

Blocking

Topological patterns



Blocking is caused by

- the form of the predicate
- the valency theme (+ government)
- the illocutionary frame
- constituent movements and shifts



Three types of slots

- 1) Filled slots
- 2) Blocked slots
- 3) Empty slots
 - a) *Facultative arguments*
 - b) *Ellipsis*
 - c) *Satellites (adverbials)*



Revised sentence schemes

- Erik Hansen's verbal schemes (1970)
- Lars Heltoft's declarative and neutral schemes + combined scheme (1986 →)
- Ole Togeby's combined scheme (2003)
- Henrik Jørgensen's analysis of clitic pronominals + *her* and *der* (1991 →)



Hansen's verbals schemes

- A verb has a valency theme with slots not only for nominals and adverbials, but also for other verbs.
- These governed verbs have sentence schemes of their own, similar to those of subordinated sentences.



Hansen's verbal schemes

Ex. (Jeg tror ikke) at jeg ville have kunnet indhente rytteren

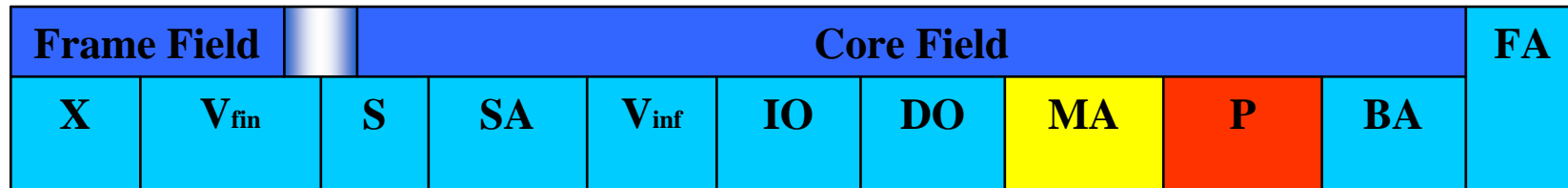
K	S	SA	V	OI	DO	P	MA	BA	FA
at	jeg	—	ville	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	have	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	kunnet	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	indhente	—	rytteren	—	—	—	—



Heltoft's sentence scheme

Frame Field		Core Field								FA
X	V_{fin}	S	SA	V_{inf}	IO	DO	MA	P	BA	

The predicative category

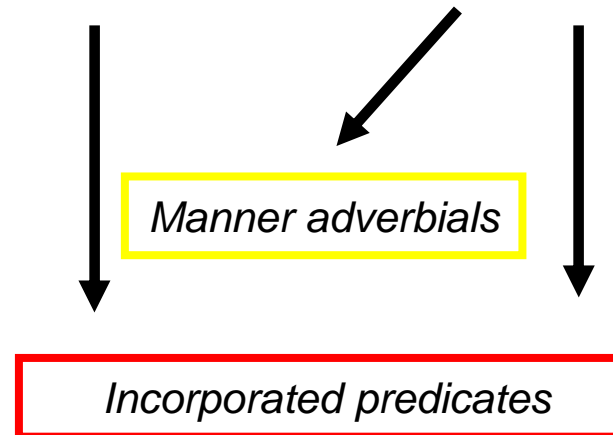


Manner adverbials

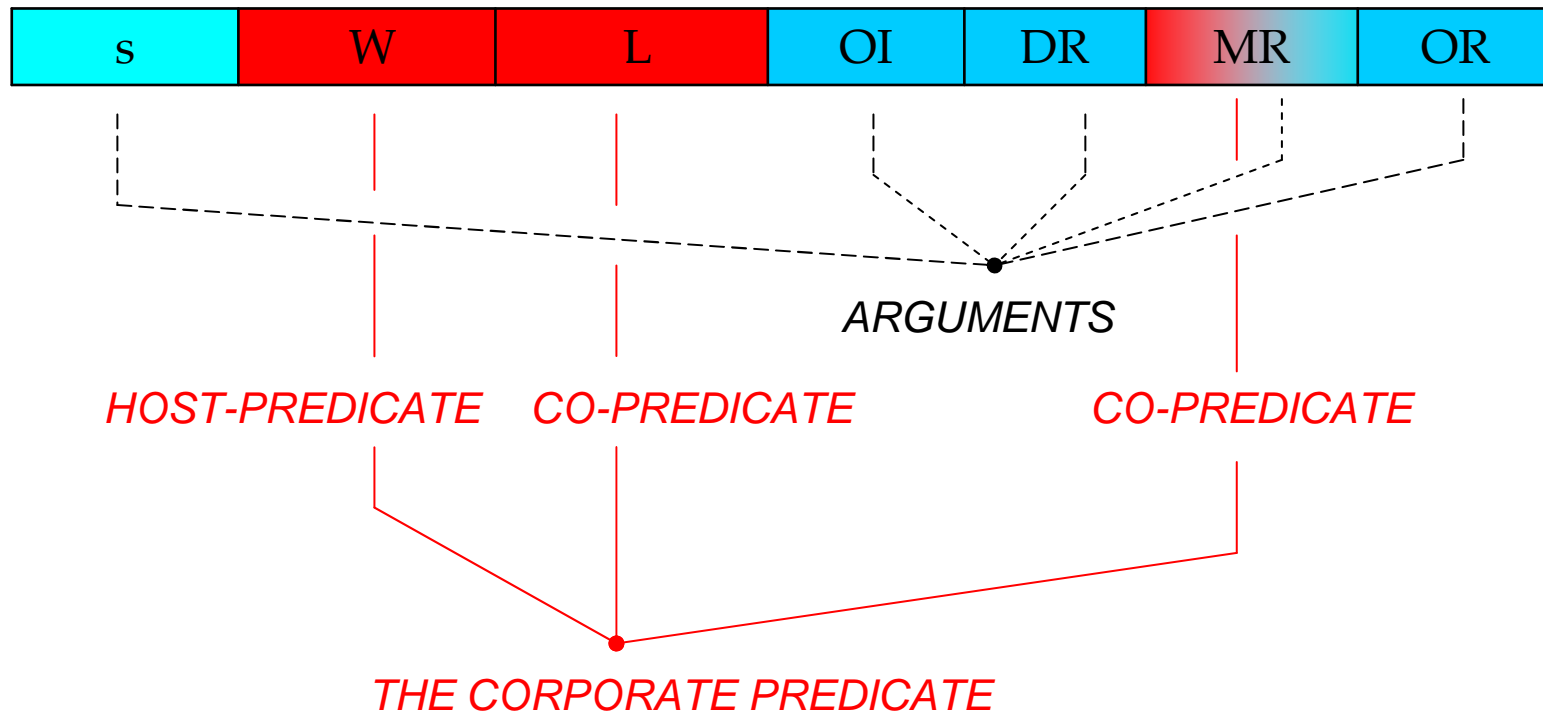
The predicative category

Togeby's sentence scheme

F	Nexus field				Predication field						A		
	v	(k)	s	/y	a\ a	V		R1		M		R2	
						W	L	IO	DR			MR	OR



The nuclear predication





Intransitive verbs

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) barnet	sover					



Syntactic government

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) barnet	sover					

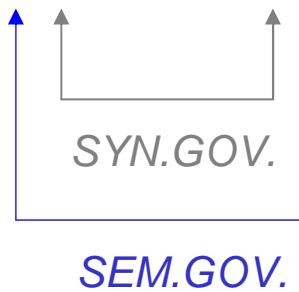


SYN.GOV.



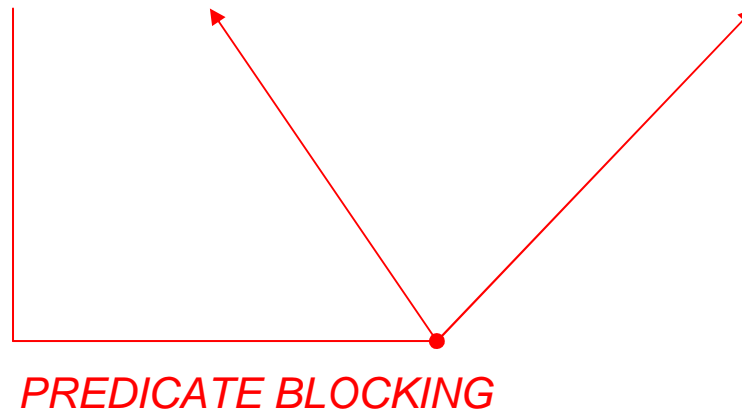
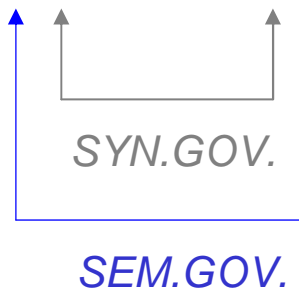
Semantic government

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) barnet	sover					



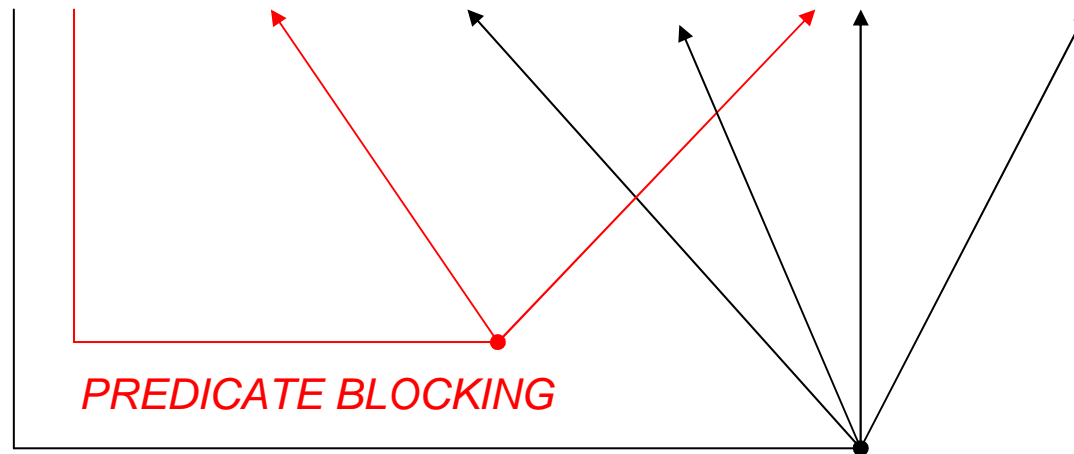
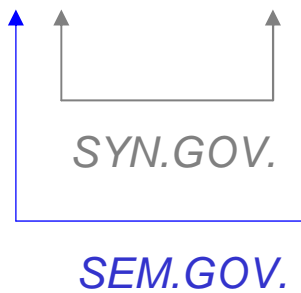
Predicate blocking

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) barnet	sover					



Valency blocking

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) barnet	sover					



VALENCY BLOCKING



Mono-valent corporate predicates

- Predicate blocking: **MR**
- Valency theme: **Monovalent**
- Argument blocking: **OI, DR (MR) and OR**

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) Victoria	danser	salsa				
(at) edderkoppen	var	ækel				



Transitive verbs type a

- Valency theme: **Divalent (type a)**
- Argument blocking: **OI, (MR) and OR**

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) manden	havde bygget			huset		

Transitive verbs type b

- Valency theme: **Divalent (type b)**
- Argument blocking: **OI, DR and (MR)**

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) Michael	har hørt			nyheden		<--(DR)

BLOCKED BY WEIGHT SHIFT

(at) Michael	har hørt			(OR)-->		at de vil overraske ham
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BLOCKED BY WEIGHT SHIFT



Transitive verbs

I) Active construction

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) manden	byggede			huset		

G-ROLE: agent

E-ROLE: patient



Transitive verbs

II) Passive construction

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) huset	er blevet bygget			[PAS]		

↑
E-ROLE: patient

↑
PASSIVE BLOCKING



Ergative verbs

I) Transitive construction

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) han	væltede			stolen		

G-ROLE: agent

E-ROLE: patient



Ergative verbs

II) Intransitive construction

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) stolen	væltede			[ERG]		

↑
E-ROLE: patient

↑
ERGATIVE BLOCKING



Causative predicates

s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(at) julemanden	gav		børnene	gaverne	<(OI)	

BLOCKED BY DATIVE SHIFT

(at) julemanden	gav		(MR)>	gaverne	til børnene	
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BLOCKED BY DATIVE SHIFT



V2-movement

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Bilbo	mødte		←[v]			Gandalf		



BLOCKED BY V2-MOVEMENT



Subject in F (blocked S)

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Bilbo	mødte	←(F)	←[v]			Gandalf		



BLOCKING CAUSED BY MOVEMENT TO FUNDAMENT



Direct object in F (blocked DR)

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Desserten	ville	knægtene	spise			←(F)		

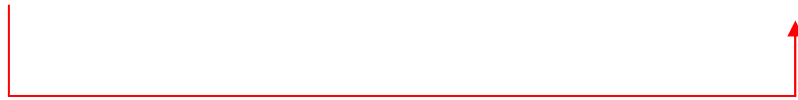


BLOCKING CAUSED BY MOVEMENT TO FUNDAMENT



Indirect object in F (blocked IO)

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Hende	havde	publikum	givet		←(F)	en stor hånd		



BLOCKING CAUSED BY MOVEMENT TO FUNDAMENT



Preposition stranding

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Ham	havde	pigen	tænkt				på	



Provisional subject in F

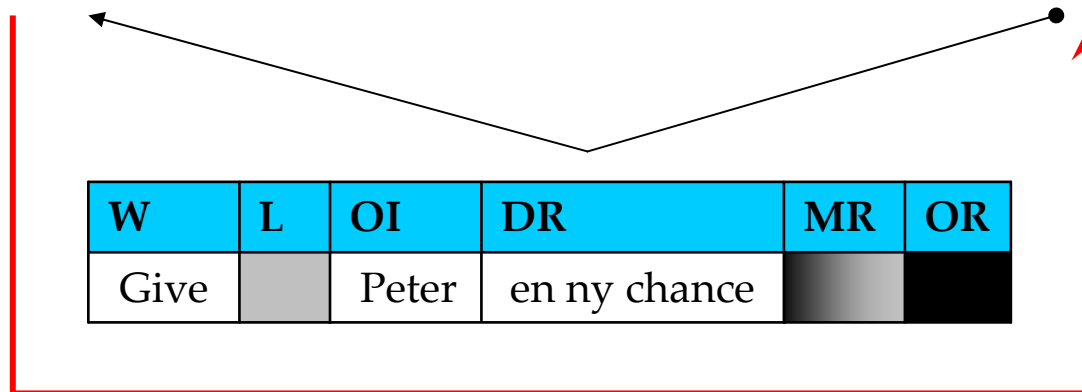
F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Det	har	(F)↔	givet	bonus				at jeg var glad
Der	bor	(F)↔	←[v]			en bager	på Nørregade	



ANNULMENT OF VALENCY BLOCKING

Infinite verb + arguments in F (blocked predication field)

F	v	s	Predication field
Give Peter en ny chance	ville	Pia (ikke)	←(F)



BLOCKED BY MOVEMENT OF INFINITE VERB + ARGUMENTS TO F



Frame blocking

- Blocked *v* in Danish marks non-realis (question, imperative, condition, comparison + subordinated non-realises sentences)

(!) Note: In Heltoft's scheme non-realises is marked by an empty fundament.



Non-realis frame (blocked v)

Ex. *Har Danmark ikke vundet kampen, bliver jeg sur (condition)*

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Har	[R]	Danmark (ikke)	vundet			kampen		



BLOCKED BY THE ILLOCUTIONARY FRAME



Non-realistic frame (blocked v)

Ex. *Han græd som var han pisket* (comparison)

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
(som) var	[R]	han	pisket			[PAS]		



BLOCKED BY THE ILLOCUTIONARY FRAME



Non-realis frame (blocked v)

Ex. *Har ungerne spist kagen?* (interrogative)

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Har	[R]	ungerne	spist			kagen?		



BLOCKED BY THE ILLOCUTIONARY FRAME



Non-realis frame (blocked v)

Ex. *Spis du bare kagen* (imperative)

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Spis	[R]	du	←[v]			(bare) kagen		



BLOCKED BY THE ILLOCUTIONARY FRAME

Non-realis frame (blocked v (and F))

Ex. Det var rart, *at han ikke var sur* (sub-ordinated sentences in non-realis)

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
[R]	[R]	(at) han	(ikke) var	sur			—	



BLOCKED BY THE ILLOCUTIONARY FRAME



Argument shifts

- Based upon Jørgensen's theory
- A light pronominal (+ *her* and *der*) moving left is placed in the slot of the first argument or predicate element that it encounters, blocking the slot it moved from.



Argument shifts

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans	bogen		



Argument shifts

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans	bogen		
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans-den	←(OI)		

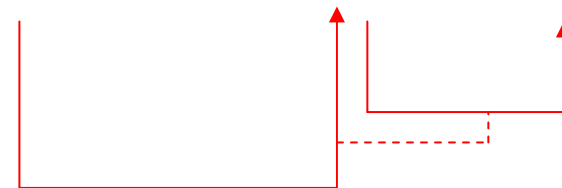


Blocked by argument shift



Argument shifts

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans	bogen		
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans-den	←(OI)		
Derfor	har	Ole	vist-ham-den		←(W)	←(OI)		



Blocked by argument shifts



Argument shifts

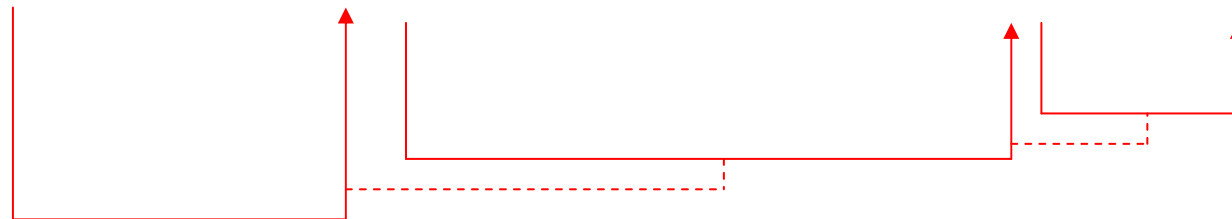
F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans	bogen		
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans-den	←(OI)		
Derfor	har	Ole	vist-ham-den		←(W)	←(OI)		
Derfor	viste	Ole-ham-den	←[v]		←(s)	←(OI)		



Blocked by argument shifts

Argument shifts

F	v	s	W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans	bogen		
Derfor	har	Ole	vist		Hans-den	←(OI)		
Derfor	har	Ole	vist-ham-den		←(W)	←(OI)		
Derfor	viste	Ole-ham-den	←[v]		←(s)	←(OI)		
Derfor	viste-han-ham-den	←(v)	←[v]		←(s)	←(OI)		



Blocked by argument shifts



Object stranding

Sten Vikner (2005) has suggested that some non-finite transitive verbs can be moved to the fundament in a topicalised position without their arguments, leaving the object stranded:

Ex. *Kysset har jeg hende ikke, bare holdt hende i hånden.*



Object stranding

I have tried to find other examples of these types of strandings, but I have not been able to find any in *Korpus 2000/90*, *BySoc* or in a tagged search for verbal auxiliaries left of the finite verb – [func="AUX>"] – in *VISL*.

However, after going all Google-eyes, I finally found some examples of object stranding, but only for verbs that governs sentence equivalent objects. These strandings may be allowed due to the 'weight' (and perhaps extra position) of the object and are therefore not similar to Vikner's example.



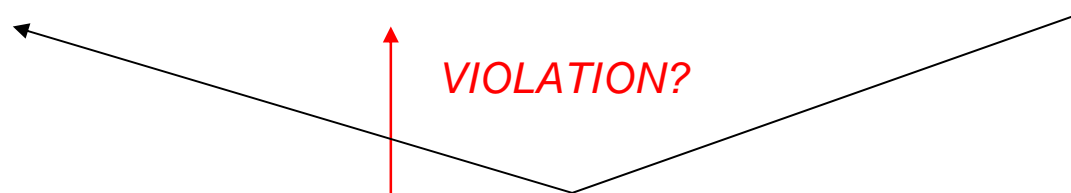
Object stranding

- *Glemte har jeg at i Onsdags da jeg følte mig syg kom en Søn af afdøde biskop Münster og bad om at turde føre til mig en skolebestyrerinde fra Königsberg*
[H.C. Andersen, *Diaries 1868-1870*]
- *Helt glemt har sønderjyderne nok ikke nederlaget tilbage i november mod Herning.*
[<http://hockeymania.dk>]
- *Helt misforstået har du dog det med Skåne, Halland og Blekinge.*
[From a Danish blog]

Object stranding

Vikner 2005: *Lånt hende har jeg den ikke, jeg har faktisk givet hende den*

F	v	s	Pedication Field
Lånt-hende	har-jeg- den (ikke)	←(v)	←(F)



W	L	OI	DR	MR	OR
Lånt-hende- den		←(W)	←(OI)		



The pronominal mixture

Jeg har skam ikke **lånt-hende,** thi hun er min egen hustru! Hik!

Lånt-hende har-jeg-den ikke

Derfor **har-jeg-den** ikke til låns.



Questions and comments

*Now for your
questions and comments....*

and thank you very much for listening!