

Chapter 4

Only the tall and the small: Size restrictions on Icelandic possessors

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In this chapter I discuss the DP-internal fronting of possessors in Icelandic. Fronted possessors are of two types: (i) modifier-less definite possessors bearing contrastive focus, and (ii) quantified/indefinite possessors. For the definite possessors, I argue that the same mechanism is underlying their fronting as the one underlying the fronting of the head noun and adjective in definite DPs as well as the formation of the noun. In the absence of modifiers, the heads forming the noun form a complex head directly and, when bearing focus, can value all the relevant features of D, rather than partially doing so, as is the case when the noun and adjective are fronted. I argue that the fronting of quantified/indefinite possessors is an instance of overt quantifier raising and show that this fronting interacts with the availability of covert subextraction of the possessor.

1 Introduction

In Icelandic, the genitive typically occurs postnominally within the DP, (1). Genitives do vary terms in thematic roles. However, in the interest of space, I will focus on possessors in this chapter. When the possessor is definite and bears focus, it is possible for it to occur prenominally, (2).¹ Generally, preposing possessors is easier with pronouns or proper names than it is with common nouns (see, e.g., Magnússon 1984, Sigurðsson 1993, 2006, Thráinsson 2007: 93–94).

¹The definite article agrees with the noun in case, number and gender. Hence, these categories occur twice. For the sake of space and presentation, I only mark inflection on the noun.



- (1) Thráinsson (2007: 93)
- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------|
| a. | bók stelp-u-nnar | b. | bók Ottó-s |
| | book girl-GEN-ART | | book Ottó-GEN |
| | ‘the girl’s book’ | | ‘Ottó’s book’ |
- (2)
- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|-------------------|
| a. | ? STELPU-NNAR bók | b. | OTTÓ-S bók |
| | girl-GEN-ART book | | Ottó-GEN book |
| | ‘the girl’s book’ | | ‘Ottó’s book’ |

Additionally, these fronted genitives do not allow modification of any kind, whereas postnominal genitives do (Magnússon 1984, O’Connor et al. 2013).

- (3) Magnússon (1984: 101)
- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| a. | ? KENNAR-A-NS bók | c. | * [LEIÐINLEGA KENNAR-A-NS] bók |
| | teacher-GEN-ART book | | boring teacher-GEN-ART book |
| | ‘the teacher’s book’ | | Int: ‘the boring teacher’s book’ |
| b. | bók kennar-a-ns | d. | bók [leiðinlega kennar-a-ns] |
| | book teacher-GEN-ART | | book boring teacher-GEN-ART |
| | ‘the teacher’s book’ | | ‘the boring teacher’s book’ |

Hence it would seem that the fronted genitives in Icelandic are exhibiting at the syntactic level an effect reminiscent of branchingness effects in phonology, where the application of certain processes within the DP are sensitive to whether the phrase contains modifiers or not (for an overview, see, e.g., Selkirk 2011, Bonet et al. 2019).

A number of questions regarding the nature of this movement arise: is this movement phrasal or is this some form of head movement? If this movement is phrasal, why is it the case that the fronted possessor cannot contain any modifiers? Also, if it is the case that the fronted genitive is conditioning the null form of the definite article, how can the appropriate structural relationship be established in order for the noun to host D? If, on the other hand, this is a case of head movement, how is it possible to skip intervening heads, specifically the head noun? And furthermore, given the assumed base position of the genitive as a specifier, if this is a case of head movement, why is it possible, given the general difficulty of extracting out of non-complements (see, e.g., Huang 1982)?

To answer these questions, I propose that the movement of the possessor is in fact head movement. I adopt a mechanism proposed in Harðarson (2020), where heads can merge directly if neither of them has formed a phrase. Under this approach, modifier-less definite possessors are heads and phrases simultaneously,

and can thus move to a position above the article and host the article, thus conditioning its null form.

This picture of the preposed possessors is not complete, as indefinite or quantified possessors can occur prenominally as well, (4). However, these are subject to different criteria.²

(4) [MÍM]³

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. [heimsk-ra mann-a] ráð
foolish-GEN men-GEN advice
'advice of fools' | b. [hver-s mann-s] hús
each-GEN man-GEN house
'every person's house' |
|--|--|

The main differences between these and the first type of genitives are that indefinite/quantified possessors contain modifiers, do not require contrastive stress, and are obligatorily indefinite.⁴

- | | |
|---|---|
| (5) a. * [heimsku manna-na] ráð
foolish men-ART advice
Int: 'advice of the foolish men' | b. * [hver-s manna-nna] hús
each men-ART houses
Int: 'each of the men's houses' |
|---|---|

As will become clear below, I argue that this difference in behaviour is due to these genitives being subject to different types of movement. Specifically, I argue that the fronting of the indefinite/quantified possessors is an instance of overt quantifier raising within the DP, as evidenced by the availability of different scope readings depending on its position.

In §2, I argue that the branchingness effects are linked to D requiring a host. As discussed in, e.g., Harðarson (2017), other instances of DP-internal fronting coincide with a bound article, and the driving forces behind that fronting can be applied to the fronted definite possessors. In §3, I discuss the distribution of

²There is a third class of prenominal genitives, which includes measure genitives, expressive genitives, and certain attributive genitives. Although these do appear prenominally, and they seem to be subject to similar criteria as the quantified/indefinite possessors, they differ from possessors in that their distribution appears to be more in line with adjectives. They often do not appear postnominally, and those that can, typically do not maintain the same semantic relationship with the head noun. For reasons of space, I will set these aside for the purposes of this chapter.

³MÍM = Tagged Icelandic Corpus (Helgadóttir et al. 2012)

⁴Although the singular form of the possessor with *hver* with a definite complement is independently ruled out in the singular, the plural form shown in (5b) is possible under a partitive interpretation.

quantified possessors and provide arguments for their fronting being an instance of quantifier raising. In §4, I summarize the chapter and discuss prospects for future research

2 Branchingness effects

Before moving on, some preliminaries on the DP structure are in order. I build on Harðarson (2017) and assume the DP structure argued for there. An abbreviated version of this structure is provided in Figure 1. Under this approach, the head ω marks the top of the traditional NP, encodes reference, and houses numerals and adjectives in its specifier.⁵ Heads below ω have been conflated into what is labelled here as N (see Harðarson 2017 for a more intricate structure and the relevant arguments). Possessors are merged in the specifier immediately below ω . Finally, the noun undergoes head movement to ω , and this yields the order shown in (6a–6b). Often in definite DPs, the noun moves onward to D and typically the adjective is fronted as well, yielding a configuration shown in (6c).⁶

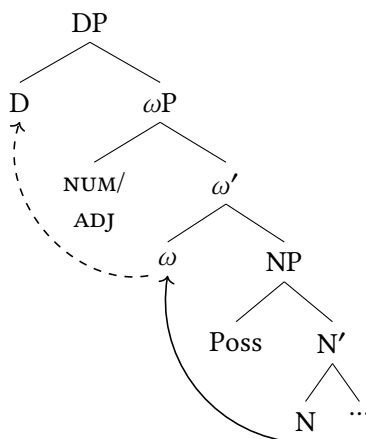


Figure 1: DP structure and relevant head movements in Icelandic

⁵This head corresponds roughly to Faarlund's (2004, 2009) R, and aspects of Julien's (2003, 2005) α and n .

⁶See e.g., Magnússon (1984), Sigurðsson (1993, 2006), Pfaff (2015), Ingason (2016), Harðarson (2017) for a more detailed discussion on the structure of the DP and the relevant word order effects regarding adjectives and numerals and interpretative effects. See also Sigurðsson (2006) for a discussion on the proprial article that occurs with postnominal possessors in definite DPs. I also assume multiple specifiers (e.g., Chomsky 1995, Lahne 2009), for both ω and D.

- (6) a. tvær stórar bækur Astridar
two large books Astrid.GEN
'two large books of Astrid's'
- b. Hinar tvær stóru bækur (hans) Ottós
ART two large books PROP Ottó.GEN
'the two large books of Ottó's'
- c. stóru bækur-nar tvær hans Ottós
large books-ART two PROP Ottó.GEN
'Ottó's two large books'

In order to determine the possible mechanism behind the fronting of possessors, we must first establish what is driving movement within the DP. I assume that Merge is a last resort operation, which occurs when the derivation would otherwise crash due to unvalued features (cf. Abels 2003, Bošković 2007, Wurmbrand 2012a,b,c, 2013, 2014c,b, 2017). Hence, the movement of the noun to D and, when applicable, the subsequent movement of the adjective are driven by feature valuation.

Following Harðarson (2017), N to D movement in Icelandic is the result of an unvalued [R] feature on D (Figure 2). During the derivation, this feature must then receive its value from a corresponding valued [R] feature elsewhere within the appropriate domain (e.g., Pesetsky & Torrego 2007). Assuming *Reverse Agree* (Wurmbrand op cit.), the head carrying the valued counterpart of [R] must c-command D. Here, a valued equivalent is carried by ω (Harðarson 2017: 147ff).⁷

Following, e.g., Matushansky (2006) and Harizanov & Gribanova (2019), I assume that head movement in the syntax operates on par with phrasal movement and that complex heads are formed post-syntactically.⁸ In syntax, ω hence moves to Spec-DP.⁹ From this position, ω c-commands D and values its [R] feature (Figure 3).

A possible explanation for the choice of head movement in this case is that phrasal movement is blocked by *Antilocality* (e.g., Grohmann 2000, Abels 2003).

Post-syntactically, D and ω come to form a complex head through, e.g., M-merger (Marantz 1988, Matushansky 2006), conflation (Harley 2004) or amalgamation (Harizanov & Gribanova 2019). I assume this is triggered by the presence of a feature M present on D (cf. Harley 2004, Harizanov & Gribanova 2019). This results in the pattern shown in (7).

⁷See Harðarson (2017: 147ff) for a discussion on the nature of this feature.

⁸This could also potentially be carried out via traditional head movement (cf. Harðarson 2017).

⁹Note that although I present this operation as movement this is done simply for the sake of presentation. Nothing here hinges on whether this operation is movement, copying or remerger.

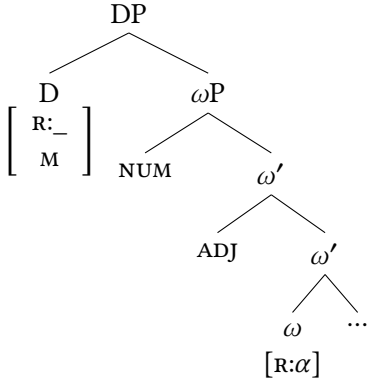


Figure 2: Definite DP prior to head movement

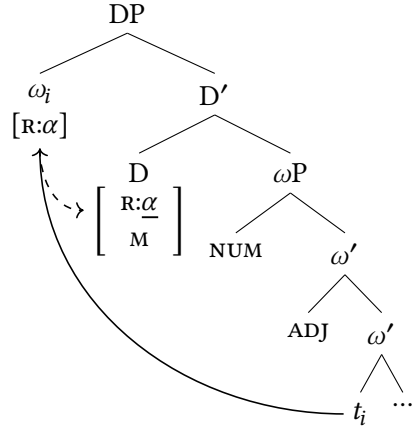


Figure 3: Definite DP after head movement

- (7) N - ART > NUM > ADJ
 bækur - nar tvær stóru
 books - ART two large
 ‘the two large books’

In instances where the adjective also moves to a prearticular position, (6c), Harðarson (2017: 147ff) argues that the adjective is undergoing focus movement, formalized here as D carrying an unvalued [DI(scourse)] feature which is valued by a focus-bearing adjective. In case of fronted possessors, the possessor values both [R] and the [DI] features, (Figure 4). D is then merged into a complex head with the fronted possessor, thus conditioning the null form of the definite D, whose presence is indicated by the weak inflection of the adjectives, see (8).

This approach does capture the fact that fronting these possessors does require contrastive focus and blocks the movement of the noun and adjectives, (8).¹⁰

- (8) a. Astrid-ar (*(h)inar) tvær stóru bækur
 Astrid-GEN ART two large. books
 ‘Astrid’s two large books’

¹⁰Under this, Spec-DP of a definite DP would be a criterial position (cf. Rizzi 2006, Bošković 2008, Wurmbrand 2014a, 2015). The unavailability of subextraction of adjectives and genitives would follow, as movement to Spec-DP would freeze them for the purposes of any subsequent criterial movement, such as topicalization, focus movement, or quantifier raising. See §3 for some further evidence for this position.

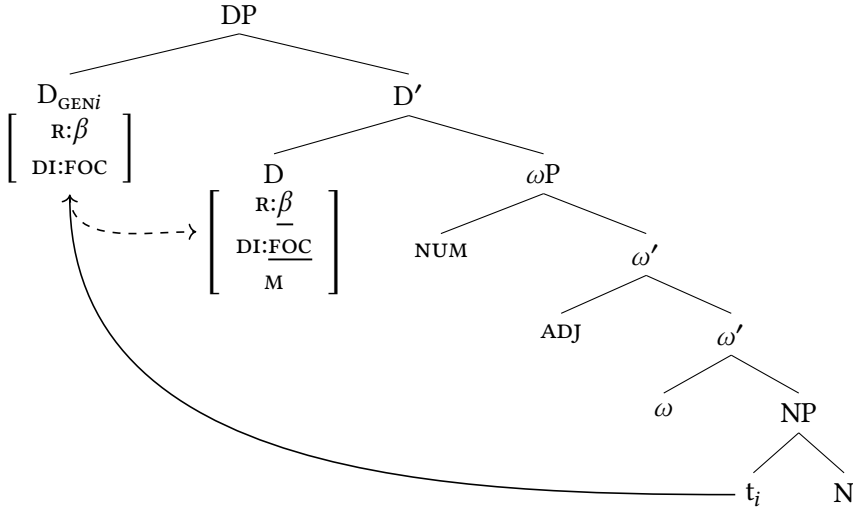


Figure 4: Definite DP with a fronted genitive

- b. * Astrid-ar bækur tvær stóru c. * Astrid-ar stóru bækur tvær
 Astrid-GEN books two large Astrid-GEN large books two

There are two issues, however, that are not adequately addressed in Harðarson (2017): one being the branchingness effects, and the other being the minimality violation in fronting the possessor rather than the noun and adjective.

Turning first to the branchingness effects, there are two main questions: how is it possible to perform head movement from a specifier position, and why is it not possible to strand modifiers as in typical cases of head movement?

To address these questions, let us first examine the formation of the noun. The full structure of the Icelandic DP under Harðarson (2017) is shown in Figure 5. As mentioned above, the noun is argued to be formed through the accumulation of the heads up to ω (Figure 5) and in certain definite DPs, including D, which results in the complex head shown in Figure 6.

The configuration shown in Figures 5–6 introduces a redundancy. Under traditional assumptions regarding the formation of complex heads and Merge, the heads necessarily form a phrasal construction prior to the formation of the complex head. In the absence of any DP-internal modifiers, these operations apply vacuously. This redundancy has been used as an argument for *Spanning*, i.e. vocabulary insertion targeting non-terminal nodes (e.g., Svenonius 2016).

However, under *Bare Phrase Structure Grammar* (Chomsky 1995), it is possible to merge two heads and form a complex head directly. This possibility has

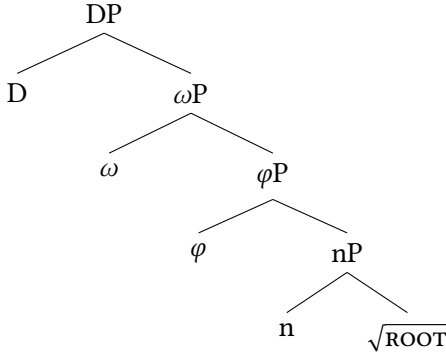


Figure 5: Structure of the DP

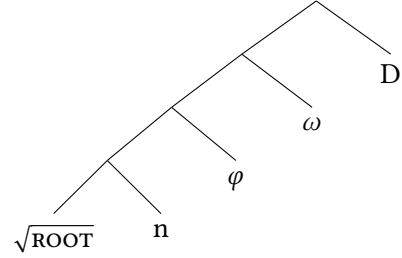


Figure 6: Result of a N-to-D movement

been utilized, e.g., for the formation of compounds (e.g., Josefsson 1997, 1998, Zhang 2007, Siddiqi 2009, Okubo 2013, Harðarson 2018). Harðarson (2020) also makes use of this possibility in addressing patterns in the distribution of Penultimate Vowel Lengthening in Zulu discussed by Cheng and Downing (2007 et seq.). There it is argued that when two unmodified heads are merged, i.e., neither of them has projected to a phrase, with one or both of them carrying an [M] feature, a complex head is formed directly without first forming a phrase. If either of the heads is modified, i.e. has projected to a phrase, the merger will result in a phrasal construction and the formation of the complex head will take place post-syntactically. This is schematized below.¹¹

- (9) Merger of two unmodified M-marked heads (Harðarson 2020: 468)

$$Y_M + X_M \rightarrow [{}_X Y X]$$
- (10) Merger of two M-marked heads with modification (Harðarson 2020: 468)
 - a. Raising

$$Y_M + [{}_{XP} X_M ZP] \rightarrow [{}_{YP} Y_M [{}_{XP} X_M ZP]] \rightarrow [{}_{YP} [{}_Y Y+X] [{}_{XP} ZP]]$$
 - b. Lowering

$$Y_M + [{}_{XP} X_M ZP] \rightarrow [{}_{YP} Y_M [{}_{XP} X_M ZP]] \rightarrow [{}_{YP} [{}_{XP} [{}_X Y+X] ZP]]$$

The argument carries over to the Icelandic DP. As discussed above, the heads in the extended nominal projection come to form a complex head. Hence, in the absence of modifiers, the complex head in Figure 6 can be formed directly

¹¹Note that both heads are M-marked below in order to abstract away from the directionality of the process. That may not be necessarily.

under (9), without first forming the phrasal configuration in Figure 5. Performing head movement out of the specifier is then no longer an issue. This is not a head movement out of a specifier, but a head movement of an entire specifier. The possessor can then satisfy all the requirements of the matrix D, including serving as its host, and subsequently conditioning the null form of D. This allows us to exclude stranding of modifiers given the difficulty of subextraction from specifiers in general.

A possible way of ruling out phrasal movement of the possessor may lie in an inversion of the last resort condition of movement, i.e., that Merge does not occur if it leads to features not being satisfied. As mentioned above, the fronted possessor values both the [R] and the [DI] features, preventing the movement of both the head noun and the adjectives. Note, however, that although this would mean introducing some form of optimization into the derivation, the optimization in this case is local in that it only evaluates possibilities for the next step in the derivation (cf. Heck & Müller 2007, Lahne 2009). In the case of the modifier-less possessors, they are also able to satisfy D's [M] feature by virtue of being a nominal head c-commanding D. If a phrasal element were to move to this position, it would be able to value both [R] and the [DI] features and prevent movement of nouns and adjectives, just as the modifier-less. However it would not provide a suitable host for the matrix D as there is no head c-commanding it, thus not satisfying the [M] feature.

Turning to the minimality effects, one possibility is that Agree prioritizes Single Agree over Multiple Agree, and when an element that can value all of the relevant features is accessible, that element will be targeted over closer elements that only partially satisfy the unvalued features of the head. This would mean that, as the focused unmodified possessors can satisfy all three of the relevant features, it will be given priority over the head noun and the adjective, which only partially satisfy the features of D.

To summarize this section, the branchingness effects that are observed with definite possessors can be accounted for under the proposal in Harðarson (2020): In the absence of any modifiers, a definite DP will form a single head, hence allowing it to value all the features of the matrix D and serve as a host for D. In the presence of modifiers, the possessor forms a phrase, and can still value the relevant features of D, but cannot serve as a host.

3 Quantified possessors

Turning to the quantified possessors, as mentioned above, these differ from the definite possessors in a number of ways: first, they contain modifiers, as dis-

cussed above, and thus would be considered phrasal under the approach taken here. Second, their fronting is not limited to occurring within definite DPs, but they can also be fronted within indefinite DPs. Third, the fronted definite possessors carry focus and obligatory contrastive stress, but the quantified possessors do not. And fourth, the position of the possessor relative to other material in the DP has semantic consequences beyond what is observed with the definite possessors.

Just as we saw with the definite possessors, there appear to be two possible positions for quantified possessors within the DP, postnominal and prenominal, (11–12). In addition to that, the position is relevant for the availability of different scope readings.

For the indefinite DPs, when the possessor follows the noun, (11a), the DP is ambiguous with respect to the two possible readings: either there is (i) a particular large bunny that belongs to each of the children ($\exists \gg \forall$), or (ii) each child has their respective large bunny ($\forall \gg \exists$). When the possessor is fronted, (11b), this ambiguity is lost and the only reading possible is reading (ii).¹² This indicates that from its position in (11b), the possessor c-commands whatever is carrying the existential force of the DP.

- (11) a. stór- \emptyset kanína [hver-s barn-s] $\exists \gg \forall; \forall \gg \exists$
 large-STR bunny each-GEN child-GEN
 ‘each child’s large bunny’
 b. [hver-s barn-s] stór- \emptyset kanína $*\exists \gg \forall; \forall \gg \exists$
 each-GEN child-GEN large-STR bunny

Assuming that the existential force of indefinite DPs is a property of determiners (cf. Chierchia 1992), the available scope indicates that the possessor is situated

¹²Note that it is possible for a quantified possessor to occur between the adjective and noun, (i–ii). This position also freezes the scope possibilities for the QP, as shown.

- (i) stór- \emptyset [hver-s barn-s] kanína $\exists \gg \forall; * \forall \gg \exists$
 large-STR each-GEN child-GEN bunny
 (ii) hin stór-a [hver-s barn-s] kanína $\text{DET} \gg \forall; * \forall \gg \text{DET}$
 ART large-WK each-GEN child-GEN bunny

There is, however, reason to believe this may not be a phrasal construction. First there is an absence of a prosodic break between the genitive and the head noun, which occurs with other genitives, and second, the stress pattern is more akin to compound stress, with primary stress on the quantifier and secondary stress on the first syllable of the head noun. Hence it is possible that this may be a case of phrasal compound, which may also explain the semantic effects. If it is a part of a complex head, it cannot move to Spec-DP on its own.

in Spec-DP in (11b). The differences in meaning then result from the possessor taking wide or narrow scope with respect to D.¹³ The ambiguity of the DPs in which the possessor remains in situ in turn indicates that this movement also occurs covertly.

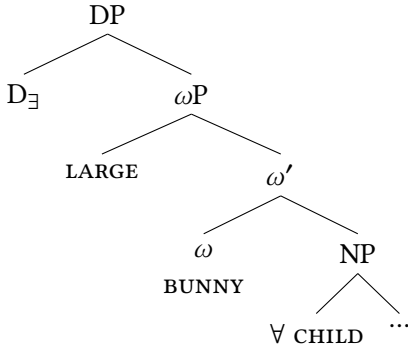


Figure 7: $\exists \gg \forall$; $\forall \gg \exists$

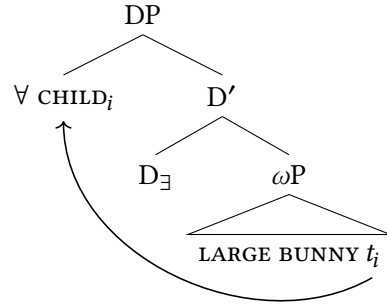


Figure 8: $*\exists \gg \forall$; $\forall \gg \exists$

For definite DPs, the same pattern is observed. When the possessor is post-nominal, (12a), the DP is ambiguous: (i) there is a single large bunny that belongs to each child ($\text{DET} \gg \forall$), or (ii) each child respectively has a single bunny that is large ($\forall \gg \text{DET}$). If the possessor is fronted, (12b), this ambiguity is lost, and only reading (ii) is available.¹⁴

- (12) a. hin stór-a kanína [hver-s barn-s] $\text{DET} \gg \forall$; $\forall \gg \text{DET}$
 ART large-WK bunny each-GEN child-GEN
- b. [hver-s barn-s] stór-a kanína $*\text{DET} \gg \forall$; $\forall \gg \text{DET}$
 each-GEN child-GEN large-WK bunny

Hence, it would appear that the possessor is moving to Spec-DP by way of overt quantifier raising.

Another relevant point of difference between the quantified genitives and other genitives is that they appear to be extractable out of the DP, albeit not overtly. Overt subextraction from DPs is generally limited to argument PPs, (13a) or their complements, (13b). Overt extraction out of definite DPs is generally ruled out, (13c).

¹³Furthermore, in the light of (11) and (12), this indicates that there is in fact a null D in indefinite DPs in Icelandic, contra Harðarson (2017).

¹⁴Note that although the definite article has a null form in (12b), the DP can be identified as definite by the weak adjective inflection, which occurs within (formally) definite DPs. Precisely what is conditioning the null form, however, is not entirely clear.

(13) (Harðarson 2017: 197)

- a. ? [Á hverjum]_i vannstu [sigur *t_i*]?
on who won.you victory
'Who did you defeat?'
- b. Hverjum_i vannstu [sigur [á *t_i]]]?
who won.you victory on*
- c. *Hverjum vannstu [sigurinn [á *t_i]]]?
who won.you victory.ART on*

Overt extraction of possessors is not possible in Icelandic, (14). However, the availability of different scope readings indicates that it is possible for covert extraction to take place (Harðarson 2017). This is shown in (15) below where the possessor takes wide scope over the subject (see also Wurmbrand 2008, Bobaljik & Wurmbrand 2012 for a similar effect in German).

(14) (Harðarson 2017: 200)

- *Hvers_i horfðir þú á [sigur *t_i* á Svíum]
who.GEN watched you on victory on Swedes
Int: 'Whose victory over the Swedes did you watch?'

(15) (Harðarson 2017: 201, ad.)

[Einn stúdent] borðaði [kanínu [hver-s barn-s]]
one student ate bunny each-GEN child-GEN

- a. 'A single student ate all the children's bunnies.' $\exists \gg \forall$
- b. 'Each child is such that a student ate their bunny.' $\forall \gg \exists$

It is worth noting at this point that under Kayne (1994: 22ff) specifiers are argued to c-command out of their phrases, hence this does beg the question of whether this is really a case of covert extraction of the possessor or if this is rather a matter of covert movement to Spec-DP and subsequent pied piping. We saw in (11a) and (12a) that if scope readings are the result of different c-command relationships, covert movement to Spec-DP does take place. If it were the case that the wide scope of the possessor in (15) is the result of movement to Spec-DP and subsequent pied piping, we would expect all prenominal possessors to be able to license material outside of the DP via c-commanding. Binding facts show that this is not the case, i.e., possessors in Spec-DP do not c-command out of the DP.

Non-quantified possessors, whether pre- or postnominal, do not license a reflexive pronoun, (16). This strongly indicates that a possessor does not c-command out of the DP whether it is overtly or potentially covertly positioned in

spec-DP. Note, however, that the DP containing the possessor can serve as an antecedent for the reflexive pronoun. The structure for (16b) is provided in Figure 9, where the TP, vP, and VP layers have been omitted.

- (16) a. [Kanína Astridar_i]_j leitar að [pabba sínum_{*i/j}]
 bunny Astrid.GEN seeks at dad self's
 'Astrid's bunny is looking for her dad.'
 b. [Astridar_i kanína]_j leitar að [pabba sínum_{*i/j}]
 Astrid.GEN bunny seeks at dad self's

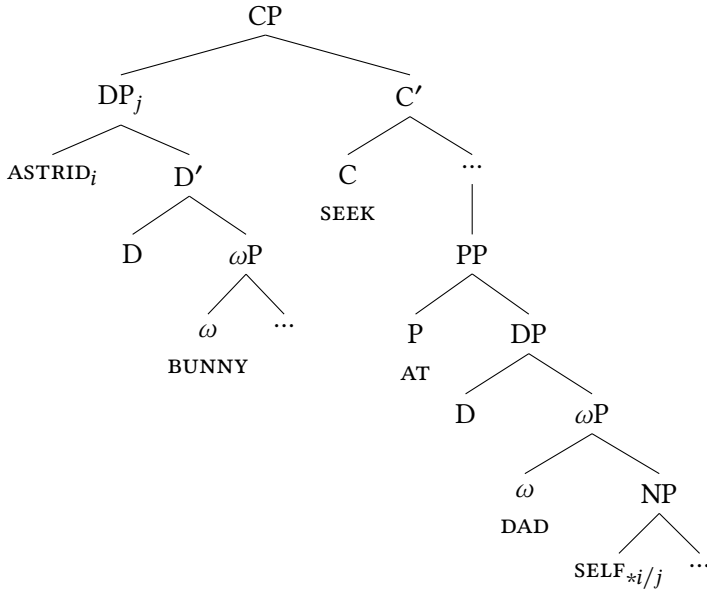


Figure 9: The structure of (16b)

This effect cannot be explained as a matter of domains, i.e., it cannot be the case that the possessor is unable to license the reflexive due to the reflexive being embedded within an inaccessible domain in the structure in Figure 9. If that were the case, we would expect that the DP containing the possessor would also fail to license the reflexive as it is no less distant from the DP containing the possessor in terms of domains. This is not the case and hence this indicates that possessors do not c-command from their position in Spec-DP.

Turning back to the quantified possessors, when they are in a postnominal position they can bind a pronoun and give rise to a bound variable reading. This

is shown in (17), where the possessor is able to bind a variable that is overtly c-commanded by its matrix DP. The structure of (17) is given in Figure 10.

- (17) [foreldri [hvers barns]_i] er með [mynd [af því_{i/k}]] uppi í hillu.
 parent each.GEN child.GEN is with picture of it up in shelf
 ‘Each child’s parent has their picture up on their shelf.’ BV

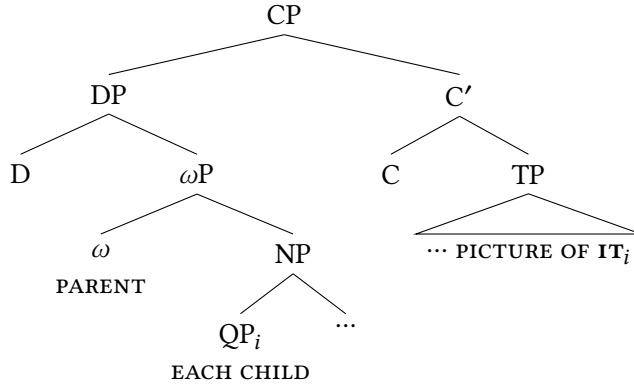


Figure 10: The overt structure of (17)

Assuming that the bound variable reading requires a c-commanding antecedent (Reinhart 1983), the bound variable reading should be impossible under the structure in Figure 10, as possessors do not license reflexives from their position within the DP. Hence the fact that the bound variable reading is possible indicates that the possessor must move out of the DP to a position c-commanding the variable (Figure 11).

However, if the possessor has been fronted, i.e., if it has overtly moved to Spec-DP, the bound variable reading is lost, (18). This indicates that whatever movement that is responsible for the fronting of the possessor also freezes the possessor for the purposes of subsequent movement.¹⁵

¹⁵Carminati et al. (2002) provide some experimental evidence that challenges the view that bound variable anaphora require a c-commanding antecedent and propose that bound variable reading in the absence of a c-commanding antecedent is an instance of an anaphoric pronoun with an inferred antecedent. However, this study does not rule out potential covert raising of the quantifier in the context of embedding or coordination, which could establish the c-command relation between the QP and the variable. Furthermore, this would fail to predict the scope differences that are observed between (17) and (18), as there is no clear reason for why an inferred antecedent coreferential with the possessor would be less available when the possessor is prenominal.

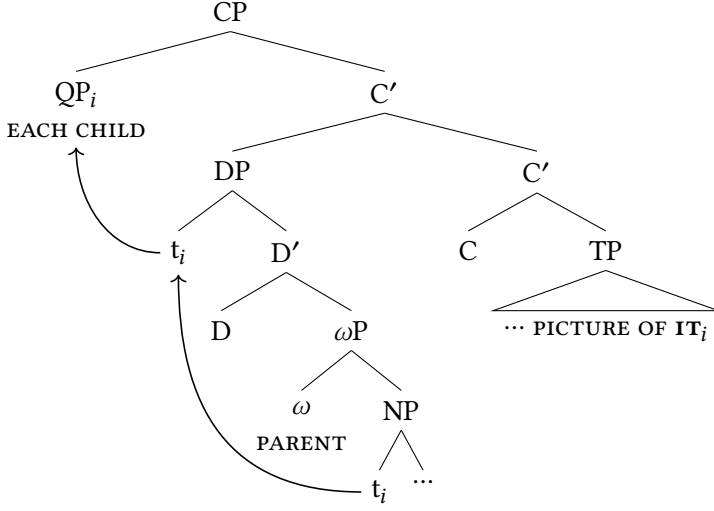


Figure 11: Structure of (17) at LF

- (18) [[hvers barns]_i foreldri] er með [mynd [af því_{*i/k}]] uppi í hillu.
 each.GEN child.GEN parent is with picture of it up in shelf
 ‘Each child’s parent has their picture up on their shelf.’ *BV

Furthermore, if fronting freezes the possessor for further movement, the expectation is that it should be frozen for quantifier raising as well. This prediction is borne out, as shown in (19).

- (19) [Einn stúdent] borðaði [[hvers barns] kanínu].
 one student ate each.GEN child.GEN bunny
 a. ‘A single student ate all the children’s bunnies.’ $\exists \gg \forall$
 b. * ‘Each child is such that a student ate their bunny.’ $*\forall \gg \exists$

This is consistent with the proposal above, that the fronting of the quantified possessor is an instance of DP-internal quantifier raising. As such, once the movement has occurred, the possessor is frozen for the purposes of further quantifier raising, whether overt or covert. When the possessor is overtly in situ, it is free to raise covertly to either Spec-DP, or beyond the DP. This is consistent with the notion of criterial freezing (Rizzi 2006, Wurmbrand 2014a, 2015), i.e., criterial movement, such as quantifier raising, focus movement, a.o., which prevents any subsequent criterial movement.

To summarize this section, the fronting of quantified possessors appears to be a case of overt quantifier raising, where the position of the possessor affects the interpretation of the DP. This analysis is further supported by the fact that quantified possessors can be covertly extracted for interpretative purposes as well, whereas fronting of the possessor prevents subextraction. This is consistent with theories in which movement prevents subsequent movement for the same purposes.

4 Conclusions

Much ground still remains to be covered when it comes to the internal syntax of the Icelandic DP. Staying close to the topic at hand, aspects that remains to be explored are the properties of the non-possessor genitives, their positions within the DP, and their mobility. This includes the midfield genitives, which appear to have a distribution similar to adjectives, and other argument genitives. Unfortunately, due to restrictions on both time and space, these will have to be left for future research.

To summarize the ground covered in this chapter, I have discussed two types of DP-internal possessor fronting. The different criteria for the two types were argued to follow from mechanisms already in place, i.e., feature valuation, word formation, and quantifier raising. The feature valuation approach has been argued for in Harðarson (2017) in order to account for other word order effects within the Icelandic DP. With the amendments proposed here, the fronting of definite possessors can be fully integrated into that analysis and provides an explanation for the size restrictions observed. In the case of the quantified possessors, their fronting appears to be an instance of overt quantifier raising, where the possessor takes scope over the determiner. This was also shown to interact with the availability of covert subextraction of quantified possessors, where if they raise to Spec-DP overtly, they cannot be extracted covertly.

Abbreviations

ART	article	NUM	numeral	STR	strong inflection
ADJ	adjective	PROP	proprial article	WK	weak inflection

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