SWISS GERMAN CONFIRMATIONALS AND HEAD VALUATION
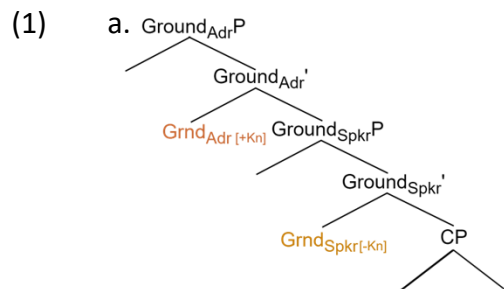
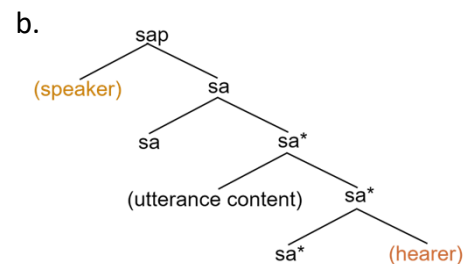**Supplementary Content**

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1. Problem

The Interactional Spine Hypothesis (ISH) differs from other syntactic models of speech acts in that it places the addressee ground above the speaker ground:
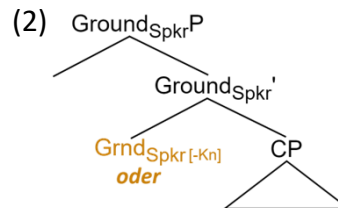
(1)

a.

Interactional Spine Hypothesis – **addressee** is higher (Wiltschko, 2021)

b.

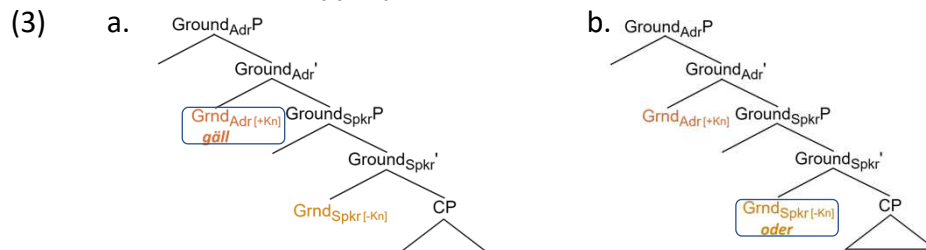Speas & Tenny model (2003) – **speaker** is higher

2. Proposal – speaker's knowledge specified

If only speaker knowledge is specified, then only Ground$_{Spkr}$ needs to be generated, as in (2):

(2) Ground$_{Spkr}$P
   Ground$_{Spkr}$'
Grnd$_{Spkr\,[-Kn]}$ CP
   oder

2. Proposal – all knowledge states specified

If both addressee AND speaker knowledge are specified, and in such away that either particle is theoretically compatible with some Ground head, then either particle – *gäll* or *oder* – is appropriate:

(3) a. Ground$_{Adr}$P
      Ground$_{Adr}$'
   Grnd$_{Adr\,[+Kn]}$ Ground$_{Spkr}$P
     gäll   Ground$_{Spkr}$'
      Grnd$_{Spkr\,[-Kn]}$ CP

  b. Ground$_{Adr}$P
      Ground$_{Adr}$'
   Grnd$_{Adr\,[+Kn]}$ Ground$_{Spkr}$P
        Ground$_{Spkr}$'
      Grnd$_{Spkr\,[-Kn]}$ CP
       oder

For other combinations of interlocutor knowledge, it is possible that **no** particle would be preferred.

# 2. Proposal – addressee's knowledge specified

If only addressee knowledge is specified, then Ground$_{Adr}$ is required. However, on the ISH, Ground$_{Adr}$ structurally entails Ground$_{Spkr}$, as in (4a). Ground$_{Spkr}$ is not inherently valued by a situation that specifies only addressee knowledge, but it may be valued by implicature, resulting (based on the data) in an effective value of [-Kn], i.e., 'speaker ignorance'. This would produce a structure like the one in (4b):
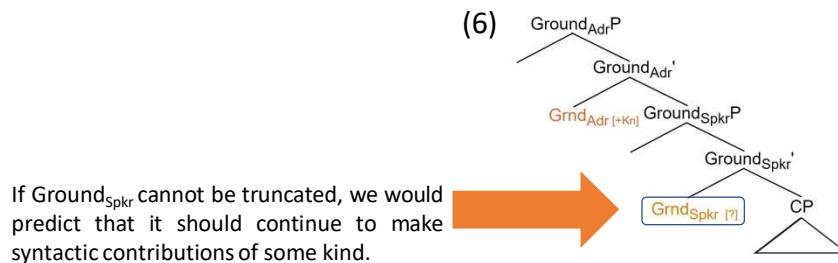
(4)   a. Ground$_{Adr}$P

         Ground$_{Adr}$'

     Grnd$_{Adr\,[+Kn]}$ Ground$_{Spkr}$P

          Ground$_{Spkr}$'

       Grnd$_{Spkr\,[?]}$ CP

b. Ground$_{Adr}$P

         Ground$_{Adr}$'

     Grnd$_{Adr\,[+Kn]}$ Ground$_{Spkr}$P

          Ground$_{Spkr}$'

       Grnd$_{Spkr[-Kn]}$ CP

Valuing Ground$_{Spkr}$ this way would serve to motivate the request for confirmation.
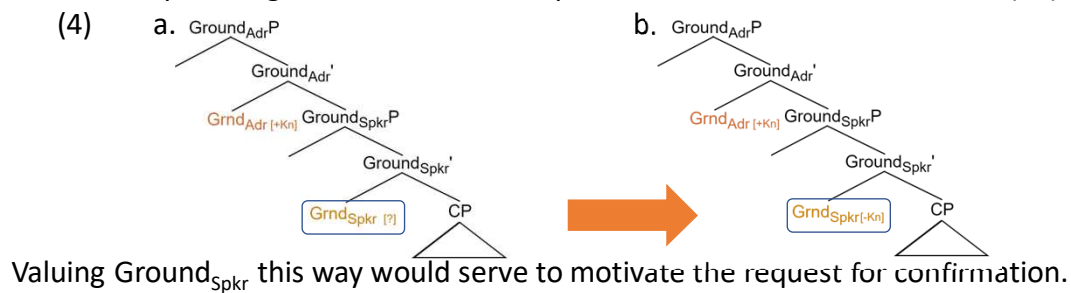
3. Predictions – CP selection

If ISH structure is correct, then the lower ground head is Ground$_{Spkr}$. Consequently, only Ground$_{Spkr}$ is the complement of CP:

(5) Ground$_{Adr}$P

         Ground$_{Adr}$'

     Grnd$_{Adr}$ Ground$_{Spkr}$P

          Ground$_{Spkr}$'

       Grnd$_{Spkr}$ → CP
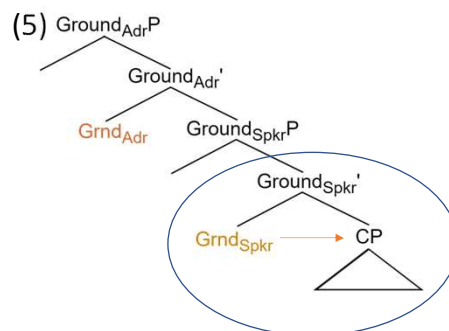
3. Predictions – Entailment

If ISH structure is correct, then the lower ground head is Ground$_{Spkr}$. Consequently, if we assume that structure cannot be arbitrarily truncated (cf. Wurmbrand, 2014), then Ground$_{Adr}$ would be predicted to structurally entail Ground$_{Spkr}$.

(6)

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        Ground_Adr P
              |
          Ground_Adr '
         /          \
  Grnd_Adr [+Kn]   Ground_Spkr P
                        |
                    Ground_Spkr '
                    /          \
             Grnd_Spkr [?]      CP
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If Ground$_{Spkr}$ cannot be truncated, we would predict that it should continue to make syntactic contributions of some kind.

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4. Methodology – first example

Example (7) is a sample item for a situation in which the speaker is ignorant but the addressee has positive knowledge.

Background

While chatting by the campfire, Anika and Caspar realize that they have a shared interest in botany. In preparation for their wilderness trip, Anika learned about Banff's flowers, while Caspar learned about the park's various trees. **Neither knows that much about the other's area of knowledge, so they decide to share what they've learned with each other.** *However, rather than simply reciting lists of botanical facts, they decide to make a quiz of it by taking turns asking each other questions.*

Sample Question 1: [+Kn$_{Adr}$, -Kn$_{Spkr}$]

Q. D'Anika fangt a. Sie seit zum Caspar: «Erschti Frag! Isch de Prärie Krokus en Krokus?»
(Anika starts. She says to Caspar, *"First question. Is the prairie crocus a crocus?"*)

A. De Casper antwortet: «Ich wüsst das eigentlich nöd, aber da du das en interessanti Frag findsch, isch es sicher e Fangfrag und es isch kein Krokus, ___(?)»
(Caspar answers, *"I actually don't know, but since you find it an interesting question, this is clearly a trick and it's not a crocus. ___?"*)

4. Methodology – first example

Example (7) is a sample item for a situation in which the speaker is ignorant and the addressee's knowledge state is unspecified.

Background

While chatting by the campfire, Anika and Caspar realize that they have a shared interest in botany. In preparation for their wilderness trip, Anika learned about Banff's flowers, while Caspar learned about the park's various trees. **Neither knows that much about the other's area of knowledge, so they decide to share what they've learned with each other.** *However, rather than simply reciting lists of botanical facts, they decide to make a quiz of it by taking turns asking each other questions.*

Sample Question 1: [-Kn$_{Spkr}$]

Q. D'Anika nickt nachdänklich. «Kei Ahnig öb du das wüstisch, aber diä Alpini Lärche chönt s'glliche Problem ha, ___(?) Ich weiss, dass ihres Verbreitigsgebiät au i höche Lage liit.»

(Anika nods thoughtfully. "No idea if you'd know, but Alpine larch might face the same issue, ___(?) I know that their range is also high elevation.")

5. Analysis

Table 1 is an expanded version of Table 1 in the actual poster. This version of the table shows actual particle use for different combinations of interlocutor knowledge. (Bracketed particles indicate particles that do not reflect a participant consensus.)

Addressee Knowledge State	Speaker Knowledge State		
	+Kn$_{Spkr}$	**-Kn$_{Spkr}$**	*Unspecified*
+Kn$_{Adr}$	*gäll*	*gäll*, *oder*	(*gäll*), (*oder*)
-Kn$_{Adr}$		*oder*	(*oder*)
Unspecified		*oder*	

Table 1. Preferred particles for different combinations of knowledge states.

7. References

Speas, Peggy, and Carol Tenny. "Configurational properties of point of view roles." *Asymmetry in grammar* 1 (2003): 315-345

Wiltschko, Martina. *The grammar of interactional language*. Cambridge University Press, 2021.