Verb Lowering in Dutch Subordinate Clauses

Carl Pollard

June 27, 2012

Notational Conventions

- S means 'finite subordinate clause'.
- Inf means 'infinitive clause'. Infinitive complements are *not* Inf but rather InP $=_{\text{def}}$ PRO $\multimap$ Inf.
- s, t, and v are variables of type s.
- f is a variable of type s $\to$ s.
- For simplicity, you can think of names as ambiguous between Nom and Acc.
- Phenogrammatical constants (e.g. jan) are of type s.
- Concatenation is denoted by $\cdot$, a constant of type s $\to$ s $\to$ s.

Lexical Entries

$\vdash$ jan; Nom

$\vdash$ jan; Acc

$\vdash \lambda_s.s \cdot$ sliep; Nom $\multimap$ S (slept)

$\vdash \lambda_v.v \cdot$ slapen; InP (sleep)

Here v is the landing site for the governing verb.

$\vdash \lambda_{st}.s \cdot t \cdot$ voerte; Nom $\multimap$ Acc $\multimap$ S (fed)

$\vdash \lambda_{sv}.s \cdot v \cdot$ voeren; Acc $\multimap$ InP (feed)

More Lexical Entries

$\vdash \lambda_{stf}.s \cdot t \cdot (f\ \text{zag}); \text{Nom} \multimap \text{Acc} \multimap \text{InP} \multimap \text{S}$ (saw)

Governing verbs lower themselves into their infinitive complements. Similar: *hielp* (helped), *liet* (let)

$\vdash \lambda_{sfv}.s \cdot (f\ (v \cdot \text{zien})); \text{Acc} \multimap \text{InP} \multimap \text{InP}$ (see)

Similar: *laten* (help), *laten* (let)

Putting It All Together

[1]:

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{\textit{zag} \qquad \textit{Henk}}{\vdash \lambda_{tf}.\text{henk} \cdot t \cdot (f\ \text{zag}); \text{Acc} \multimap \text{InP} \multimap \text{S}} \qquad \textit{Jan}}{\vdash \lambda_{f}.\text{henk} \cdot \text{jan} \cdot (f\ \text{zag}); \text{InP} \multimap \text{S}}$$

[2]:

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{\textit{laten} \qquad \textit{Pim}}{\vdash \lambda_{fv}.\text{pim} \cdot (f\ (v \cdot \text{laten})); \text{InP} \multimap \text{InP}} \qquad \dfrac{\textit{voeren} \qquad \textit{Che}}{\vdash \lambda_{v}.\text{che} \cdot v \cdot \text{voeren}; \text{InP}}}{\vdash \lambda_{v}.\text{pim} \cdot \text{che} \cdot v \cdot \text{laten} \cdot \text{voeren}; \text{InP}}$$

$$\dfrac{[1] \qquad [2]}{\vdash \text{henk} \cdot \text{jan} \cdot \text{pim} \cdot \text{che} \cdot \text{zag} \cdot \text{laten} \cdot \text{voeren}; \text{S}}$$