Phonological movement in Ukrainian
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Extant accounts of scrambling in Ukrainian generally don’t extend past object- and other NP-related processes (Féry et al. 2007, Mykhaylyk 2010). Slavic scrambling is analyzed as XP-movement (Corver 1992, Bošković 2005) but this runs into problems with split constituency, as does OT syntax (Gouskova 2001). Remnant movement (Sekerina 1997, Bašić 2004) runs afoul of Slavic data and theory too (Pereltsvaig 2008, Kariaeva 2009). Analyses that mix syntax with prosody (Antonyuk-Yudina & Mykhaylyk 2009; Mykhaylyk 2012) are more promising but we show that they also fail because they assume syntactic movement. Ukrainian scrambles only prosodic objects, it ignores syntactic principles, and it respects phonological ones.

A great deal speaks against syntactic analyses of Slavic scrambling. It is category-blind, affecting N, V, A, P, Det, Adv, etc., and thus hard to motivate in terms of feature-checking, EPP, etc. It is also blind to the head/phrase distinction. Most seriously, though, it moves strings that don’t form syntactic constituents:

1. \[cieju_{a} \text{ radisnoju}_{b} \text{ sxvyllovanyj} \quad [t_{a} \text{ [novynoju]}]\]
   
   this-instr good-instr excited-nom news-instr
   
   ‘excited by this good news’

2. \[u_{a} \text{ červonyx}_{b} \text{ vin žyv} \quad [t_{a} \text{ [bahat’ox [t}_{b}\text{ budynkax]}]]\]
   
   in red he lived many houses
   
   ‘He lived in many red houses.’ (Fery et al. 2007:24)

3. \[vona_{a} \text{ zavdannja}_{b} \text{ ja vpevnena, ščo} \quad [t_{a} \text{ [vykonaje }t_{b} \text{ ]}].\]
   
   she-nom task-acc I am sure that perform-fut
   
   ‘I’m sure that she will perform the task.’

Scrambling ignores robust syntactic islands including the CSC (3), LBC (4), Subject Condition (Ross 1967), Adjunct Condition (Huang 1982), Freezing Islands (Wexler & Culicover 1980), and Anti-Locality (Grohmann 2002).

4. \[ma∫unu_{a} \text{ maje} \quad [t_{a} \text{ i kvartyru}]\]
   
   car-acc has and apartment-acc
   
   ‘has a car and an apartment’

5. \[taku_{a} \text{ vona spivala} \quad [t_{a} \text{ [garnu pisn’u]}]\]
   
   such-acc she sang beautiful-acc song-acc
   
   ‘She sang such a beautiful song.’

Scrambling is LF-blind, fronting reflexives (6) and reciprocals (7) past their antecedents:

6. \[sebe_{i} \text{ ja} \quad \text{pro ce ves’i čas pytaju} t\]
   
   self-acc I about this-acc all time ask
   
   ‘I ask myself about this all the time.’

7. \[duže \quad [odyn vid odnogo]_{b} \text{ vony}_{i} \text{ vidriznjajut’s}a t\]
   
   greatly one-acc from another-acc they differ
   
   ‘They differ greatly one from another.’

It can move all, part, or none of a focus/topic (Fanselow & Lanertová 2012: Czech, German), and it splits names and compounds (8-9), thought to be syntactic atoms:

8. \[Olena_{a} \text{ ja sògodni zustriv} \quad [t_{a} \text{ Verby’ku}]\]
   
   Olena-acc I today met Verby’ka-acc
   
   ‘Today I met Olena Verby’ka.’

9. \[va_{a} školi_{b} \quad \text{vin navčavsja} \quad [t_{a} \text{ [internati]}]\]
in school-PRP he studied-VERB boarding-PRP

‘He studied in a boarding-school.’

Three kinds of data implicate phonology directly. First, scrambled strings are ω and φ even when they aren’t X or XP. Thus in (1-3), the moved strings are (probably recursive) ωs, consisting of a function word and following content word (Selkirk 1986): in (1) the scrambled material was a ω before scrambling, but in (2-3) the scrambled string is a ω only after scrambling; as in Japanese, scrambling only requires that the moved material form a prosodic constituent at the end of the phonological day (Agbayani et al 2015). Second, polysyllabic prepositions can scramble (10) but monosyllabic ones can’t, a purely prosodic restriction.

(10) Protvagom, vony zustričalys\[t\a[lίta]] during they met summer-GEN

‘They were seeing each other during the summer.’

Third, scrambling is blocked if it brings together homophonous function words (11) but allowed in otherwise identical contexts (12), an OCP effect requiring phonological identity.

(11)* Tomu [tomu čolovikovi]a that’s why that-GEN man-GEN she not could trust-INF

‘That’s why she couldn’t trust that man.’

(12) Tomu [tij žinci]a that’s why that-GEN woman-GEN she not could trust-INF

‘That’s why she couldn’t trust that woman.’

These facts show that phonology plays a direct role in how scrambling works in Ukrainian.

Sekerina (1997) distinguishes split scrambling (moving less than an XP) from XP-scrambling (moving a full XP). We claim for Ukrainian that

- split-scrambling is movement of ω,
- XP-scrambling is movement of φ, and that
- scrambling is completely phonological and makes no reference to anything syntactic.

Following recent work on phonological movement (Agbayani & Golston 2010; Agbayani et al. 2015; Bennett et al. to appear) we argue that ω and φ in Ukrainian are scrambled within a purely prosodic tree after all syntactic structure has been converted into prosodic structure. This eliminates the need for a pragmatic component that can permute word order after syntax (Kallestinova 2007).

References


