

# ADVERB RAISING IN DANISH AND ENGLISH



INSTITUT FOR KOMMUNIKATION OG KULTUR

AARHUS UNIVERSITET

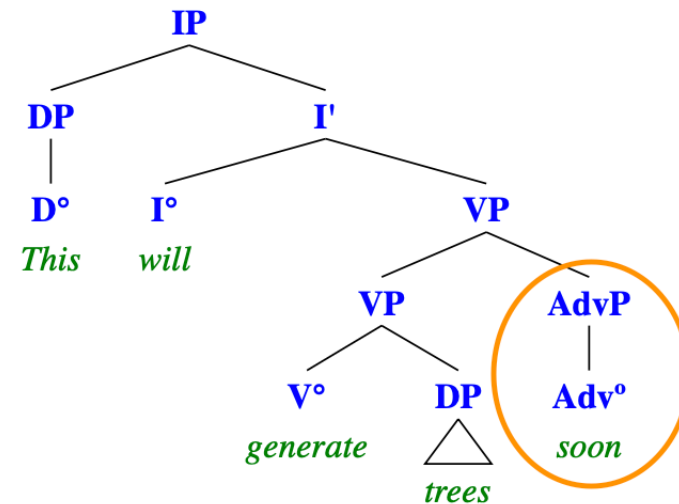
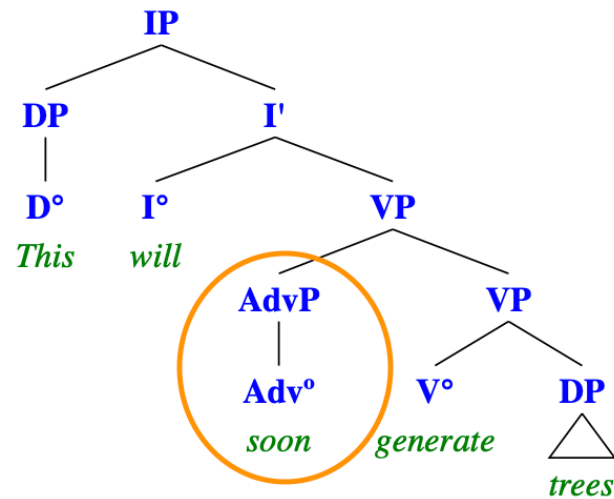
MINDS PT. 3: TOKYO DRIFT  
16. MAJ 2024

JULIE MARIA ROHDE  
PH.D.-STUDERENDE



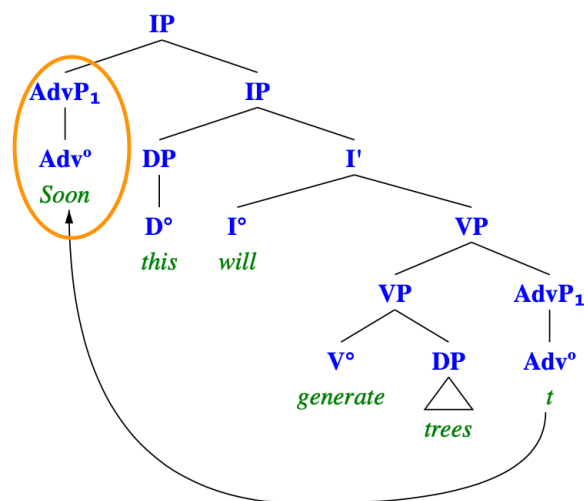
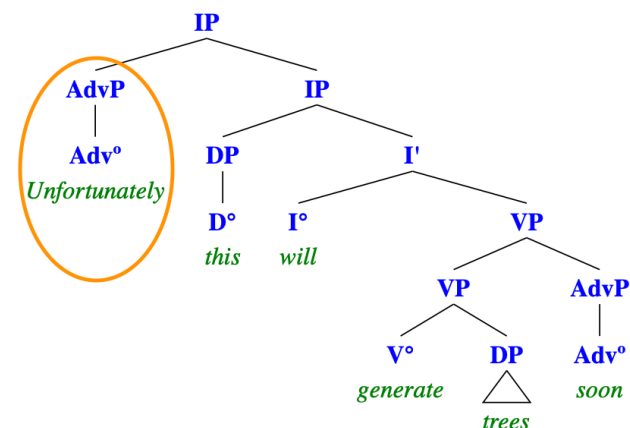
# THE STANDARD ADVP ANALYSIS

- VP-modifying, left- or right-adjoined
- Describes the VP



# OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR THE ADVP

- IP-modifying
- Comments on the sentence
- VP-modifying
- Describes VP, but is topicalised



# SO WHAT IS THIS?

---

(1)

- Jeg **tror altid** [at han har kendt til mine følelser for ham].  
*I think **always** [that he \_\_ has known to my feelings for him].* (KorpusDK)
- Jeg **synes aldrig** [jeg er blevet mobbet med det].  
*I think **never** [I \_\_ am been bullied with it].* (KorpusDK)
- Jeg **føler altid**, [at jeg bag alt det har været ærlig].  
*I feel **always** [that I behind all that \_\_ have been honest].* (KorpusDK)
- Calvin did **not** believe [that Mona would \_\_ move in until June]. (Collins and Postal 2014, 6)
- I **soon hope** [to finish my book]. (Edelstein 2013, 21)



# AREN'T THOSE ADVP'S JUST BORN THERE?

---

- Nuh-uh.
- The pragmatics of the utterance speak against a literal reading of ...
  - Always thinking X/never thinking X/always feeling X/not believeinng X/soon hoping X
- There may be subtle diffreences between raised and non-raised negation (Lakoff 1969, 140-141)
  - *To not expect that ... vs to expect that not...*
- So, we need a different type of more robust test
- Three types of tests



# CLEFTING

---

(1) Jeg tror **altid** at han har kendt til mine følelser for ham. (KorpusDK)  
*I think always that he has known to my feelings for him.*

(1a) \*Det er **altid** tilfældet, at jeg tror, han har kendt mine følelser for ham.  
*It is **always** case-the that I think he has known my feelings for him*

(1b) Det er tilfældet, at jeg tror, han **altid** har kendt mine følelser for ham.  
*It is case-the that I think he **always** has known my feelings for him*

- The clefting in the (a) examples forces a matrix reading. The result being infelicitous points towards Adverb Raising.
- Conclusion: the test points towards Adverb Raising in (1) & (2)

# CLEFTING

---

(2) Jeg synes sjældent, det lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer. (KorpusDK)

*I think rarely it succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

(2a) \*Det er **sjældent** tilfældet, at jeg synes, det lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer.

*It is **rarely** case-the, that I think it succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

(2b) Det er tilfældet, at jeg synes, det **sjældent** lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer.

*It is case-the, that I think it rarely succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

- The clefting in the (a) examples forces a matrix reading. The result being infelicitous points towards Adverb Raising.
- Conclusion: the test points towards Adverb Raising in (1) & (2)



# DUPLICATING THE ADVERBIAL

(1) Jeg tror **altid** at han har kendt til mine følelser for ham. (KorpusDK)

*I think **always** that he has known to my feelings for him.*

(1a) \* Jeg tror **altid** at han **altid** har kendt til mine følelser for ham.

*I think **always** that he **always** has known to my feelings for him.*

(1b) Jeg påstår **altid** at han **altid** har kendt til mine følelser for ham.

*I claim **always** that he **always** has known to my feelings for him.*

- Identical adverbial at the supposed origin site blocks trace.
- This should only block movement as identical adverbials can exist in both clauses, see (b) examples.
- Conclusion: the test points towards Adverb Raising in (1) & (2)





# DUPLICATING THE ADVERBIAL

(2) Jeg synes **sjældent**, det lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer. (KorpusDK)

*I think rarely it succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

(2a) \*Jeg synes **sjældent**, det **sjældent** lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer.

*I think rarely it rarely succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

(2b) Jeg siger **sjældent**, det **sjældent** lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer.

*I say rarely it rarely succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

- Identical adverbial at the supposed origin site blocks trace.
- This should only block movement as identical adverbials can exist in both clauses, see (b) examples.
- Conclusion: the test points towards Adverb Raising in (1) & (2)



# CONTRASTING SEMANTICS

(1) Jeg tror **altid** at han har kendt til mine følelser for ham. (KorpusDK)

*I think **always** that he has known to my feelings for him.*

(1a) \*Jeg tror **altid** at han **aldrig** har kendt til mine følelser for ham.

*I think **always** that he **never** has known to my feelings for him.*

(1b) Jeg påstår **altid** at han **aldrig** har kendt til mine følelser for ham.

*I think **always** that he **always** has known to my feelings for him.*

- Adverbial of opposing semantic value at the supposed origin site results in an infelicitous reading due to clause containing opposite meanings, see: \**I never always cook.*
- In contrast, it is possible for a matrix and a main clause to contain opposing adverbials, see (b) examples.
- Conclusion: the test points towards Adverb Raising in (1) & (2)



# CONTRASTING SEMANTICS

(2) Jeg synes **sjældent**, det lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer. (KorpusDK)

*I think rarely it succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

(2a) \*Jeg synes **sjældent**, det **ofte** lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer.

*I think rarely it often succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

(2b) Jeg siger **sjældent**, det **ofte** lykkes at male træ på skabslåger og skuffer.

*I say rarely it often succeeds to paint wood on cupboards and drawers.*

- Adverbial of opposing semantic value at the supposed origin site results in an infelicitous reading due to clause containing opposite meanings, see: *\*I never always cook.*
- In contrast, it is possible for a matrix and a main clause to contain opposing adverbials, see (b) examples.
- Conclusion: the test points towards Adverb Raising in (1) & (2)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In Danish:

- An opinion or utterance verb (e.g. *think, believe, seem*)
- Raises *some* adverbials (it seems that the shorter and more frequent the better, but *senere* or *hurtigt* still won't raise?)
  - *Vores reservation er om en halv time så/ men...*  
*Our reservation is in a half our so/ but...*
  - ... jeg synes **egentlig** / **snart** / \***senere** / \***hurtigt**, at vi skal gå.  
... I think **actually** / **soon** / \* **later** / \* **fast**, that we should go.
- Out of a finite embedded clause complement



# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In English:

- A raising verb (e.g. *seem*, *appear*)
- Raises an agent-oriented adverb (these are at least the ones that are obvious)

Out of a non-finite embedded clause

Alternatively in English:

- An epistemic or deontic modal
- Raises an agent-oriented adverb
- Out of a bare infinitive

a. *I **unknowingly** must have rolled my ankle* (EPISTEMIC)

b. *He **voluntarily** should resign from his position* (DEONTIC)

(Edelstein 2013, 7. Adapted from examples found on the Internet)

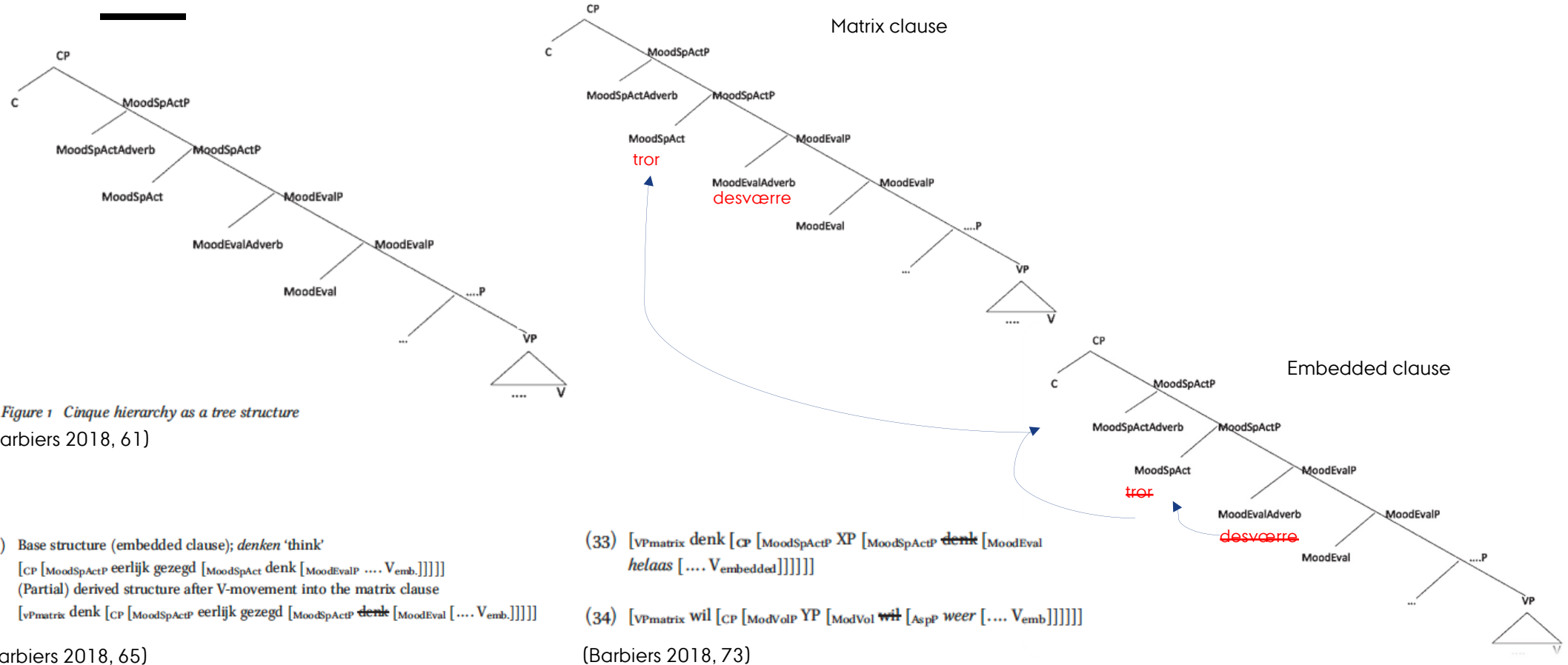


# IS ADVERB RAISING JUST ANOTHER FLAVOUR OF NEG RAISING?

- **A syntactic versus a pragmatic explanation of the phenomenon**
- Licensing of so-called **NPI's** (Lakoff 1969, 141)
  - a. *I didn't think [John would leave **until tomorrow**].*
  - b. *\*I didn't say [John would leave **until tomorrow**].*
- **Neg Raising is limited to a specific set of verbs** (non-factive verbs of mental state (Lakoff 1969, 140))
  - And there is cross-linguistic variation: E.g., English *fee/* does not allow NR, whereas Danish *føle* 'feel' does.
- **The polarity contrast between embedded vs. matrix clause can be used to test for NR**
  - *Sarah doesn't think Bob's interested, ... and **neither** does Sue! / does she?*
  - Negation is in the matrix clause, but the meaning is: → *Sarah thinks that Bob is not interested.*
  - *Karen did **not** figure **that the moon would disappear**. → Do you agree? (Yes, I agree that the moon will not disappear)*
  - *Karen did **not figure out** that the moon would disappear. → Do you agree? (Yes, I agree that Karen did not figure out that the moon would disappear)*



# A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION: A SEMANTIC ADVERBIAL HIERARCHY



# WHY THIS DOESNT WORK

Functional head	Adverb (example)
<b>Speaker-oriented domain</b>	
Mood <sub>speech act</sub>	eerlijk gezegd 'frankly'
Mood <sub>evaluative</sub>	helaas 'unfortunately'
Mood <sub>evidential</sub>	kennelijk 'allegedly'
Mood <sub>epistemic</sub>	waarschijnlijk 'probably'
<b>Referential Tense domain</b>	
T(Past)	eens 'once'
T (Future)	dan 'then'
<b>Epistemic modal domain</b>	
Mood <sub>irrealis</sub>	misschien 'perhaps'
Mod <sub>aleth necessity</sub>	noodzakelijkerwijs 'necessarily'
Mod <sub>aleth possibility</sub>	mogelijk 'possibly'
<b>Root modal domain</b>	
Mod <sub>volition</sub>	per se 'definitely'
Mod <sub>obligation</sub>	verplicht 'obligatorily'
Mod <sub>ability/permission</sub>	gemakkelijk 'easily'

<b>Aspectual domain</b>	
Asp <sub>repetitivel</sub>	weer 'again'
Asp <sub>frequentativel</sub>	vaak 'often'
T(Anterior)	al 'already'
Asp <sub>terminative</sub>	niet langer 'no longer'
Asp <sub>continuative</sub>	nog steeds 'still'
Asp <sub>perfect</sub>	altijd 'always'
Asp <sub>prospective</sub>	bijna 'almost'
Asp <sub>completivel</sub>	helemaal 'completely'
<b>vP domain</b>	
NEG/AFF	niet/wel 'not/AFF'
Voice	goed 'well'
Asp <sub>celerativell</sub>	snel/vroeg 'quickly/early'
Asp <sub>repetitivell</sub>	weer 'again'
Asp <sub>frequentativell</sub>	vaak 'often'
Asp <sub>completivell</sub>	helemaal 'completely' :)





ANOTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION:

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF INFINITIVAL COMPLEMENT

---

- Raising verbs (e.g. *seem*) select for a specific (small) kind of infinitival clause that is particularly transparent for movement out of the clause. (Edelstein 2014)
- This limits AR to
  - Be licensed only by raising verbs
  - Only occur out of infinitival clauses
- It is an empirical question whether this holds for the English data, but we already see it does not account for the data in Danish



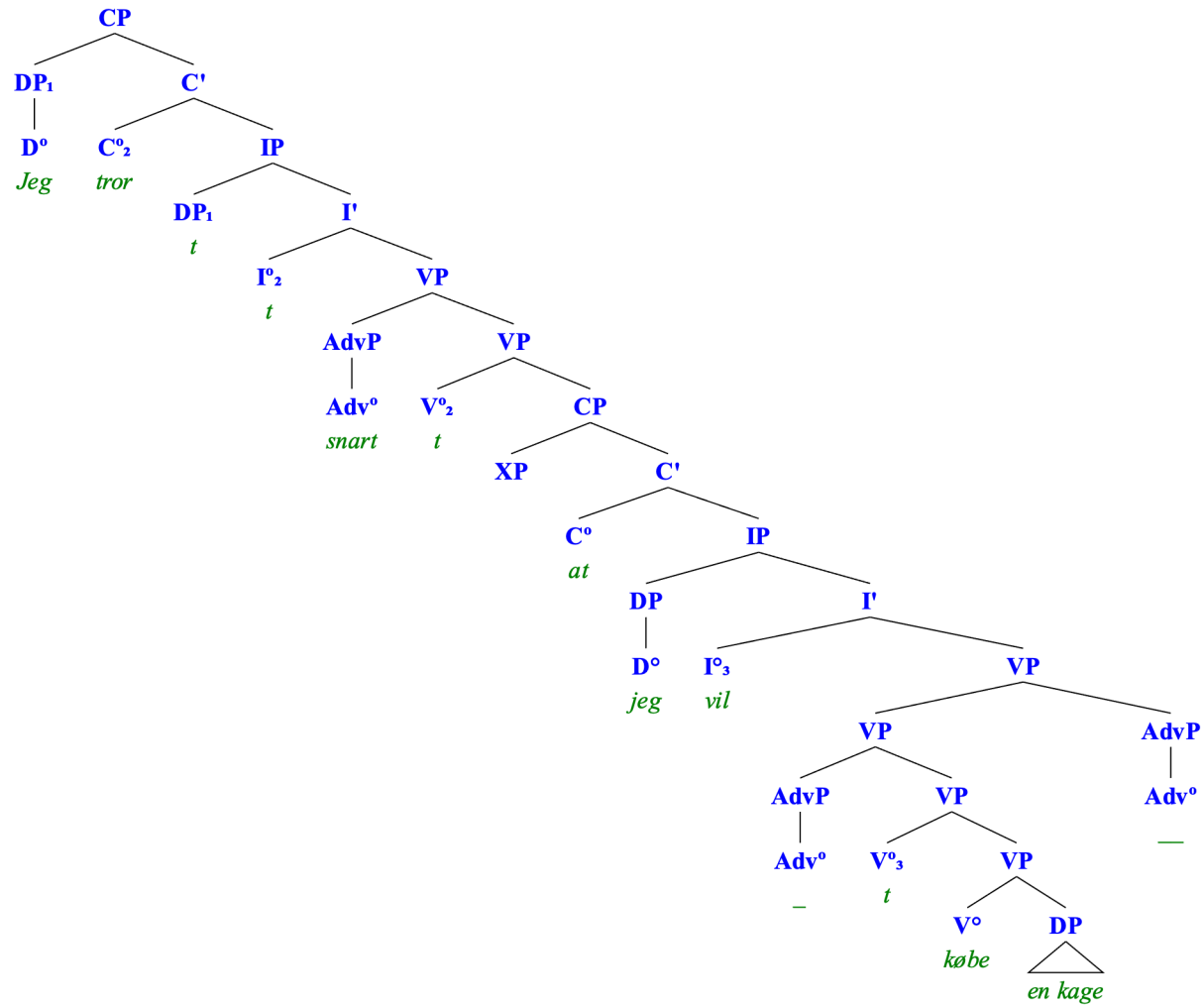
# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

---

- Exploration of the occurrence of AR in the wild (Danish/English)
- **Does the frequency of the different lexical items correlate with the hypotheses?**
- **What are the differences between the English and Danish data?**
- Native judgements
- Speaking of native judgements... what do you make of this?
  - *Jeg synes faktisk, at vi skal gå*
  - *Jeg synes snart, at vi skal gå*
  - *Jeg synes med det samme, at vi skal gå*
  - *Jeg synes senere, at vi skal gå*
  - *Jeg hurtigt, at vi skal gå*



# DISCUSS!(TING)



# REFERENCES

---

Barbiers, Sjef. 2018. "Adverbs in Strange Places: On the Syntax of Adverbs in Dutch". *Nederlandse Taalkunde* 23 (1): 57–88. <https://doi.org/10.5117/NEDTAA2018.1.BARB>.

Christensen, Ken Ramshøj, Johannes Kizach, og Anne Mette Nyvad. 2013a. "Escape from the Island: Grammaticality and (Reduced) Acceptability of wh-island Violations in Danish". *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research* 42 (1): 51–70. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10936-012-9210-x>.

———. 2013b. "The Processing of Syntactic Islands – An fMRI Study". *Journal of Neurolinguistics* 26 (2): 239–51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneuroling.2012.08.002>.

Cinque, Guglielmo. 1999. *Adverbs and Functional Heads: A Cross-Linguistic Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press. <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/asb/detail.action?docID=3052067>.

Collins, Chris, og Paul Martin Postal. 2014. *Classical NEG Raising: An Essay on the Syntax of Negation*. Linguistic Inquiry Monographs V67. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.

Edelstein, Elspeth Claire. 2013. "Adverb Climbing as Evidence for the Structure of Non-Finite Complements in English". University of Aberdeen. The International Society for the Linguistics of English. 2013. <https://www.isle-linguistics.org/>.

Horn, Laurence R. 2001. *A Natural History of Negation*. The David Hume Series. Stanford, Calif: CSLI.

Rohde, Julie Maria, Ken Ramshøj Christensen, og Anne Mette Nyvad. 2023. "The Effect of Lexical Variation on Adjunct Islands in Danish". I *Grammatik i Fokus* 37. Lund, Sweden. <https://pure.au.dk/portal/en/activities/the-effect-of-lexical-variation-on-adjunct-islands-in-danish>.





AARHUS  
UNIVERSITET