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What the wh-agreement marker 'n reveals about wh-movement in Bavarian

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Abstract

There is a classical debate about extraction from V2-clauses such as *Wer glaubst du hat recht?* Long *wh*-movement theories argue for an intermediate trace as in *Wer₁ glaubst du t₁ hat recht?* The alternative is a theory that allows so-called “integrated parentheticals”. Under the latter, the proper analysis is one in which there is *wh*-movement from a simplex clause albeit one with an inserted parenthetical: *Wer - glaubst du - hat recht?*

Returning to my 2020 SaRDiS talk “The reduction of *denn* to *-n* and some of its consequences”, I will take a close look at Bavarian *wh*-extraction. The interesting data issue is that Bavarian employs the Q-sensitive clitic ‘*n*’, a residue of *denn*, which is a) obligatory and b) has been deprived of its original semantics. As Bayer 2012 argues, ‘*n*’ has become a *wh*-agreement marker. The following data on extraction reflect my native speaker judgements.

- (1) Wer moanst’**n** hot’**n** recht?
Wer meinst.2SG-n hat-n recht
„Who do you think is right?“
- (2) *Wer moanst hot’**n** recht?
- (3) *Wer moanst’**n** hot recht?
- (4) *Wer hot’**n** moanst’**n** recht?
- (5) Wer hot’**n** moanst recht?
- (6) *Wer hot’**n** recht moanst’**n**?
- (7) Wer hot’**n** recht moanst?

Where we find *wh* in the specifier overtly or covertly as a trace, we find the agreement marker ‘*n*’. In cases where the integrated parenthesis appears in a lower position there cannot have been a *wh* in the specifier, and we do not find ‘*n*’. The interesting case is (1): ‘*n*’ appears twice, upstairs and downstairs. The integrated parenthetical theory would predict that the grammatical form is (2). But (2) is degraded, whereas (1) is perfect. This suggests that there is cyclic movement nevertheless. The *wh*-element is first moved to the specifier of the lower CP where it agrees with ‘*n*’; then it moves to its final destination where it agrees again with ‘*n*’.

- (8) Wer moanst’**n** [~~wer~~ hot’**n** recht] ?
- └── AGR ───┬──────────┘ └── AGR ───┬──────────┘

We will discuss this situation with respect to a dual analysis that allows long *wh*-movement next to the use of integrated parentheticals.

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