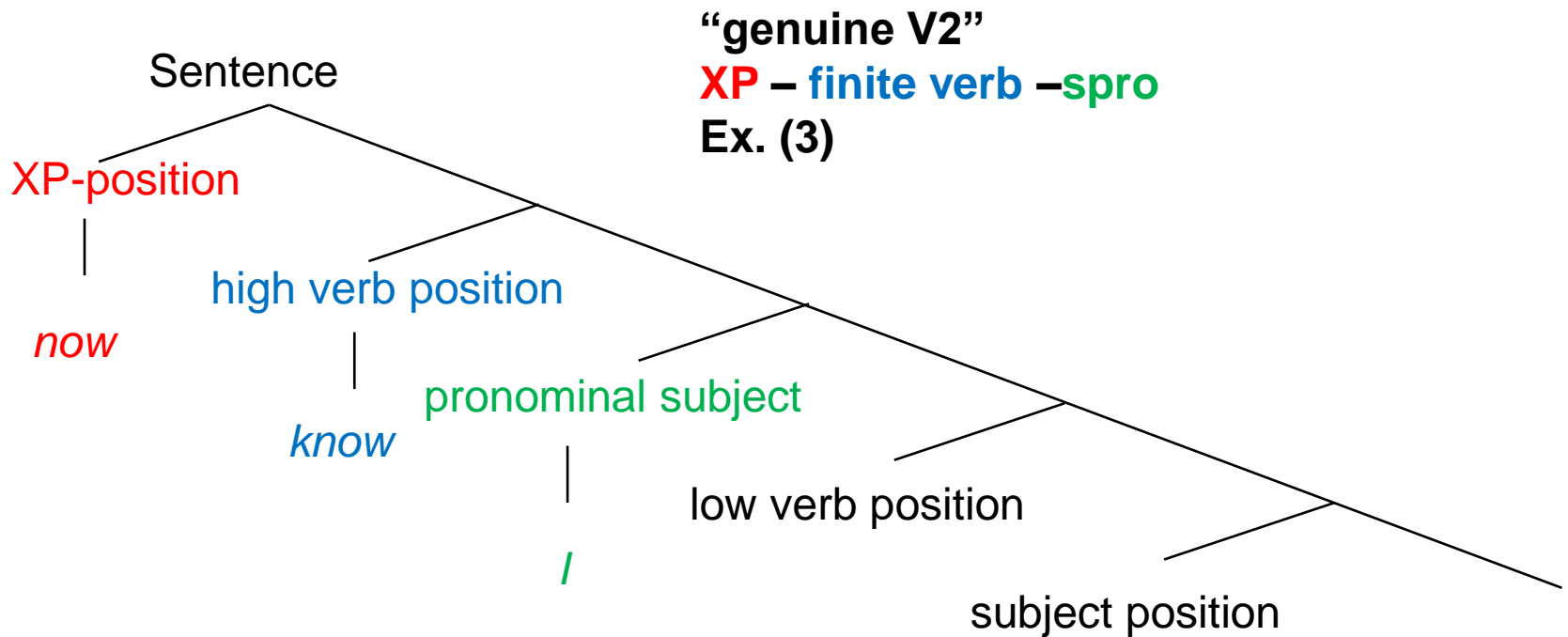
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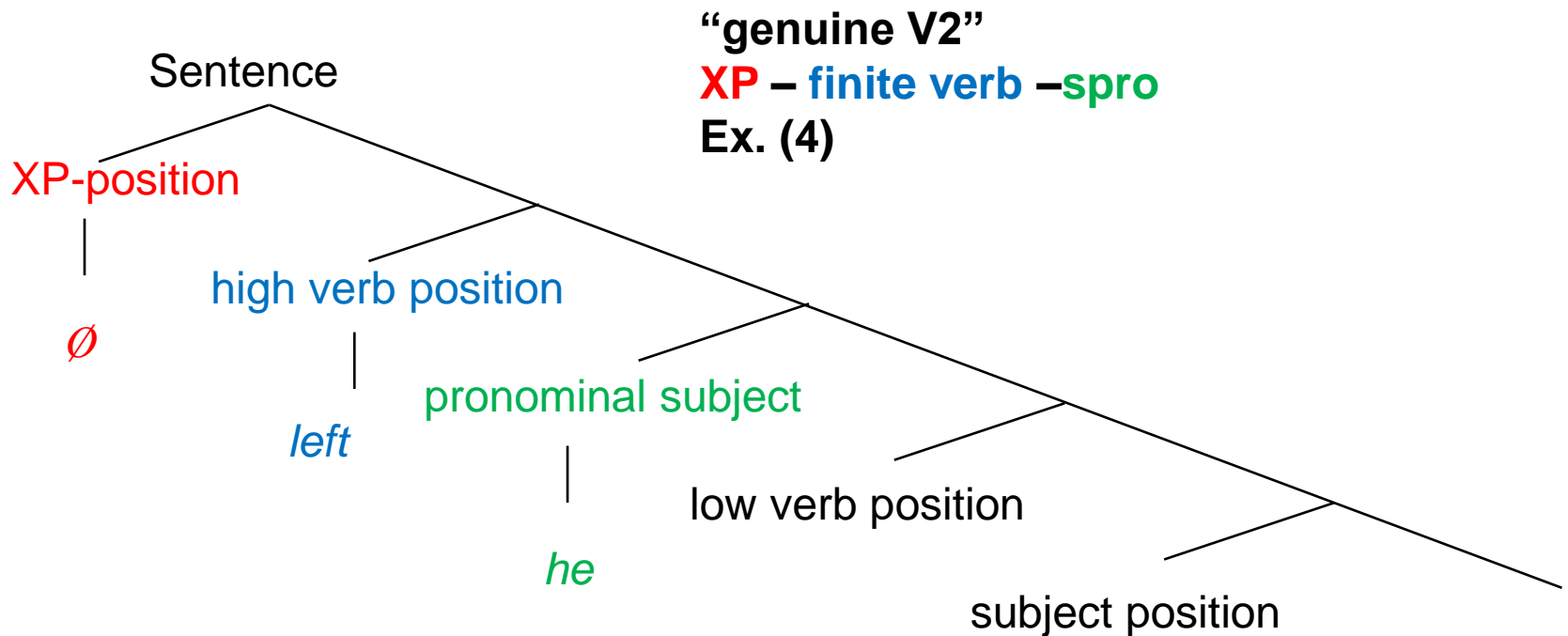
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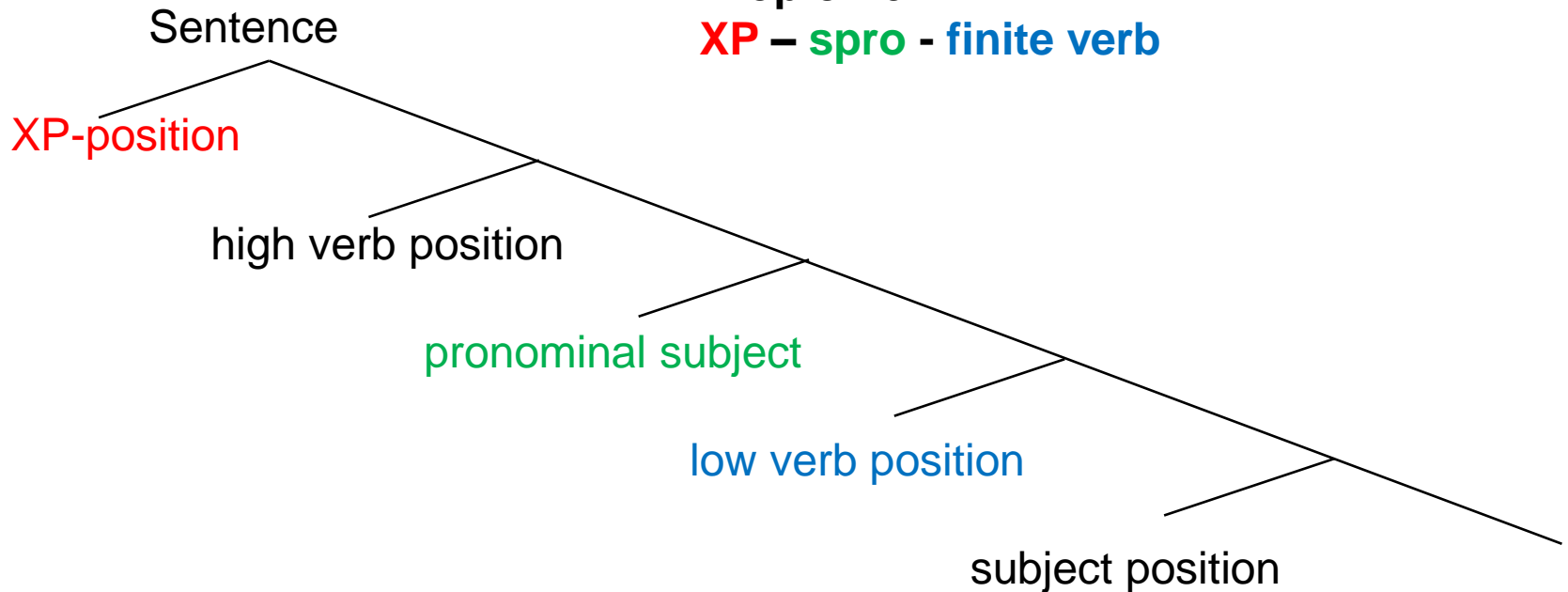
accounting for the split...



1. INTRODUCTION

accounting for the split...

“Topic V3”
XP – spro - finite verb



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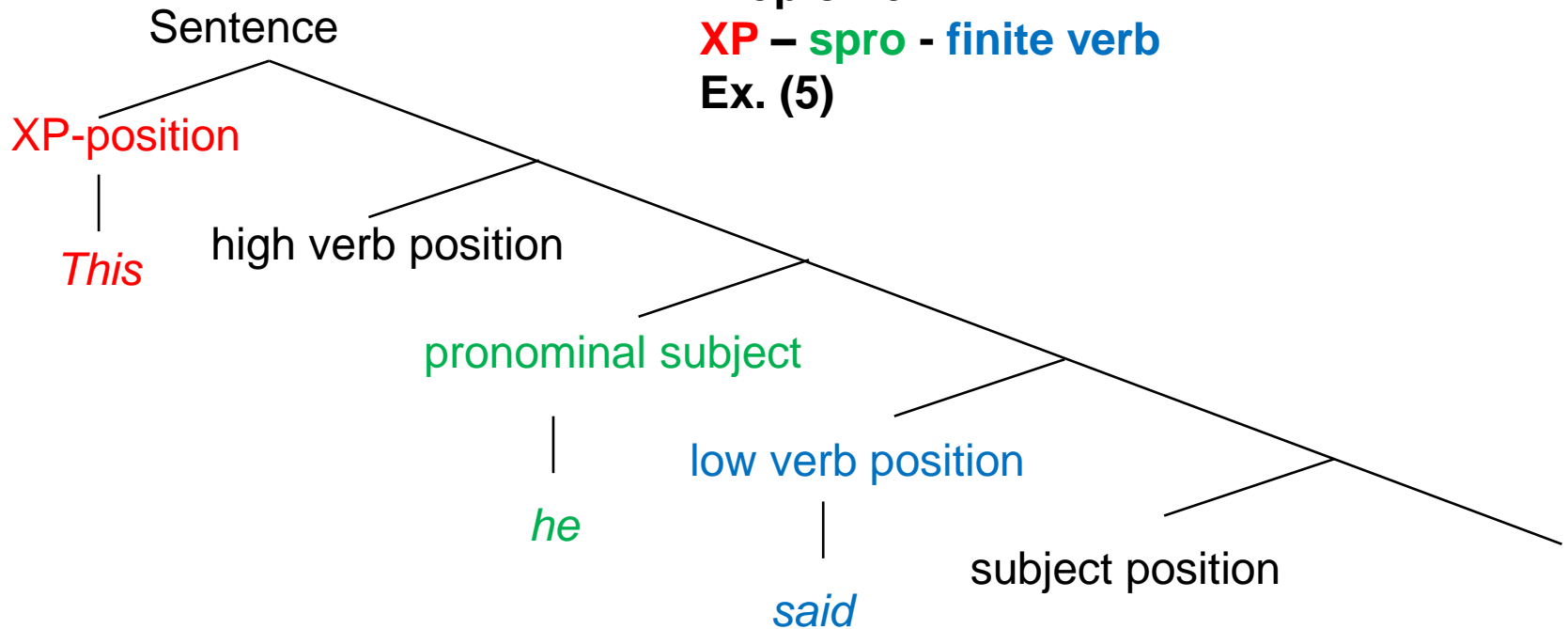
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accounting for the split...

“Topic V3”

XP – spro - finite verb

Ex. (5)



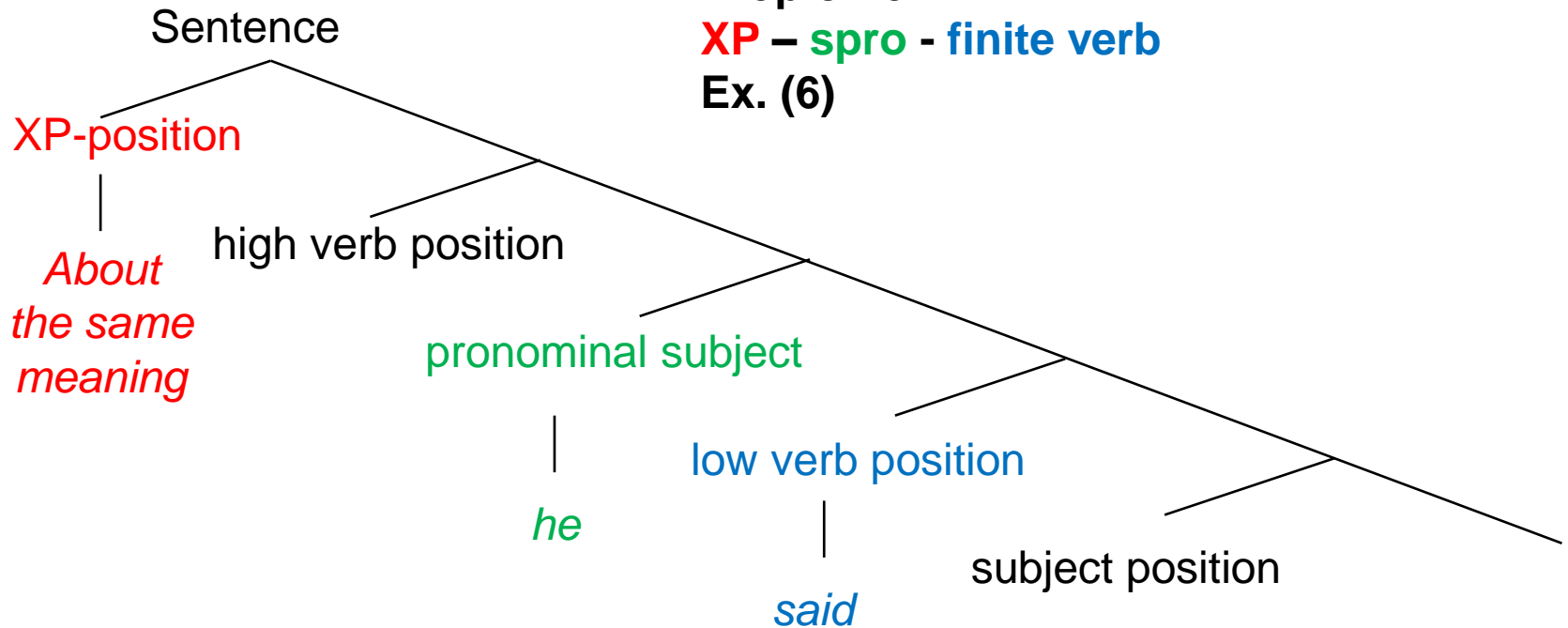
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“Topic V3”

XP – spro - finite verb

Ex. (6)



1. INTRODUCTION

genuine Topic V2?



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1. INTRODUCTION

genuine Topic V2?

“Pronouns *always* appear between the finite verb and an initial topicalized XP [italics inserted]”

“ *XP – V_{fin} – pronoun”

(Fuss 2000: 7, 8)



1. INTRODUCTION

genuine Topic V2 does exist, albeit only very rarely:

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1. INTRODUCTION

genuine Topic V2 does exist, albeit only very rarely:

- (7) þa lufe feohgestreona forfleon hi swilce antimber ealra leahtra.
The love of-riches flee-away they like substance of-all sins
'They flee away from the love for riches just as from the substance of sins.'
(cochdrul, ChrodR_1:62.7.847)
- (8) Of þam heofonlican leohte ne beo ge afyrhte.
of the heavenly light NEG be you afraid
'You should not be afraid of the heavenly light'
(coaelive, ÆELS_[Vincent]:197.7923)



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genuine Topic V2 does exist, albeit only very rarely:

- (7) **pa lufe feohgestreona forfleon hi** swilce antimber ealra leahtra.
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1. INTRODUCTION

genuine Topic V2 does exist, albeit only very rarely:

- How does genuine Topic V2 develop over the OE period?
- More generally: How does the “high verb position” develop during the OE period, which factors determine verb placement and how are Topic-initial sentences affected



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2. DEVELOPMENT OF GENUINE TOPIC V2

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2. VARIABLE RULE



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2. VARIABLE RULE

Variable Rules Analysis

- a statistical method to discover patterns of variation
- two linguistic alternatives (dependent variable)



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2. VARIABLE RULE

Variable Rules Analysis

- a statistical method to discover patterns of variation
- two linguistic alternatives (dependent variable)

Here: verb in high verb position

finite verb – spro

vs.

verb in low verb position

spro – finite verb



2. VARIABLE RULE

Variable Rules Analysis

- a statistical method to discover patterns of variation
- two linguistic alternatives (dependent variable)

Here: verb in high verb position

finite verb – spro

vs.

verb in low verb position

spro – finite verb

- various factors (independent variables) that determine the distribution of the two variants



2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS



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2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

(1) Clause Type: main clause, conjoined main clause



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2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

(1) Clause Type: main clause, conjoined main clause

(9) a. **Onfengon** **hi** ða teoþan stowe on ehtnysse Godes cyrcena
received they then tenth place in persecution God's church
(cobede, Bede_1:6.34.1.269)

b. **hi** **onfengon** hine swa he on scipe wæs
they received him as he in ship was
(cowsgosp, Mk_[WSCp]:4.35.2450)

(10) a. and **begunnon** **hi** teon to þære galnysse huse
and began they pull [her] to that frivolous house
(coaelive, ÆLS[Lucy]:95.2224)

b. & **hi** **begunnon** ðis to wyrcente
and they began this to work

(cootest, Gen:11.6.432)



2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

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Main clause

(10) a. **and** begunnon hi teon to þære galnysse huse
and began they pull [her] to that frivolous house
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b. **&** hi begunnon ðis to wyrcente
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Conjoined clause

2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

(2) Mood: indicative, subjunctive



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2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

(2) Mood: indicative, subjunctive

(11) a. **nu** **is** **he** gesmyrod na mid eorðlicum ele
now is.ind he anointed not with earthly oil
(cocathom2,ÆCHom_II,_1:7.166.139)

b. **forðæm** **he** **is** ælces godes ægðer ge hrof ge flor
therefore he is.ind of.each good both ceiling and floor
(coboeth,Bo:36.110.22.2174)

(12) a. **sy** **he** þonne from eow forhogad
is.sbjctv he then by you destroyed
(cobede,Bede_2:2.102.2.953)

b. **he** **sy** of ðam ealdorscype aworpen,
he is.sbjctv of the eldership out-thrown
(cobenrul,BenR:21.46.15.592)



2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

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2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

(3) Negation: positive verb, negative verb



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2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

(3) Negation: positive verb, negative verb

(14) a. **ne** **funde** **ic** on Israhel swa mycelne geleafan.

NEG found I in Israel so great belief

(cowsgosp,Lk_[WSCp]:7.9.4112)

b. **ic** **ne** **funde** nanne gylt on him.

I NEG found no guilt in him

(cowsgosp,Jn_[WSCp]:19.6.7293)



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2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

(4) Initial constituent: adverb, none, topic



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2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

(5) Period: early Old English, late Old English, Ælfric



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2. VARIABLE RULE: FACTOR GROUPS

- | | |
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$2(\text{clause type}) \times 2(\text{mood}) \times 2(\text{negation}) \times 3(\text{initial_const.}) \times 3(\text{period})$
= 72 cells



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Statistical analysis with *GoldVarb*



2. VARIABLE RULE: RESULTS

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2. VARIABLE RULE: RESULTS

Table 1. Factors significant to the occurrence of inversion of pronominal subject – finite verb in Old English.

Total N= 22,062		Corrected mean: 0.093	
	Factor weight	% of inversion	N
Clause type			
main	0.704	34.7	13685
conjoined main	0.148	3.1	6774
<i>RANGE</i>	56		
Mood			
indicative	0.468	24.9	19716
subjunctive	0.968	69.3	743
<i>RANGE</i>	50		
Negation			
negated finite verb	0.920	52.1	2697
positive finite verb	0.408	19.6	17762
<i>RANGE</i>	51		
Adverb			
initial adverb	0.923	64.3	4934
no initial constituent	0.346	12.7	13447
initial topic	0.144	3.9	2078
<i>RANGE</i>	78		
Period			
early	0.581	34.8	6034
late	0.547	28.3	4925
Aelfric	0.424	15.4	9500
<i>RANGE</i>	16		



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2. VARIABLE RULE: RESULTS

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Factor Groups & Factors

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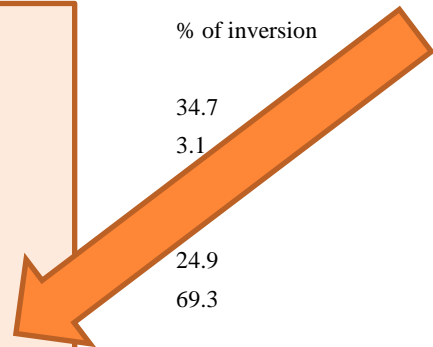
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<i>RANGE</i>	50		
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2. VARIABLE RULE: RESULTS

Table 1. Factors significant to the occurrence of inversion of pronominal subject – finite verb in Old English.

Total N= 22,062		Corrected mean: 0.093	
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2. VARIABLE RULE: RESULTS

- Overall decline in verb placement in the high verb position !



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2. VARIABLE RULE: RESULTS

- Overall decline in verb placement in the high verb position

Early OE	34.8% V_{fin} – spro order
Late OE	28.3% V_{fin} – spro order
Ælfric	15.4% V_{fin} – spro order

Chi-square=497.72, df=2, $p < 0.0001$



2. VARIABLE RULE: RESULTS

- Overall decline in verb placement in the high verb position
- However, no coherent development for genuine Topic V2 !



Intro

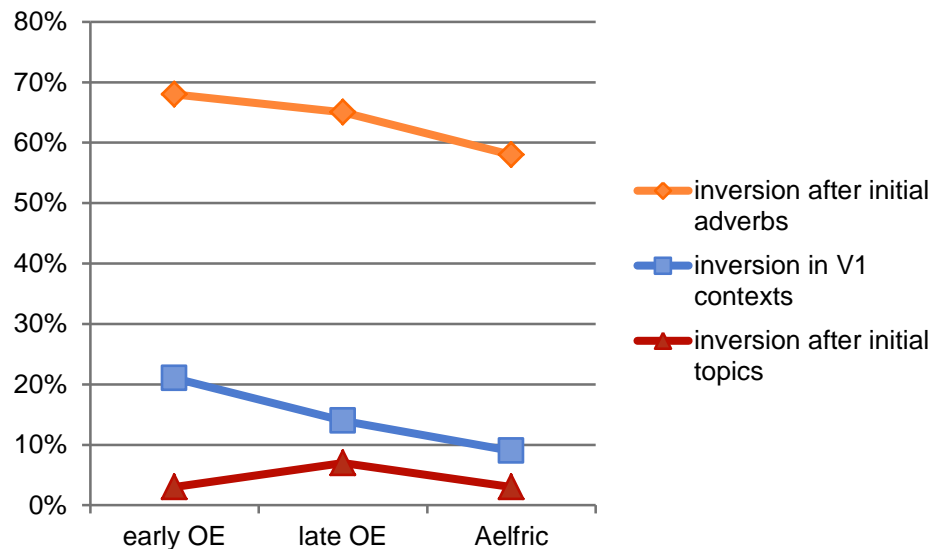
TopV2 Development

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2. MORE EVIDENCE

- (1) Overall decline in verb placement to the high verb position
- (2) However, no coherent development for genuine Topic V2



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Conjoined verbs



2. MORE EVIDENCE

- Overall decline in verb placement to the high verb position
- However, no coherent development for genuine Topic V2 !

Conjoined verbs (with **spro**)

- (15) a. þa **namon hig & ofslogon** hyne
then took they & killed him
'Then they took and killed him'

(cowsgosp,Mt_[WSCp]:21.39.1476)

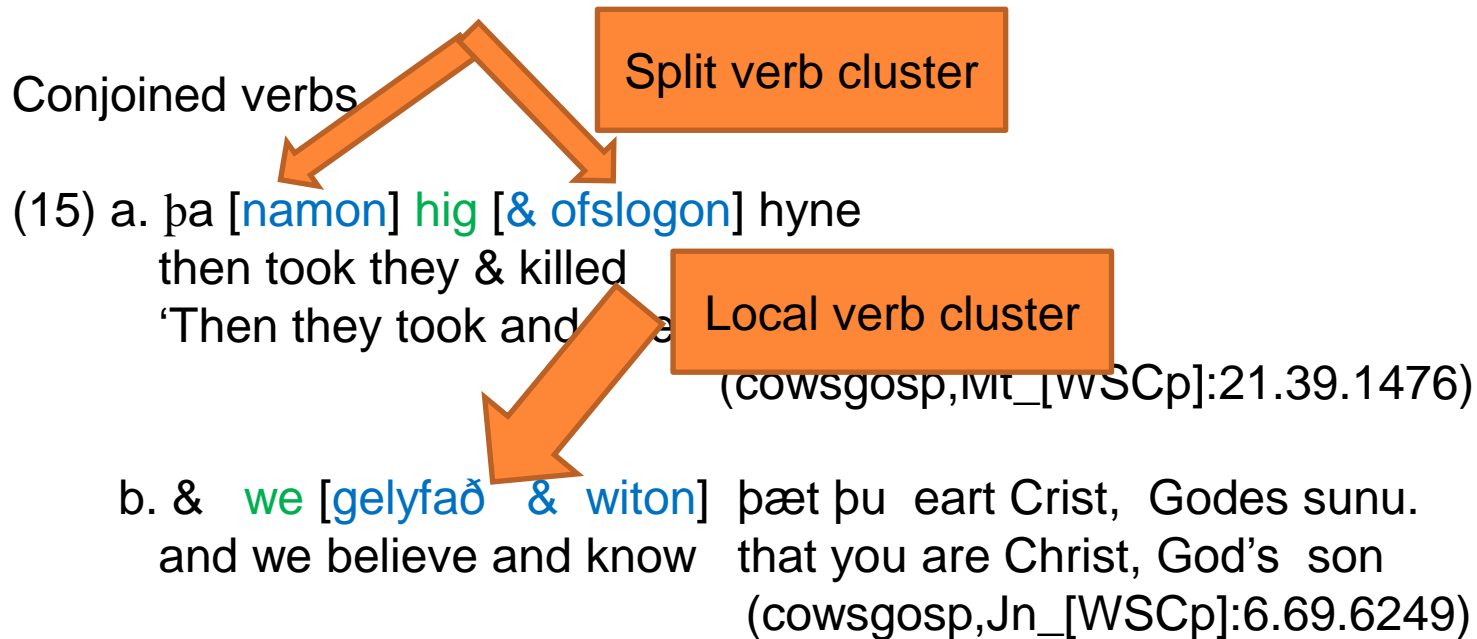
- b. & **we gelyfað & witon** þæt þu eart Crist, Godes sunu.
and we believe and know that you are Christ, God's son

(cowsgosp,Jn_[WSCp]:6.69.6249)



2. MORE EVIDENCE

- Overall decline in verb placement to the high verb position
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2. MORE EVIDENCE

- Overall decline in verb placement to the high verb position !
- However, no coherent development for genuine Topic V2

Conjoined verbs (with spros)

Period	Split	Local	% Split
Early OE	33	110	23.0
Late OE	3	34	8.1
Ælfric	5	41	10.9

Chi square=6.492, df=2, p<0.05



2. MORE EVIDENCE

- Overall decline in verb placement to the high verb position
- However, no coherent development for genuine Topic V2 !

Conjoined verbs (with **topic** and **any subject**)

(16) a. **purh** **sumum** **geset** **God.** & **toscæt** his domas.
through some sets God and destroys his judgements
'God sets and repeals his commandments through some'
(cocathom1,ÆCHom_I,_36:487.31.7154)

b. And **pæt sylfe** **we** **settað** and **tæcað** be þam prafoste.
and that self we set and signify by the officer
'And we set and show the same about the officer'
(cobenrul,BenR:21.46.20.594)



2. MORE EVIDENCE

- Overall decline in verb placement to the high verb position
- However, no coherent development to V2 !

Split verb cluster

Conjoined verbs

(16) a. **purh** **sumum** **[geset]** **God.** **[& toscæt]** his domas.
through some sets God and les
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Local verb cluster

b. And **pæt sylfe** **we** **[settað and tæcað]** be þam prafoste.
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2. MORE EVIDENCE

- Overall decline in verb placement to the high verb position
- **However, no coherent development for genuine Topic V2 !**

Conjoined verbs (with topics and any subject)

Period	Split	Local	% Split
Early OE	2	94	2.1
Late OE	3	38	7.3
Ælfric	5	56	8.2

Chi square=3.461, df=2, p>0.05



2. WHY?

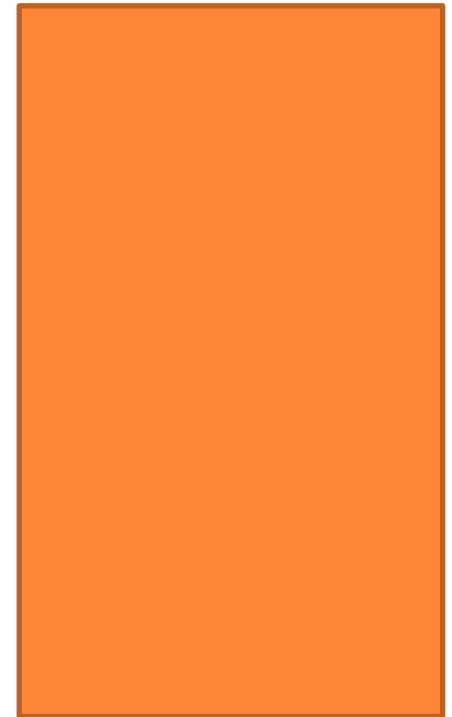
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2. WHY?

Table 1. Factors significant to the occurrence of inversion of pronominal subject – finite verb in Old English.

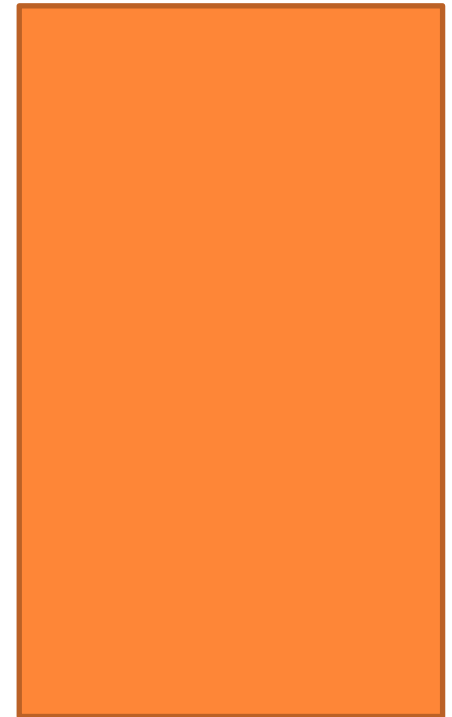
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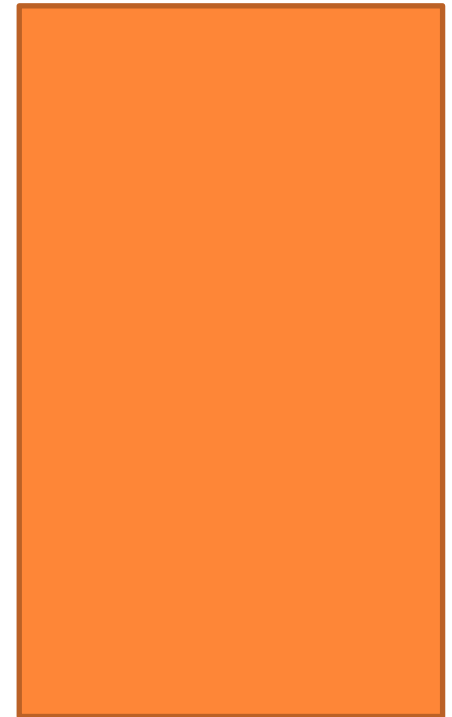
e.g.,
 Mitchell 1985,
 Kemenade 1987,
 Pintzuk 1999 ,
 Ingham 2005,

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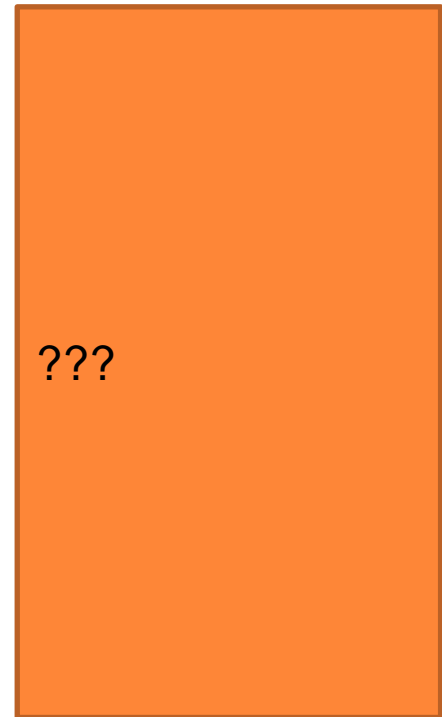
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2. AN IDEA...

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2. AN IDEA...

- I there is an *independent* topicalization rule in OE, which puts a **topic** into the XP-position
 - II there is also an *independent* rule for placement of the **finite verb** in the high verb position if it is **negated** and / or **subjunctive**
- Genuine Topic V2 is “accidental”. It occurs when both rules I and II are applied



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How can we test this theory?



3. RULE INDEPENDENCE

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3. RULE INDEPENDENCE

If genuine Topic V2 is the result of “accidental” co-occurrence of an independent **topicalization** rule and an independent **high verb-placement** rule, we would expect...



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3. RULE INDEPENDENCE

If genuine Topic V2 is the result of “accidental” co-occurrence of an independent **topicalization** rule and an independent **high verb-placement** rule, we would expect...

- (a) No genuine Topic V2 Structures with positive, indicative verb



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3. RULE INDEPENDENCE

If genuine Topic V2 is the result of “accidental” co-occurrence of an independent **topicalization** rule and an independent **high verb-placement** rule, we would expect...


- (a) No genuine Topic V2 Structures with positive, indicative verb
- (b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**



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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(a) No genuine Topic V2 Structures with positive, indicative verb



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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(a) No genuine Topic V2 Structures with positive, indicative verb

Topic		Verb Type		
		negative	positive subjunctive / ambiguous mood	positive indicative
Complement	accusative NP	6	5	0
	dative NP	1	0	0
	genitive NP	2	0	0
	PP	4	4	0
	TOTAL	13	9	0
Adjunct	temporal PP	5	11	13
	locative PP	4	1	0
	other PP	8	7	3
	heavy AdvP	3	3	0
	temporal NP	1	0	0
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(a) No genuine Topic V2 Structures with positive, indicative verb

(17) þa on niht genamon hy heora twægen suna.
then at night took they their two sons
'Then, at night, they took their two sons.'
(coeust,LS_8_[Eust]:161.162)

(18) þa æfter lytlum fyrste wearð he geuntrumod.
then after little time was he weakened
'Then, after some time he was made sick'
(cocathom2,ÆCHom_II,_22:198.261.4403)



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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Kroch & Taylor (1997): “scene setters”



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(a) No genuine Topic V2 Structures with positive, indicative verb

(19) [ÆFTER þison] [Moyses & Aaron] eodon in
after this Moses & Aaron went in
'After this, Moses and Aaron went in.'

(cootest,Exod:5.1.2466)

(20) [Fram twentigum wintrum & ofer ðæt]
from twenty years & over that
[ealle ða strengeston of Israhela folce]
all the strongest of Israel people
telle ðu & Aaron heapmælum.
count.sbjctv you and Aaron in-troops

'You and Aaron should count all the strongest men of
Israel, twenty years or older, in military division.'

(cootest,Num:1.1.3947)

Kroch & Taylor (1997): "scene setters"

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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(a) No genuine Topic V2 Structures with positive, indicative verb

(17) **pa** on niht genamon hy heora twægen suna.
then at night took they their two sons
'Then, at night, they took their two sons.'
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Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(a) No genuine Topic V2 Structures with positive, indicative verb



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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**



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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

$$P(\textit{topicalization}) = \frac{\text{ROOT clauses with Topic – Verb order}}{\text{all ROOT clauses}}$$

(simplified)



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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

$$P(\textit{negation}) = \frac{\text{ROOT clauses with negative verb}}{\text{all ROOT clauses}}$$



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

$$P(\textit{subjunctive}) = \frac{\text{ROOT clauses with subjunctive verb}}{\text{all ROOT clauses}}$$



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Use all ROOT clauses with a subject pronoun as the basis
= ROOT_spro



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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic V2 =



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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic V2 =
ROOT_spro x



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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic V2 =

$$\text{ROOT_spro} \times (\text{P}(\textit{negation}) \times \text{P}(\textit{subjunctive}))$$



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic

ROOT_spro x

($P(\textit{negation}) \times P(\textit{subjunctive})$)



**Probability of a sentence
with a pronominal subject
and
Negation AND subjunctive**



3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic V2 =

$$\text{ROOT_spro } x \\ (P(\textit{negation}) + P(\textit{subjunctive}))$$



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic

$ROOT_spro \times$
 $(P(negation) + P(subjunctive))$



**Probability of a sentence
with a pronominal subject
and
negation OR subjunctive**



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic V2 =

ROOT_spro x

$(P(\textit{negation}) \times P(\textit{subjunctive})) + (P(\textit{negation}) + P(\textit{subjunctive}))$



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic

ROOT_spro x

$(P(\textit{negation}) \times P(\textit{subjunctive})) + (P(\textit{negation}) + P(\textit{subjunctive}))$

Probability of a sentence with a pronominal subject and negation AND / OR subjunctive

3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

- (b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic V2 =

$ROOT_spro \times$

$(P(\textit{topicalization}) \times$

$(P(\textit{negation}) \times P(\textit{subjunctive})) + (P(\textit{negation}) + P(\textit{subjunctive}))$



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if v
topicalization and **high verb placement**

**Probability of a sentence with a
pronominal subject and
negation AND / OR subjunctive
and
topicalization**

Expected frequency of genuine Topic

ROOT_spro x

(P(*topicalization*) x

(P(*negation*) x P(*subjunctive*)) + (P(*negation*) + P(*subjunctive*))



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Period	Expected Genuine Topic V2	Observed Genuine Topic V2
Early OE	18	
Late OE	30	
Ælfric	27	



3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Period	Expected Genuine Topic V2	Observed Genuine Topic V2
Early OE	18	20
Late OE	30	30
Ælfric	27	31

Chi-square= 0.151, df=2, p=0. 927



3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

Expected genuine Topic V2 in individual texts:

Text	p(topical.)	p(negat.)	p(sbjctv)	ROOT_spro	expected	observed
Bede	0.0278	0.0262	0.0113	1528	2	5
Ben. Rule	0.0701	0.1029	0.3570	353	12	8
Blickling Hom.	0.0107	0.0470	0.0458	1084	1	2
Boethius	0.0119	0.0998	0.0254	1400	2	3
Chrodegang	0.1462	0.1061	0.3143	217	14	15
Alcuin	0.0515	0.0816	0.0597	107	1	1
WS Gospel	0.0190	0.0676	0.0302	3139	6	5
Ælfric Hom.	0.0190	0.0745	0.0205	1379	3	1
Life of Saints	0.0362	0.0430	0.0240	1993	5	6
Catholic Hom. 1	0.0260	0.0563	0.0311	2471	6	11
Catholic Hom. 2	0.0335	0.0576	0.0229	2158	6	11



3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**

But exceptions:

Text	p(topical.)	p(negat.)	p(sbjctv)	ROOT_spro	expected	observed
Soliloquy	0.0197	0.0844	0.0410	670	2	0
Wulfstan	0.0511	0.0637	0.1495	404	5	0
St. Eustace	0.0583	0.0165	0.0265	182	0	5
Old Testament	0.0167	0.0533	0.0799	2005	5	2



3. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

(b) Topic V2 structures are predictable if we know the frequency of **topicalization** and **high verb placement**



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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4. CONCLUSION



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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4. CONCLUSION

- Genuine Topic V2 structures neither increase nor decrease during the OE period.
- They are “accidental” constructions that come into being through topicalization and an independent rule for verb fronting to a high verb position.
- As those two rules decline, genuine Topic V2 structures should become impossible.
- Open questions: (1) theoretical account, (2) interaction subjunctive ~ modality, (3) other diagnostics of high verb movement



Intro	TopV2 Development	Rule Independence	Conclusion
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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