

Linearization in Turkish and Minimality in Binding

A. Sumru ÖZSOY

Boğaziçi University
ozsoys@boun.edu.tr

One of the major concerns of the theory of grammar has been to determine the nature of the principles which account for configurations in which arguments of a predicate appear in positions other than their canonical theta-positions. Fronting constructions constitute one subset of such configurations. Within the basic assumptions of the Minimalist Program formulated by Chomsky (1995, 2001, 2008), displacement is a phenomenon of the computational system if it meets the two minimalist conditions that hold on *Move*: (i) It is triggered by a legitimate probe-goal relationship; (ii) It obeys an economy principle such as the Minimal Link Condition (MLC) (Chomsky 1995) or Shortest (Richards 2001). All other instances of overt movement are taken to belong to the PF component.

That Turkish licenses fronting constructions has been the subject matter of extensive research in the linguistics literature (Erk  1984, Erguvanlı 1984, Kural 1992,  zt rk 2005, Kornfilt 2005,  ssever 2007). Such constructions have commonly been taken to be instances of topicalization. Multiple fronting constructions in which constituents are probed out of two distinct localities to the matrix presubject position exhibit a crossing rather than a nesting path configuration in Turkish. This is unpredicted, given the locality conditions on the fronting operation. Locally fronted constituents are attracted to Spec,TP, long distance fronted constituents to Spec,CP. The crossing configuration is argued to be the consequence of considerations of binding transparency with minimal distance obtaining between the binders and their respective bindees in the two localities.

References

- Chomsky, N. (1995). *The Minimalist Program*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.; (2001). *Derivation by phase*. In *Ken Hale: A Life in Language*. M. Kenstowicz,(ed.), 1-52. Cambridge/ London: The MIT Press.; (2008). *On Phases*. In *Foundational Issues in Linguistic Theory. Essays in Honor of Jean-Roger Vergnaud*, eds. Robert Freidin, Carlos Peregrin Otero and Maria Luisa Zubizarreta, 133–166. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Erguvanlı, E.E. (1984). *The Function of Word order in Turkish*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.
-  ssever, S. (2007). “Towards a unified account of clause-initial scrambling in Turkish: a feature analysis”. *Turkic Languages*, 11:1, Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz Verlag, 93-123.
- Kornfilt, J. (2005). Asymmetries between pre-verbal and post-verbal fronting in Turkish. In *The Free Word Order Phenomenon Its syntactic*

- Sources and Diversity*. J.Sabel and M. Saito (eds.) 163-180. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Kural, M. (1992). Fronting and Mixed Positions in Turkish. *North East Linguistic Society*.
- Öztürk, B. (2005). *Case, Referentiality, and Phrase Structure*. John Benjamins.
- Richards, N. (2001). *The Architecture of Language*. Cambridge/ London: The MIT Press.

ICTL 2012