

Such is "such", and so is "so"

Johanna Wood & Sten Vikner, University of Aarhus

engjw@hum.au.dk, engsv@hum.au.dk

Clauses/nominals project: www.hum.au.dk/engelsk/engsv/clauses-nominals

We compare the etymologically related words *so* and *such* (English); *så* and *sådan* (Danish); and *so* and *solch* (German) and suggest a possible derivation. In the comparison, a number of similarities and differences have to be accounted for cross-linguistically: the syntax, (pre- or post- indefinite article), the modification (whether an AdjP or a DP/NP is modified) and, in Danish and German, the morphological agreement.

In the case of *so/så/so*, English and Danish differ from German in that *so/så* may only modify an AdjP, while German *so* may also modify the DP/NP. In the case of *such/sådan/solch*, Danish and German differ from English in that adjectives agree morphologically with the noun, but they differ from each other since, in German, only attributive adjectives, and not predicative adjectives, must agree, unlike Danish where both must agree (Vikner 2001). Danish and German both allow inflected *sådan/solch* to follow the article. English *such* differs from *sådan/solch* in that it may only precede the indefinite article and may only modify the DP/NP (Bolinger 1972, Wood 2002).

We discuss two possible syntactic derivations, predicate raising (e.g. Corver 1997, Bennis, Corver & den Dikken 1998) and XP movement from an attributive adjective position within the nominal (e.g. Matushansky 2002).

References

- Bennis, Hans, Norbert Corver, & Marcel den Dikken. 1998. "Predication in Nominal Phrases". *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 1, 85-117.
- Bolinger, Dwight. 1972. *Degree Words*. The Hague: Mouton.
- Corver, Norbert. 1997. Much-support as last resort. *Linguistic Inquiry* 28.1, 119-64.
- Matushansky, Ora (2002). *Movement of Degree/Degree of Movement*. Doctoral dissertation, MIT.
- Vikner, Sten. 2001. "Predicative Adjective Agreement". In Kirsten Adamzik & Helen Christen (eds.). *Sprachkontakt, Sprachvergleich, Sprachvariation: Festschrift für Gottfried Kolde*. Niemeyer, Tübingen, 399-414.
(www.hum.au.dk/engelsk/engsv/papers/vikn01b.pdf)
- Wood, Johanna L. 2002. "Much about *such*". *Studia Linguistica*, 56, 91-115.