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V3 in Germanic: A comparison of urban vernaculars and heritage languages

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It is well known that varieties of Germanic do not display a strict V2 system whereby the finite verb is in the second position in main clauses. In this paper, we want to compare Germanic heritage languages with Germanic urban vernaculars, demonstrating that similar processes and structures are in place in both varieties. This, we claim, provides important information about the nature of bilingual grammars in general, and of verb placement specifically.

Walkden (in press) provides a detailed overview of verb placement in learner varieties of various Germanic languages. Building on Walkden, we argue that the same reasoning can be extended to other varieties of Germanic languages, most notably heritage languages. This comparison suggests that the factors favoring V3 in Germanic are uniform, involving adjunct initial clauses. To this end, we will present data from American Norwegian showing surprisingly similar data.

American Norwegian is a heritage language spoken in the US. Data have been collected by Haugen (1953), Hjelde (1992), and more recently through the spoken corpus CANS (Johannessen et al. 2015). Eide & Hjelde (2015) investigate V2 in American Norwegian based on the corpus. (1) provides an example of V3.

- (1) nå je fløtte nerri her, kjinner alle her, veit du.
now I move down here, know everyone here, know you
'Now I'm moving down here, I know everyone here, you know.'
(Eide & Hjelde 2015: 86)

We provide an analysis of V3 patterns and the relationship to V2, demonstrating that V2 structures appear more easily with adjuncts as the initial constituent, for which we provide a formal analysis.

References: • Haugen, E. (1953): The Norwegian Language in America. Indiana UP • Walkden, G. (in press): Language contact and V3 in Germanic varieties new and old. *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 20.