V2 ACROSS ENGLISH AND DANISH:

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE V2 CONSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH AND DANISH

WHY DID I CHOOSE THIS TOPIC? AND WHAT IS THIS PAPER ABOUT?

- Tree drawing <3

- Danish is a verb second language, while English (as the only Germanic language) is not
- How is this reflected in the respective languages?
- How is this linguistic development in different directions explained?

WHAT IS V2?

- A word order where the finite verb occupies the <u>second</u> position in a clause, only preceded by <u>one</u> constituent
  - At first glance, this appears to be a common occurrence:

  a. En. He <u>has</u> now received this answer.

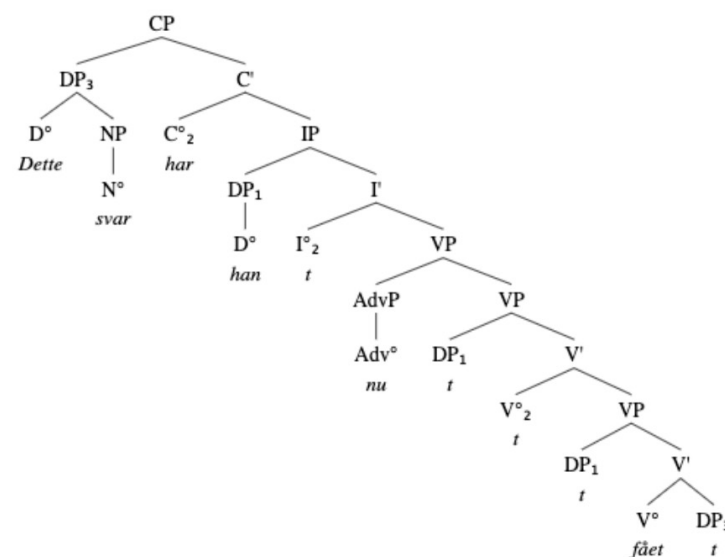 b. Da. Han <u>har</u> nu   fået   dette svar.

  - Most clearly illustrated with non-subject-initial clauses:

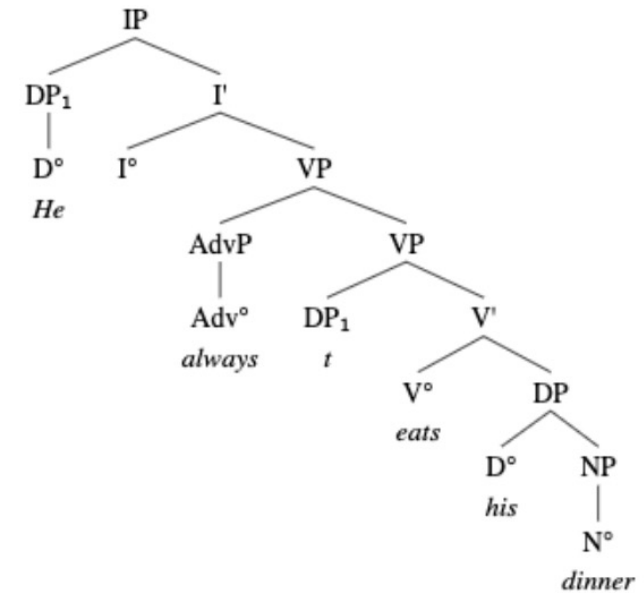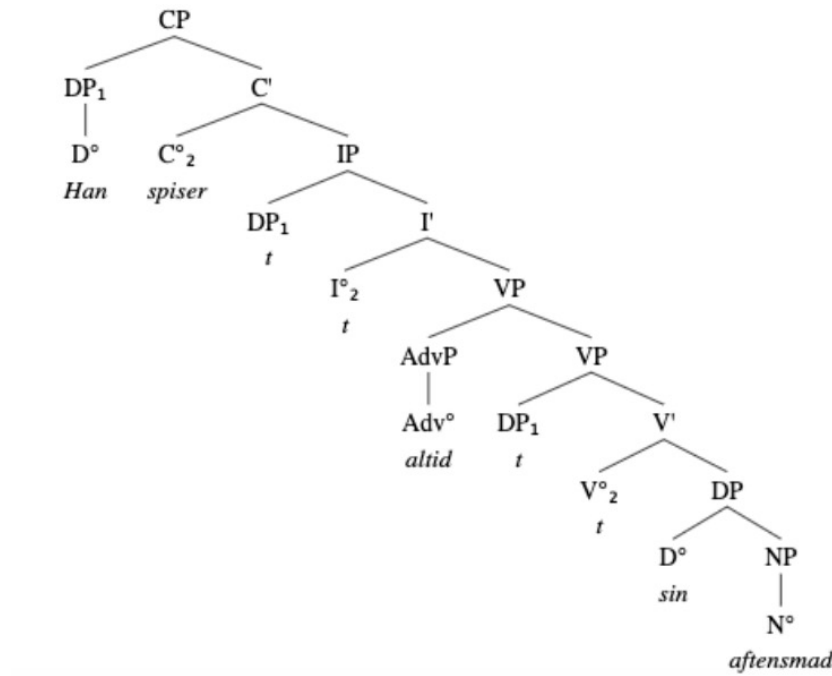| CP-spec	C°	IP
a. En. * This answer	<u>has</u> he	___ now received .
b. Da. Dette svar	<u>har</u> han	___ nu fået .

THE TREE STRUCTURE OF V2

- Main clauses in V2 languages are CPs
  - Second position = C°
  - First position = CP-spec

All the tree structure are drawn with the assumption that subjects are base-generated in VP-spec

COMPARISON OF DANISH AND ENGLISH (SUBJECT-INITIAL) MAIN CLAUSE STRUCTURE

EMBEDDED V2

- Embedded V2 is optional
- Additional CP-layer for complementizer
- Conditions:
  - The embedded V2 clause must be the object in a clause with a matrix verb of saying or believing
  - The matrix verb must not be negated
  - In Danish and English, the complementizer *at/ that* is required
  - In English, there must be a negative element in CP-spec

En.   He said...

		C°	CP-spec	C°	IP	
a.	...	that			he would never eat dessert before dinner.	-V2
b.	* ...	that	dessert	would	he _____ never eat before dinner.	V2
c.	...	that	never	would	he _____ eat dessert before dinner.	V2
d.	* ...		never	would	he _____ eat dessert before dinner.	V2

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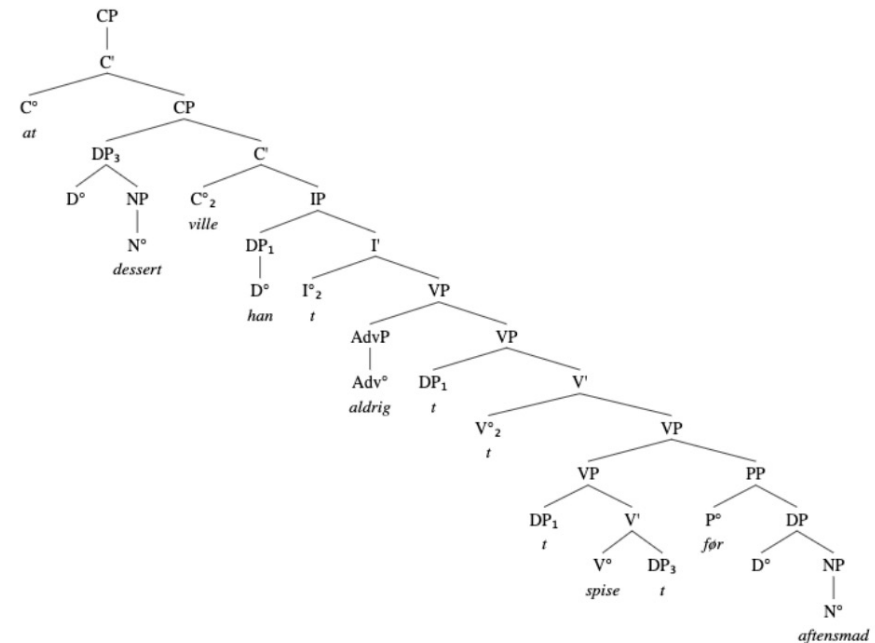 - In English, there must be a negative element in CP-spec

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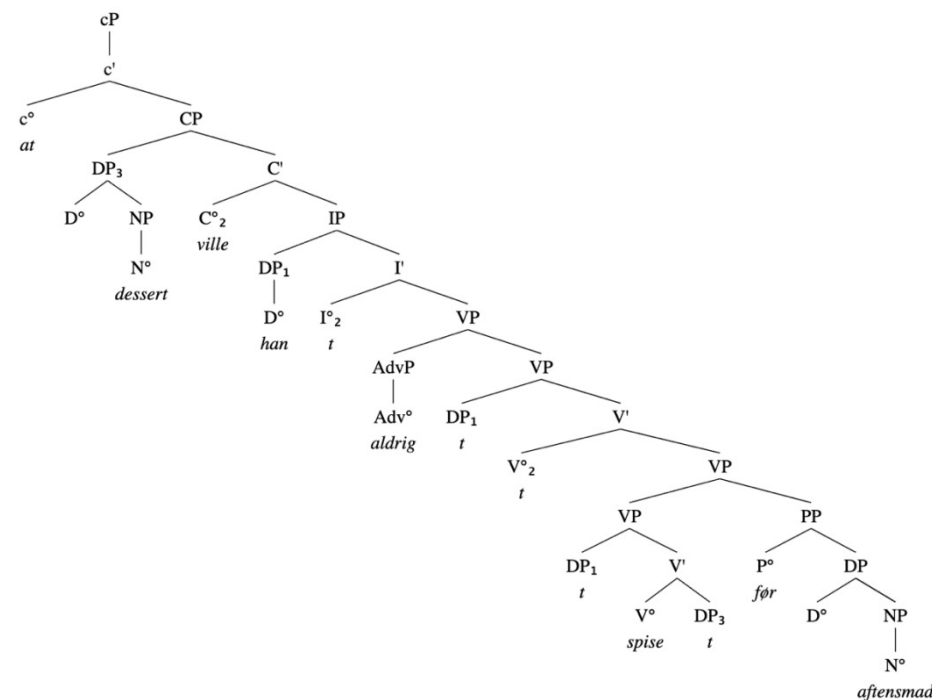 - In English, there must be a negative element in CP-spec

Da. Han sagde...

		C°	CP-spec	C°	IP	
a.	...			(at)	han aldrig ville spise dessert før aftensmad.	-V2
b.	...	at	dessert	<u>ville</u>	han aldrig ____ spise før aftensmad.	V2
c.	...	at	aldrig	<u>ville</u>	han ____ spise dessert før aftensmad.	V2
d.	* ...		aldrig	<u>ville</u>	han ____ spise dessert før aftensmad.	V2

THE BIG AND LITTLE CP DISTINCTION

- Further CP analysis that builds on the fact that CP-recursion allows extraction, but embedded V2 does not

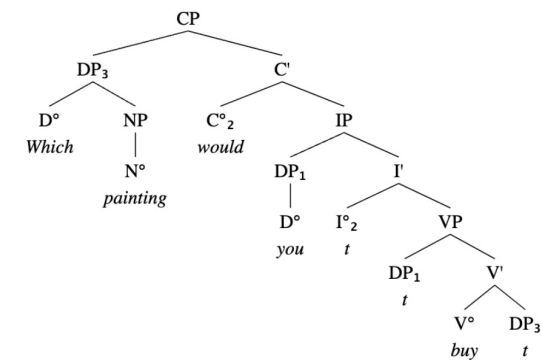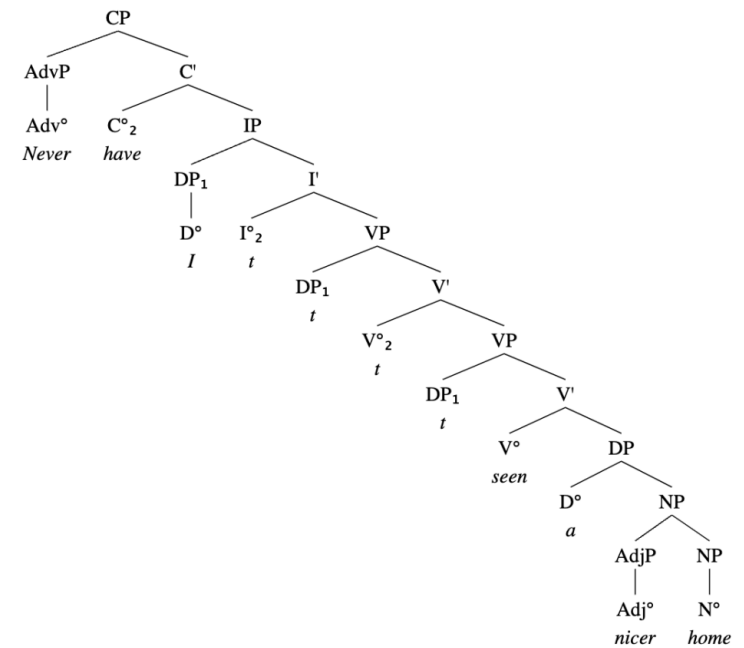- CP headed by finite verb, cP headed by a functional element

THE BIG AND LITTLE CP DISTINCTION

- C° and c° have different features:
  - C°'s topic-feature attracts topics to CP-spec
    - Unique as movement to C° does not erase the feature
  - c° can have various features:
    - OCC-feature where phrases move to cP-spec without having OCC feature
    - *Wh*-feature, enables movement of *wh*-phrases to cP-spec in embedded questions
    - Movement to c° would result in erasure of that feature
      - Explains why c° either is empty or contains base-generated subordinators

RESIDUAL V2 IN ENGLISH

- Subject-auxiliary inversion (I-to-C movement)
    - Negative inversions
    - Questions

V2 IN OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH

- In Old English, the finite verb often followed a single constituent

  - This single constituent would often be the subject, but could also be interrogatives, negative elements, or certain adverbials

Subject-verb inversion

OE   Þa   gebrohte se dryman   þone cnapan tō his dēofle

then brought the sorcerer-man the   boy   to his devil

Ælfric's *Lives of Saints*

Hwi wolde God swa lytles tinges him forwyrnan

why would God so   small thing him deny

Ælfric's *Catholic Homilies*

- V2 is lost during the Middle English period
- In the end, SVO became the primary word order

INFLECTIONAL MORPHOLOGY AND V2

- The Rich Agreement Hypothesis: Correlation between morphological finiteness and V2

- Old English, Middle English, and Present-Day Danish verbal inflection:
    - Lexical verbs can move from V° to C°

- Present-Day English verbal inflection:

- V2 triggered by C°-feature, [+M-Finite]

	+Finite	- Finite
+Past	**Preterit:**	**Participle:**
Old English:	*healp, hælde*	*holpen, hæled*
Middle English:	*holp, helede*	*(y)holpen,, (y)heled*
Present-Day Danish:	*hjalp, helede*	*hjulpet, helet*
- Past	**Present:**	**Infinitive:**
Old English:	*helpe, hæle*	*helpan, hælan*
Middle English:	*helpe, hele*	*helpen, helen*
Present-Day Danish:	*hjælper, heler*	*hjælpe, hele*

+Past	**Preterit/Participle:**
Present-Day English:	*helped, healed*
- Past	**Present/Infinitive:**
Present-Day English:	*help, heal*

CONCLUSION

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- Danish remains a V2 language, whereas English only has residual V2
- V2 clauses are CPs with the finite verb in C° and topic in CP-spec
- Embedded V2 has a cP above, headed by the subordinating conjunction
- Residual V2 in English is seen in negative inversions and interrogative constructions
- Old and Middle English had more generalized V2, including subject-verb inversion
- This declined over time, in parallel with the collapse of English verbal inflection paradigm

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