

Verb Lowering in Dutch Subordinate Clauses

Carl Pollard

Department of Linguistics
Ohio State University

June 27, 2012

Notational Conventions

- S means ‘finite subordinate clause’.
- Inf means ‘infinitive clause’. Infinitive complements are *not* Inf but rather $\text{InP} =_{\text{def}} \text{PRO} \rightarrow \text{Inf}$.
- s , t , and v are variables of type s .
- f is a variable of type $s \rightarrow s$.
- 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 $s \rightarrow s \rightarrow s$.

Lexical Entries

$\vdash \text{jan}; \text{Nom}$

$\vdash \text{jan}; \text{Acc}$

$\vdash \lambda_s.s \cdot \text{sleep}; \text{Nom} \multimap \text{S (slept)}$

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

Here v is the landing site for the governing verb.

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

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

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]:

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

[2]:

$$\frac{\frac{\text{laten} \quad \text{Pim}}{\vdash \lambda_{fv}.\text{pim} \cdot (f (v \cdot \text{laten}))); \text{InP} \multimap \text{InP}}{\vdash \lambda_v.\text{pim} \cdot \text{che} \cdot v \cdot \text{laten} \cdot \text{voeren}; \text{InP}} \quad \frac{\text{voeren} \quad \text{Che}}{\vdash \lambda_v.\text{che} \cdot v \cdot \text{voeren}; \text{InP}}$$

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