



Multilingual Corpus of
Annotated Spoken Texts

English

— annotation notes —

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Annotation notes

‘Gapped’ predicates and objects in VP-echo structures

Spoken English makes extensive use of various ‘dummy’ auxiliaries when identical VPs are repeated (VP-echoes), as in *they paid the full fare and we always have done too*. This strategy is particularly common in replies to questions: *are you studying linguistics? Yes, I am*. In many cases, the substituted phrases include direct objects, at least conceptually. In dealing with constructions of this nature, zero glosses of the kind <0:pred> and <0:p> have been inserted, as in the following examples:

- (1) a. *He said, You can't leave me!*
 b. # *I* *said*, # *Well*, *I* =’ll *have*
 # pro.1:s_ds v:pred #ds other_dp pro.1:a =waux aux
 to 0 0
 lv_to 0:pred 0:p

english_devon01_036

- (2) a. *My word was mi bond,*
 b. # *and* 0 *always has been* 0
 # other 0:s other aux cop 0:pred

english_kent01_317–318

- (3) a. *I said, You, can't you build me one, I said, With three rows?*
 b. # *Yeah*, 0 *can* 0 0
 #ds other_dp 0.1:a aux 0:pred 0:p

english_kent02b_131–132

Primary and secondary roles: recipients and others

With some three-participant verbs (including speech, transfer of possession, and a number of others) in English, the recipient, beneficiary, or addressee is treated formally as a direct object, in that it occurs immediately post-verbally and without a preposition. These arguments have been glossed <p>, with the accompanying theme arguments receiving the <p2> gloss, as in (4). Note that recipients, beneficiaries, and addressees that do take a preposition have annotated as <g>.

- (4) # *No-one* *gave* *us* *a* *saw*
 # indef_pro.h:a v:pred pro.1:p ln_deti np:p2

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- (5) # *My* *sisters* *gave* *it* *to* *me*
 # ln_pro.1:poss np.h:a v:pred pro:p adp pro.1:g

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Direct speech

As direct speech is syntactically independent and may span several clauses, it has not been annotated as the object of the clauses that introduce or conclude it (e.g. *she said, ...*). In contrast to verbs of speech with NP objects, which may be transitive (e.g. *she said nothing*) or ditransitive (e.g. *she told us a story*), verbs of speech bookending direct speech have hence been annotated as intransitive, as in (6), or transitive if an addressee is present, as in (7). In order to preserve their special status, their subjects have been glossed with the additional subcategorising symbol <_ds>, yielding <:s_ds> and <:a_ds> for intransitive and transitive clauses respectively.

- (6) # *He* *says,* # *Walk* *him* *down* *the* *field,*
 # **pro.h:s_ds** v:pred #ds vother:pred pro:p adp ln_det np:g
 # *he* *says,* # *And* *gallop* *back*
 # **pro.h:s_ds** v:pred #ds other vother:pred rv

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- (7) # *So* *she* *told* *her* *groom,*
 # other **pro.h:a_ds** v:pred ln_pro.h:poss np.h:p
 # *Put* *the* *horse* *in* *the* *cart*
 #ds vother:pred ln_det np:p adp ln_det np:g

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Light verb constructions

Light verb constructions in English combine a semantically bleached light verb (e.g. *do, have, take, etc.*) with a non-verbal element, creating a new predicate with often idiomatic meaning. While light verbs themselves have been glossed simply <v:pred>, their complements have been annotated <xnp:lvc>, indicating that they neither referential and nor the object of the predicate.

- (8) # *But* *men* *took* *pride* *in* *the* *fact*
 # other np.h:s **v:pred xnp:lvc** adp ln_det np:other
 # *that* *they* =*'d* *worked* *hard*
 # other pro.h:s =waux v:pred other

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Possessive determiners

English possessive determiners (*my, your*) may occur without an explicitly mentioned possessum, in which case they take on an altered form (*mine, yours*). Both the former and the latter have been annotated as constituents of the possessum-NP (e.g. <ln_pro:poss>), and for the latter, the omitted possessum has been restored as zero <0>. Compare (9) and (10):

(9) # *She wrote to my father*
 # pro.h:s v:pred adp ln_pro.1:poss np.h:g

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(10) # *You know, they want theirs 0*
 # other other pro:a v:pred ln_pro:poss 0:p

english_kent02b_181

Null subjects and auxiliaries in coordinated clauses

In coordinated clauses of the kind in (11), echoed auxiliaries are omitted in subsequent clauses if the subject not also expressed repeatedly. In such cases, a zero element <0> has been introduced for the subject, but not for unexpressed auxiliaries.

(11) # *I used to go up there*
 # pro.1:s aux lv_to v:pred adp other:g
 # *and 0 load it*
 # other 0.1:a v:pred pro:p

english_kent02a_129

Impersonal pronouns

Non-referential constructions using the pronouns *you*, *they*, or *one* have been annotated as <imp_pro>, as in (12). In order to preserve the formal similarity to their personal counterparts, impersonal *you* and *they* have received additional second and third person glosses, resulting in <imp_pro.2> and <imp_pro.h>.

(12) # *If you was a tradesman,*
 #ac other imp_pro.2:s cop ln_deti np.h:pred
 # *you could get ... a pound a week.*
 # imp_pro.2:a aux v:pred ln_deti np:p adp other

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Tag questions and discourse markers

The verbal element of tag questions has been glossed <other_tag>. All other kinds of discourse markers have been glossed <other_dp>.

(13) # *Well, there wadn't the population,*
 #neg other_dp other other:predex ln_det np:s
was there?
 other_tag other

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List of corpus-specific GRAID symbols

<:s_ds>	subject of a verb of speech introducing direct speech, intransitive
<:a_ds>	subject of a verb of speech introducing direct speech, transitive
<:p2>	non-theme NP argument of a ditransitive clause, i.e. recipients, beneficiaries, addressees
<:pred_>	combines with function gloss, chiefly <:obl>, <:g>, <:l>, <:other>, to indicate double incidence of predicate and said function
<:lvc>	non-verbal complement of a light verb
<dem_pro>	demonstrative pronoun
<indef_pro>	indefinite pronoun
<imp_pro>	impersonal pronoun
<refl_pro>	reflexive pronoun
<recip_pro>	reciprocal pronoun
<inter_pro>	interrogative pronoun
<rel_pro>	relative pronoun
<pn_np>	proper name
<_deti>	indefinite determiner, subconstituent of a NP
<_det>	definite determiner, subconstituent of a NP
<_dem>	demonstrative determiner, subconstituent of a NP
<_to>	particle <i>to</i> , subconstituent of a VP
<_of>	possessive <i>of</i> , subconstituent of a NP
<aux_neg>	oblique contraction of auxiliary and negator, e.g. <i>don't</i>
<cop_neg>	oblique contraction of copula and negator, e.g. <i>ain't</i>
<other_tag>	verbal element of a tag question
<other_dp>	discourse particle
[INT]	precedes interviewer speech

References

Haig, Geoffrey & Schnell, Stefan. 2014. *Annotations using GRAID (Grammatical Relations and Animacy in Discourse): Introduction and guidelines for annotators (version 7.0)*. (<https://lac.uni-koeln.de/en/multicast/>) (accessed 2015-12-30.)