

# Subjecthood and the on-line processing of dyadic psych structures

Julian A. Rott

Institut für deutsche Sprache und Linguistik  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Forty Years after Keenan 1976*

September 7th 2016, Universiteit Gent

## Outline

1. Introduction
2. A sentence processing perspective
3. Research questions
4. Method
5. Results and discussion
6. Summary and future research
7. References

# 1. Introduction

## – Dyadic psych predicates in Icelandic and German:

- (1) a. *Mér líkar bók-in.*  
1.SG:DAT appeals book:NOM-DEF
- b. *Mir gefällt das Buch.*  
1.SG:DAT appeals the:NOM book:NOM

(Þórhallur Eypórsson 2000:185)

## – What is the subject here?

## – Icelandic: the DAT-argument

(see e.g. Andrews 1976, Höskuldur Þráinsson 1979:462-467, Helgi Bernóðusson 1982:128-160, Zaenen et al. 1985:100-106, Halldór Ármann Sigurðsson 1989, Jóhanna Barðdal 1999:81-96 and many others)

## – A “relentless accumulation of evidence”

(Andrews 2001:89)

## – Indistinguishable from NOM-subjects with regard to many of the properties laid out by Keenan (1976)

# 1. Introduction

- Obliques consistently analyzed to “behave like ordinary nominative subjects”

(Fischer 2004:193)

(2) a. *Henni leiðist bók-in.*  
3.SG.F:DAT bores book:NOM-DEF

b. *Hún vonast til að \_\_\_\_ leiðast ekki bók-in.*  
3.SG.F:DAT hopes for to bore not book:NOM-DEF

(based on Halldór Ármann Sigurðsson 2004:141f.)

(3) a. *Kannski líkar Hönn-u nágrann-i-nn.*  
Maybe appeals Hannah-DAT neighbor-NOM-DEF

b. *\*Kannski líkar Hann-a nágrann-a-num.*  
Maybe appeals Hannah-NOM neighbor-DAT-DEF

(cf. also Jóhanna Barðdal 1999, Rott 2013)

# 1. Introduction

- An additional alternating subclass  
(e.g. Jóhanna Barðdal 1999)

- (4) a. *Henni þóknast nágrann-i-nn.*  
3.SG.F:DAT appeals neighbor-NOM-DEF
- b. *Hún vonast til að \_\_\_\_ þóknast nágrann-i-nn.*  
3.SG.F:DAT hopes for to appeal neighbor-NOM-DEF
- (5) a. *Kannski þóknast Hönn-u nágrann-i-nn.*  
Maybe appeals Hannah-DAT neighbor-NOM-DEF
- b. *Kannski þóknast Hann-a nágrann-a-num.*  
Maybe appeals Hannah-NOM neighbor-DAT-DEF

# 1. Introduction

– Now consider the German structures:

(6) a. *Ihr gefällt das Buch.*  
3.SG.F:DAT likes the:NOM book:NOM

b. \**Sie hofft, \_\_\_ das Buch zu gefallen.*  
3.SG.F:DAT hopes the:NOM book:NOM to like

(7) a. *Vielleicht gefällt (der) Adam dem Nachbar-n.*  
Maybe appeals (the:NOM) Adam the:dat neighbor-DAT

b. *Vielleicht gefällt (dem) Adam der Nachbar.*  
Maybe appeals (the:DAT) Adam the:nom neighbor:NOM

(cf. also Lenerz 1977:112-116, Kempen & Harbusch 2005, Verhoeven 2015)

– Status of the oblique is subject to extensive debate

# 1. Introduction

- „The Icelandic-German dichotomy“  
(Halldór Ármann Sigurðsson 2004:144)
- Three decades of research  
(see e.g. Cole et al. 1980, Seefranz-Montag 1983, Zaenen et al. 1985, Smith 1994, Andrews 2001, Jóhanna Barðdal 2002, 2006; Jóhanna Barðdal & Þórhallur Eypórsson 2003, Wunderlich 2003, Halldór Ármann Sigurðsson 2004, Bayer 2004, Haider 2005 and many others)
- Some recurring problems:
  - a. One predominant type of evidence:  
Syntactic tests
  - b. Limited comparative applicability  
(cf. Jóhanna Barðdal 2002:64-70)
  - c. Mostly introspective
- What other types of empirical data can be harnessed?

## 2. A sentence processing perspective

- Consensus on the basic principles of the *Human Sentence Processing Mechanism* (HSPM):
  - a. **Immediacy**  
(e.g. Frazier & Fodor 1978, Just & Carpenter 1980, Townsend & Bever 2001)
  - b. **Incrementality**  
(e.g. Marslen-Wilson 1973, Stabler 1994, Crocker 1999)
  - c. **Parsimony**  
(e.g. King & Just 1991, Waters & Caplan 1996, Inoue & Fodor 1995, Gibson 1998)
  
- Initially largely based on data from English
- More recent developments addressing the cross-linguistic domain
- **The eADM**  
(Bornkessel & Schleewsky 2006, Bornkessel-Schleewsky & Schleewsky 2009a, 2009b, Bornkessel-Schleewsky et al. 2011)



## 2. A sentence processing perspective

### – Prominence hierarchies:

- (8) a. **Morphological case marking:** NOM > ACC
- b. **Argument order:** argument 1 > argument 2
- c. **Animacy:** +animate > –animate
- d. **Definiteness/Specificity:** +def/+spec > –def/–spec
- e. **Person:** 1/2 > 3

(Bornkessel-Schlesewsky & Schlewsky 2009b:28)

- Exceptional status of the DAT
- Cue strength is language specific
- Processing properties established for German:
  - a. Robust *Subject First* preference  
(e.g. Hemforth 1993, Scheepers 1997)
  - b. One crucial exception:  
**Psych verbs with a DAT-Experiencer**  
(Bader, Meng & Bayer 2000, Schlewsky & Bornkessel 2003,  
De Schepper & Lamers 2010)

## 2. A sentence processing perspective

- Cue ranking for German:

(9) Case marking > Animacy > Agreement > Argument order

(based on BORNKESSEL-SCHLESEWSKY et al. 2011:136)

- In contrast, Icelandic has barely figured in psycholinguistic research to date

- Two studies: Roehm, Schlesewsky & Bornkessel-Schlesewsky (2007) and Bornkessel-Schlesewsky et al. (2011)

- Tentative cue ranking for Icelandic:

- (10) a. Morphologically unambiguous input:
- i. Non-alternating verbs: Case marking > Argument order
  - ii. Alternating verbs: Argument order
- b. Morphologically ambiguous input: Argument order

### 3. Research questions

1. What is the general sentence processing profile of Icelandic vis-à-vis the German canon?
2. How does the more robust subjecthood of Icelandic obliques play out *in actu*?
3. How do the Icelandic subclasses differ and how do they relate to German?

## 4. Method

- Parallelized sentence processing studies carried out in Iceland and Germany
- *Self-Paced Reading* paradigm  
(e.g. Just, Carpenter & Woolley 1982)
- Multifactorial design:  
ORDER (NO/ON) × VERBTYPE (EPROT/EPVAR/EPFIX)
- 6 conditions for Icelandic, 4 for German
- Three types of items:
  - a. Target items with permutable grammatical relations (Garden Path)
  - b. Check-filler items with main clause structures
  - c. Distractor fillers ranging from simple to complex

## 4. Method

- Items controlled for animacy, referentiality and constituent weight
- 90 Items for Icelandic, 60 for German
- 36 participants in Iceland (21 female, 19-28,  $\bar{M}=23.31$ ,  $SD=2.48$ ), tested at Háskóli Íslands
- 36 participants in Germany (21 female, 19-29,  $\bar{M}=24.5$ ,  $SD=2.82$ ), tested at Universität Bremen and in Hanover
- Baseline reading speed checked using simple filler sentences ( $F(1,1114) = 0,153$ ,  $p = 0,696$ )

## 4. Method



Table 1: Target sentence predicates

|       | Infinitive      |                   |                   | Finite forms (2σ) |                 |
|-------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|       | Icelandic       | German            | Translation       | Icelandic         | German          |
| EPVAR | <i>þóknast</i>  | <i>gefallen</i>   | 'appeal to'       | <i>þóknast</i>    | <i>gefällt</i>  |
|       | <i>henta</i>    | <i>passen</i>     | 'suit'            | <i>hentar</i>     | <i>passte</i>   |
|       | <i>duga</i>     | <i>reichen</i>    | 'find adequate'   | <i>dugði</i>      | <i>reichte</i>  |
|       | <i>birtast</i>  | <i>erscheinen</i> | 'appear to'       | <i>birtist</i>    | <i>erschien</i> |
|       | <i>nægja</i>    | <i>genügen</i>    | 'find sufficient' | <i>nægir</i>      | <i>genügt</i>   |
| EPROT | <i>fíla</i>     | <i>mögen</i>      | 'like'            | <i>fílar</i>      | <i>mochte</i>   |
|       | <i>óttast</i>   | <i>fürchten</i>   | 'fear'            | <i>óttast</i>     | <i>fürchtet</i> |
|       | <i>þekkja</i>   | <i>kennen</i>     | 'know'            | <i>þekkti</i>     | <i>kannte</i>   |
|       | <i>elska</i>    | <i>lieben</i>     | 'love'            | <i>elskar</i>     | <i>liebte</i>   |
|       | <i>skilja</i>   | <i>verstehen</i>  | 'understand'      | <i>skildi</i>     | <i>verstand</i> |
| EPFIX | <i>líka</i>     | -                 | 'appeal to'       | <i>líkar</i>      | -               |
|       | <i>leiðast</i>  | -                 | 'bore'            | <i>leiddist</i>   | -               |
|       | <i>gremjast</i> | -                 | 'anger'           | <i>gramdist</i>   | -               |
|       | <i>blöskra</i>  | -                 | 'appall, shock'   | <i>blöskrar</i>   | -               |
|       | <i>ofbjóða</i>  | -                 | 'be too much for' | <i>ofbauð</i>     | -               |

## 4. Method



Table 2: Target item examples for WORD ORDER × VERBTYPE

|        |             | REGION OF INTERESTEST |        |                            |                   |                                 |                   |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Adverb | Verb        | Name                  | Dem.   | Noun                       | Tail <sub>1</sub> | Tail <sub>2</sub>               | Tail <sub>3</sub> |
| 3σ     | 2σ          | 2σ                    | 2σ     | 3σ                         | 2σ                | -                               | -                 |
| NO     | Auðvitað    | þóknast               | Þurý   | <i>þessum starfsbróður</i> | þar sem           | þau sjá                         | um verkið         |
|        | Natürlich   | gefällt               | Kathi  | <i>diesem Kollegen</i>     | seitdem           | sie das Projekt                 | betreuen          |
| NO     | Sem stendur | þóknast               | Lúðvík | <i>þessi kennari</i>       | vegna             | reynslunnar                     | hans              |
|        | Momentan    | gefällt               | Ludwig | <i>dieser Kursleiter</i>   | wegen             | seiner                          | Erfahrung         |
| NO     | Líklega     | fílar                 | Davíð  | <i>þennan farþega</i>      | eftir             | að hann kom                     | með kaffi         |
|        | Vermutlich  | mochte                | David  | <i>diesen Beifahrer</i>    | nachdem           | er Kaffee                       | mitbrachte        |
| NO     | Af og til   | fílar                 | Ottó   | <i>þessi prófessor</i>     | síðan             | hann sýndi                      | getu sína         |
|        | Ab und zu   | mochte                | Otto   | <i>dieser Professor</i>    | seitdem           | er sein Können                  | gezeigt hat       |
| NO     | Nú til dags | líkar                 | Axel   | <i>þessum félagá</i>       | nema              | ef það eru                      | átök              |
| NO     | Efalaust    | líkar                 | Dagmar | <i>þessi málari</i>        | núna              | þegar allar deilur voru leystar |                   |

# 4. Method



Table 3: Check-filler examples for WORD ORDER × VERBTYPE

|    |                   | REGION OF INTEREST      |        |            |                      |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|    |                   | Def + Noun <sub>1</sub> | Verb   | Dem.       | Noun <sub>2</sub>    | Tail <sub>1</sub> | Tail <sub>2</sub> | Tail <sub>3</sub> | Tail <sub>4</sub> |
|    |                   | 4σ                      | 2σ     | 2σ         | 3σ                   | 4σ                |                   |                   |                   |
| NO | Húsvörðurinn      | þóknast                 | þessum | leigjanda  | í fyrsta sinn        | í langan          | tíma              |                   |                   |
|    | Der Hausmeister   | gefällt                 | diesem | Nachmieter | zum ersten Mal       | seit              | langer Zeit       |                   |                   |
| ON | Baðsgestinum      | þóknast                 | þessi  | gjaldkeri  | greinilega           | þrátt fyrir       | önuglyндиð        | hans              |                   |
|    | Dem Badegast      | gefällt                 | dieser | Kassierer  | offensichtlich       | trotz seiner      | schlechten Laune  |                   |                   |
| NO | Skákmeistarinn    | fílar                   | þennan | gestgjafa  | sennilega            | frá upphafi       |                   |                   |                   |
|    | Der Schachmeister | mochte                  | diesen | Gastgeber  | höchstwahrscheinlich | von Anfang        |                   |                   |                   |
| ON | Íðnrekandann      | fílar                   | þessi  | launþegi   | hugsanlega           | vegna             | kímningáfunnar    | hans              |                   |
|    | Den Firmenchef    | mochte                  | dieser | Arbeiter   | eventuell            | wegen             | seines Humors     |                   |                   |
| NO | Könnuðurinn       | líkar                   | þessum | kafara     | sem betur fer        | svo               | það var           | góð               | stemning          |
| ON | Stjúpsyninum      | líkar                   | þessi  | ættingi    | suma daga            | en því miður      | oftast            | ekki              |                   |



## 5. Results



### 1. A sentence processing profile for Icelandic

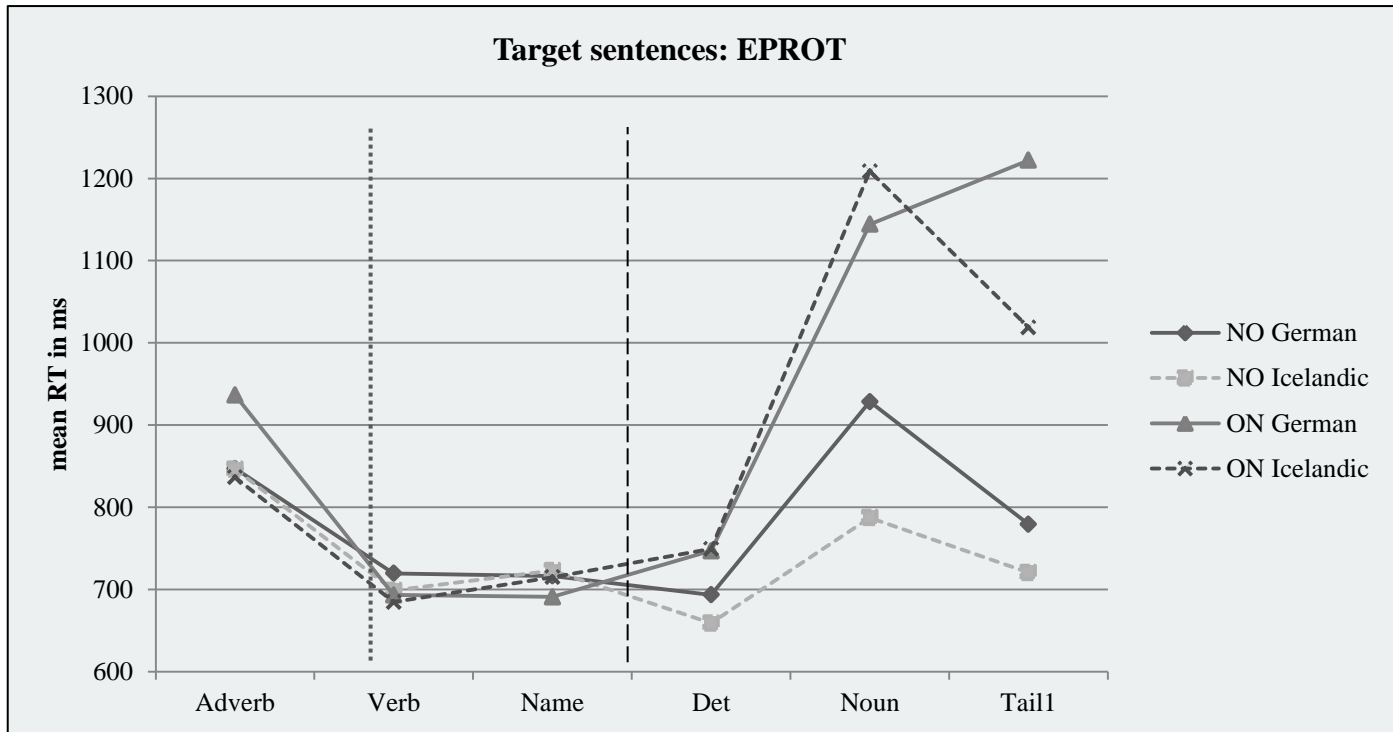
Table 4: Aggregated mean reading time for EPROT target sentences

| WORD ORDER | German      | Icelandic   |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| NO         | 3837,361 ms | 3588,656 ms |
| ON         | 4497,922 ms | 4376,439 ms |

N = 720

- Expected contrast descriptively visible
- For German, the slowdown is highly significant  
( $F(1,358) = 8,247, p = 0,004$ )
- The same holds true for Icelandic  
( $F(1,358) = 10,642, p = 0,001$ )

# 5. Results



Note: Dotted line indicates onset of ROI, dashed line marks point of disambiguation  
Figure 1: Mean target sentence RTs (Language × Word Order × EPROT)

- Strong garden path in both languages
- Close match of time course

## 5. Results

### – Language comparison

Table 5: Model parameters for target sentences with EPROT

| Fixed factor         | Estimate | Std. Error | df      | t       | Sig. |
|----------------------|----------|------------|---------|---------|------|
| Intercept            | 8,164616 | ,062102    | 76,620  | 131,470 | ,000 |
| LANGUAGE (Icelandic) | -,086010 | ,087465    | 78,206  | -,983   | ,328 |
| WORD ORDER (ON)      | ,137165  | ,029847    | 27,637  | 4,596   | ,000 |
| LANGUAGE*WORD ORDER  | ,045144  | ,040684    | 638,000 | 1,110   | ,268 |

- No significant impact of LANGUAGE
- Similar picture in contexts without reanalysis

Table 6: Aggregated mean reading time for EPROT check-filler sentences

| WORD ORDER | German      | Icelandic   |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| NO         | 3899,037 ms | 4125,056 ms |
| ON         | 4650,019 ms | 4627,463 ms |

N = 432

## 5. Results

- Differing underlying data patterns:

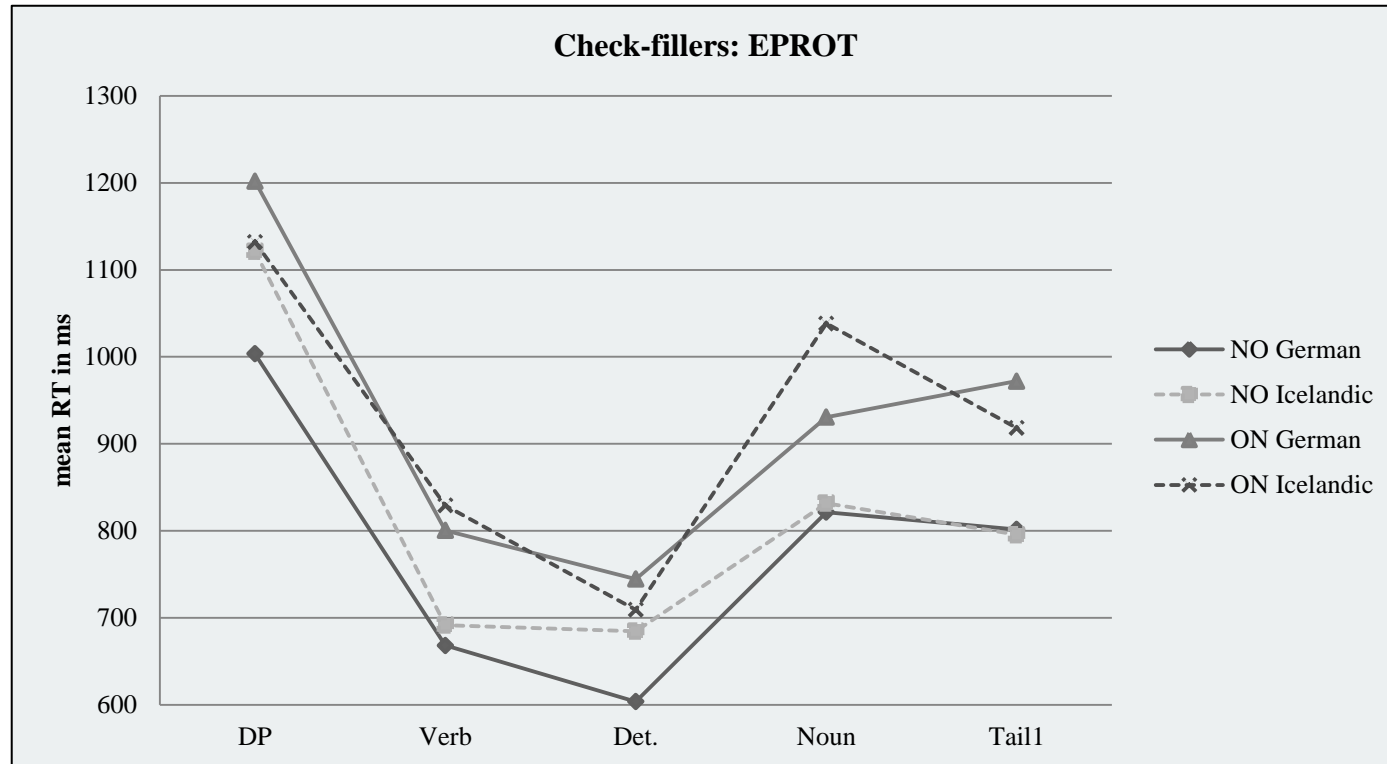


Figure 2: Mean check-filler RTs (Language × Word Order × EPROT)

- A possible cue difference for case?

## 5. Results

### 2. Reflexes of oblique subjecthood

Table 7: Mean target sentence RTs for Icelandic

| WORD ORDER | EPROT       | EPFIX       | EPVAR       |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| NO         | 3588,656 ms | 4181,794 ms | 3948,761 ms |
| ON         | 4376,439 ms | 4037,122 ms | 4057,339 ms |

N = 1080

- No significant difference between linearizations for DAT-psych predicates  
( $F(1,358) = 0,322, p = 0,571$ )
- How does the most robust class (EPFIX) pattern in non-reanalysis contexts?

## 5. Results

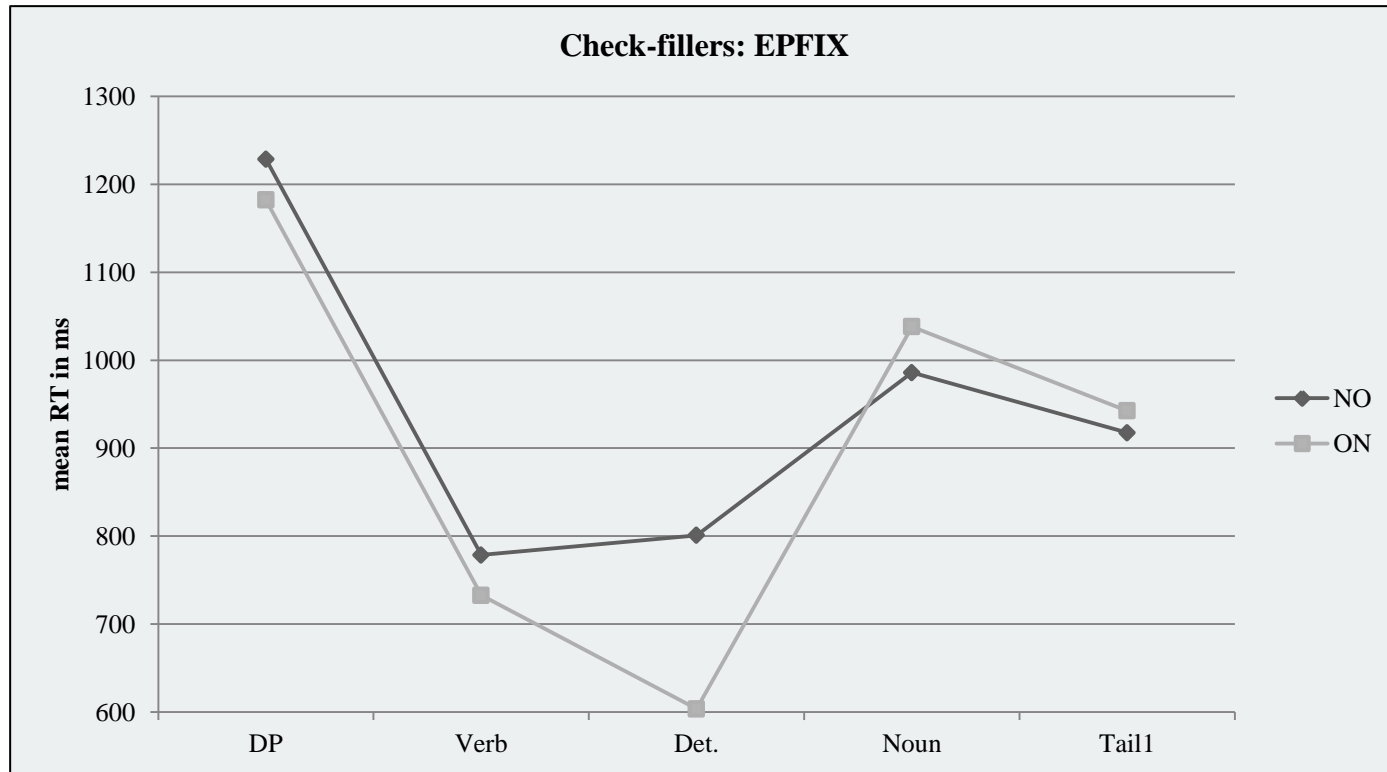


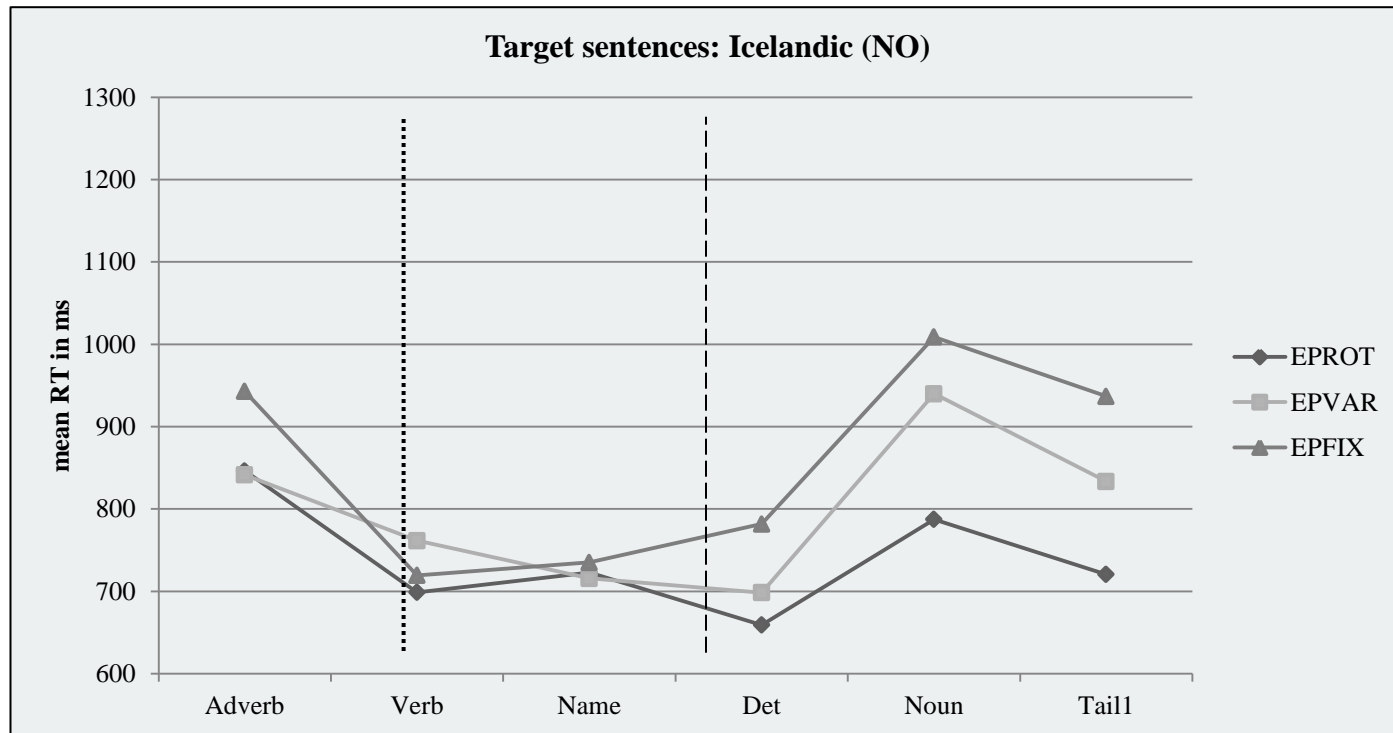
Figure 3: Mean check-filler RTs (Word Order × EPMIX)

- The descriptive difference does not hold up to statistical scrutiny across the ROI  
( $F(1,214) = 0,176, p = 0,676$ )
- Possibly due to animacy artifacts  
(Jóhannes Gíslí Jónsson 2003:141-144)

## 5. Results

### 3. Class differences, language differences?

- There appears to be class-internal gradient of processing cost in the NO-linearization:



Note: Dotted line indicates onset of ROI, dashed line marks point of disamb. Figure 4: Mean target sentence RTs (Icelandic × NO × Verb Type)

## 5. Results



Table 8: Model parameters for Icelandic target sentences with NO word order (EPFIX is reference group)

| Fixed factor      | Estimate | Std. Error | df      | t       | Sig. |
|-------------------|----------|------------|---------|---------|------|
| Intercept         | 8,208327 | ,066255    | 40,403  | 123,890 | ,000 |
| VERB TYPE (EPVAR) | -,058771 | ,030241    | 502,000 | -1,943  | ,053 |
| VERB TYPE (EPROT) | -,129722 | ,030241    | 502,000 | -4,290  | ,000 |

- Alternating predicates show a significantly weaker increase
- Processing cost under reanalysis is a function of verb class
- Oblique subjecthood may possibly attenuate, but not override effects of argument linking



## 5. Results

- How do the languages compare with regard to alternating predicates?

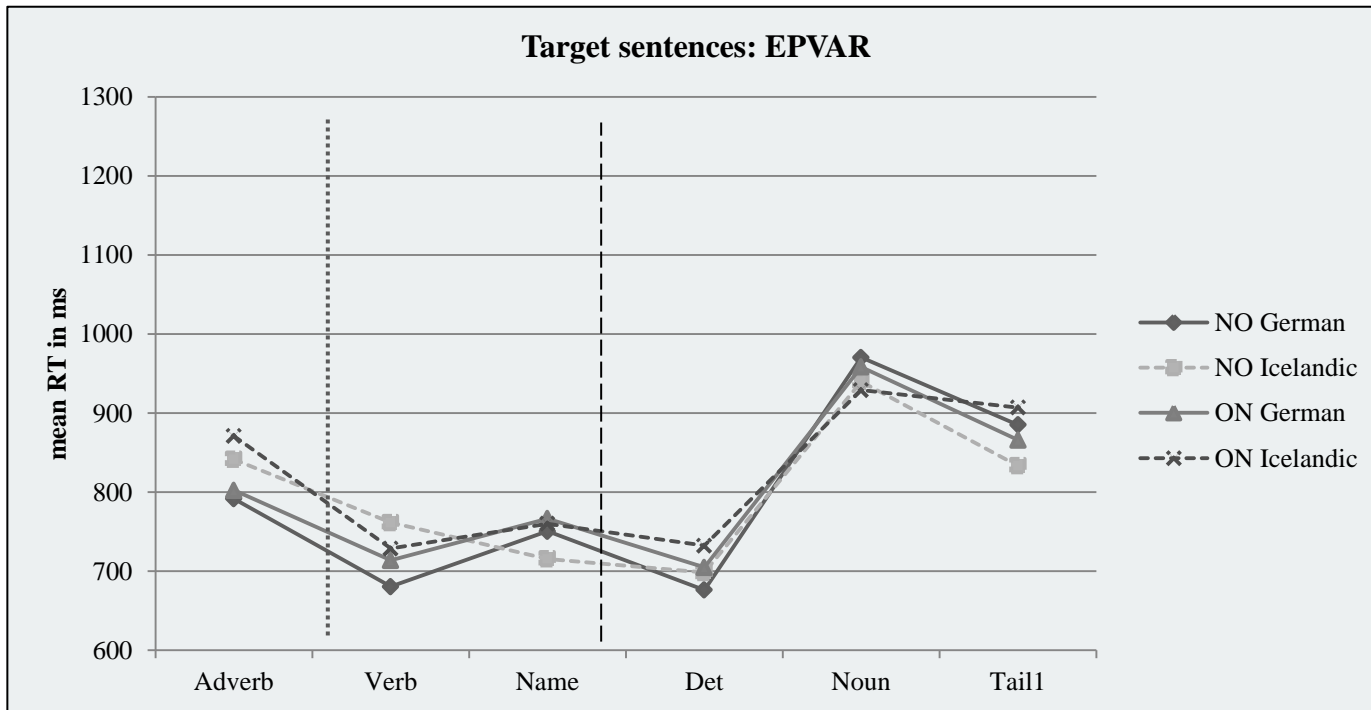
Table 9: Aggregated total reading times for EPVAR target sentences

| WORD ORDER | German      | Icelandic   |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| NO         | 3963,039 ms | 3948,761 ms |
| ON         | 4009,444 ms | 4057,339 ms |

N = 720

- No significant effect of WORD ORDER in German ( $F(1,385) = 0,049, p = 0,825$ )
- Previous findings replicated
- No effect in Icelandic, either ( $F(1,385) = 0,195, p = 0,659$ )

# 5. Results



Note: Dotted line indicates onset of ROI, dashed line marks point of disambiguation  
Figure 5: Mean target sentence RTs (Language × Word Order × EPVAR)

## 5. Results



Table 10: Model parameters for target sentences with EPVAR predicates

| Fixed factor         | Estimate | Std. Error | df      | t       | Sig. |
|----------------------|----------|------------|---------|---------|------|
| Intercept            | 8,189708 | ,066379    | 72,128  | 123,378 | ,000 |
| LANGUAGE (Icelandic) | -,040151 | ,087001    | 78,512  | -,462   | ,646 |
| WORD ORDER (ON)      | ,007552  | ,045718    | 12,572  | ,165    | ,871 |
| LANGUAGE*WORD ORDER  | ,043556  | ,041157    | 638,000 | 1,058   | ,290 |

- No significant effects
- Argument linking is the main determiner of processing cost
- No discernible attenuation via subjecthood for alternating psych predicates

## 5. Results

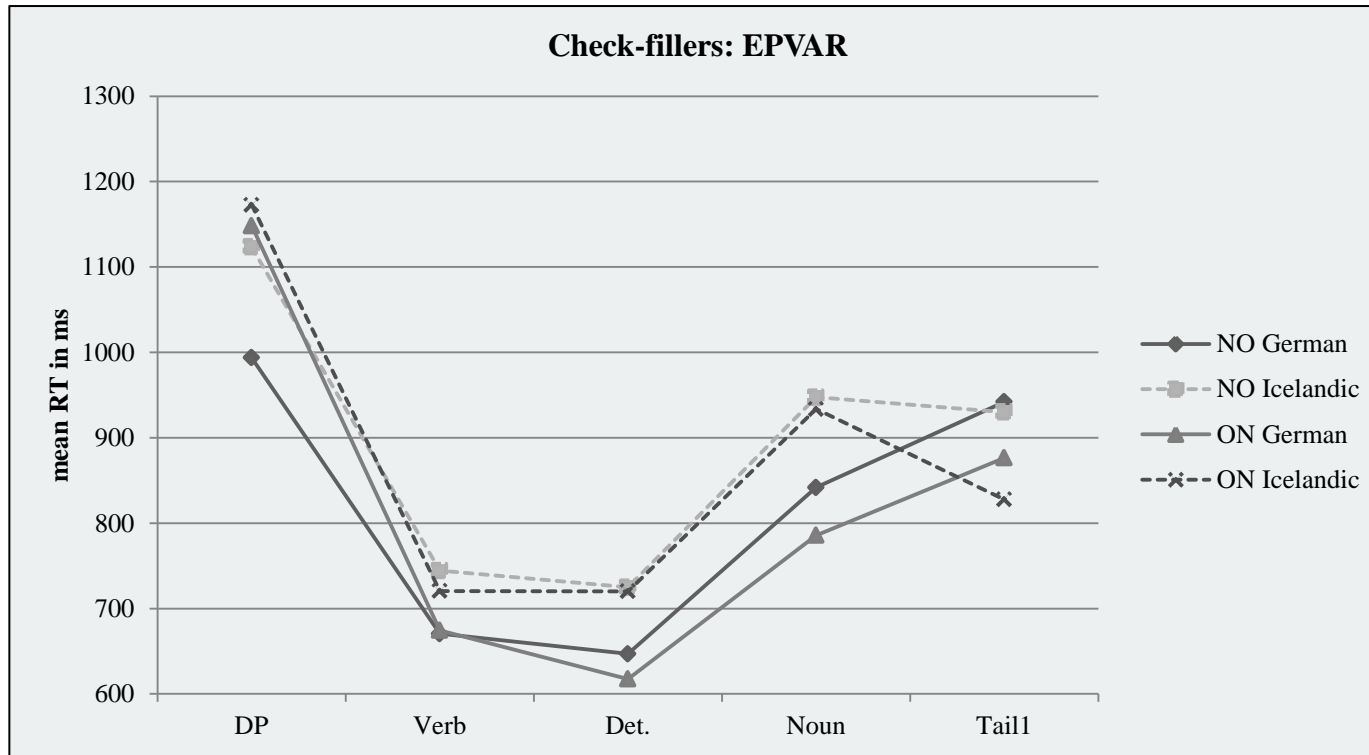


Figure 6: Mean check-filler RTs (Language × Word Order × EPVAR)

- Likewise for non-reanalysis contexts
- Again: Evidence for cue differences

## 6. Summary and future research

- For verbs with canonical case marking, Icelandic parallels German in exhibiting reanalysis effects for dispreferred linearizations (i.e. *Subject First*)
- A possible difference: The role of case as a cue
- DAT-psych verbs have an altogether different data pattern in both languages
- For psych structures with oblique Experiencers, subjecthood is not a primary determinant of processing
- Even non-alternating DAT-Experiencer verbs
- In terms of the eADM, subjecthood is clearly secondary to mechanisms underlying the selection of predicate case frames

# References



- Andrews, Avery D. (1976): "The VP-complement analysis in Modern Icelandic". [Reprinted in: Maling, Joan & Zaenen, Annie (eds.): *Modern Icelandic Syntax*. San Diego: Academic Press. 165-186.
- Andrews, Avery D. (2001): "Noncanonical A/S marking in Icelandic". In: Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y.; Dixon, Robert M. W. & Onishi, Masayuki (eds.): *Non-canonical marking of subjects and objects*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 85-111.
- Bayer, Josef (2004): "Non-nominative subjects in comparison". In: Bhaskararao, Peri & Subbarao Karumuri Venkata (eds.): *Non-nominative Subjects*. Vol 1. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 49-76.
- Bornkessel, Ina & Schlesewsky, Matthias (2006): "The Extended Argument Dependency Model: A Neurocognitive Approach to Sentence Comprehension Across Languages". In: *Psychological Review* 113 (4). 787-821.
- Bornkessel-Schlesewsky, Ina & Schlesewsky, Matthias (2009a): *Processing Syntax and Morphology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bornkessel-Schlesewsky, Ina & Schlesewsky, Matthias (2009b): "The Role of Prominence Information in the Real-Time Comprehension of Transitive Constructions: A Cross-Linguistic Approach". In: *Language and Linguistics Compass* 3 (1). 19-58.
- Bornkessel-Schlesewsky, Ina; Kretzschmar, Franziska; Tune, Sarah; Wang, Luming; Genç, Safiye; Philipp, Markus; Roehm, Dietmar & Schlesewsky, Matthias (2011): "Think globally: Cross-linguistic variation in electrophysiological activity during sentence comprehension". In: *Brain & Language* 117. 133-152.
- Cole, Peter; Harbert, Wayne; Hermon, Gabriella & Sridhar, Shikaripur N. (1980): "The Acquisition of Subjecthood". In: *Language* 56 (4). 719-743.

# References



- Crocker, Matthew (1999): "Mechanisms for sentence processing". In: Garrod, Simon C. & Pickering, Martin J. (eds.): *Language processing*. London: Psychology Press. 191–232.
- Fischer, Susann (2004): "The diachronic relationship between quirky subjects and fronting". In: Bhaskararao, Peri & Subbarao Karumuri Venkata (eds.): *Non-nominative Subjects*. Vol 1. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 193-212.
- Frazier, Lyn & Fodor, Janet Dean (1978): "The sausage machine: A new two-stage parsing model". In: *Cognition* 6. 291–325.
- Gibson, Edward (1998): "Linguistic complexity: Locality of syntactic dependencies". In: *Cognition* 68. 1–76.
- Haider, Hubert (2005): "How to turn German into Icelandic – and derive the OV-VO contrasts". In: *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 8. 1-53.
- Halldór Ármann Sigurðsson (1989): *Verbal syntax and case in Icelandic*. Dissertation. Lunds Universitet.
- Halldór Ármann Sigurðsson (2004): "Icelandic non-nominative subjects: Facts and implications". In: Bhaskararao, Peri & Subbarao Karumuri Venkata (eds.): *Non-nominative Subjects*. Vol 2. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins..137–159.
- Helgi Bernódusson (1982): *Ópersónulegar setningar*. MA Thesis. Háskóli Íslands.
- Hemforth, Barbara (1993): *Kognitives Parsing: Repräsentation und Verarbeitung sprachlichen Wissens* (= Dissertationen zur künstlichen Intelligenz 40). Sankt Augustin: Infix.
- Höskuldur Þráinsson (1979): *On Complementatíon in Icelandic*. New York/London: Garland.

# References



- Inoue, Atsu & Fodor, Janet Dean (1995): "Information-paced parsing of Japanese". In: Mazuka, Reiko & Nagai, Noriko (eds.): *Japanese sentence processing*. Hillsdale: Erlbaum. 9-63.
- Jóhanna Barðdal (1999): "The Dual Nature of Icelandic Psych-Verbs". In: *Working Papers in Scandinavian Syntax* 64. 79-101.
- Jóhanna Barðdal (2002): "'Oblique subjects' in Icelandic and German". In: *Working Papers in Scandinavian Syntax* 70. 61-99.
- Jóhanna Barðdal (2006): "Construction-specific properties of syntactic subjects in Icelandic and German". In: *Cognitive Linguistics* 17(1). 39-106.
- Jóhanna Barðdal & Þórhallur Eypórsson (2003): "Icelandic vs. German: Oblique subjects, agreement and expletives". In: *Chicago Linguistic Society* 39(1). 755-773.
- Jóhannes Gísli Jónsson (2003): "Not so quirky: On subject case in Icelandic". In: Brandner, Ellen & Zinsmeister, Heike (eds.): *New perspectives in case theory* (CSLI Lecture Notes 156). Stanford: Center for the Study of Language and Information. 127-163.
- Just, Marcel A. & Carpenter, Patricia A. (1980): "A theory of reading: From eye fixations to comprehension". In: *Psychological Review* 87(4). 329-354.
- Just, Marcel A. & Carpenter, Patricia A. (1992): "A capacity theory of comprehension: Individual differences in working memory". In: *Psychological Review* 99. 122-149.
- Keenan, Edward (1976): "Towards a universal definition of 'subject'". In: Li, Charles N. (ed.), *Subject and topic*. New York: Academic Press. 303-333.



# References



- Kempen, Gerard & Harbusch, Karin (2005): "The relationship between grammaticality ratings and corpus frequencies: A case study into word order variability in the midfield of German clauses". In: Kepser, Stephan & Reis, Marga (eds.): *Linguistic evidence*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter. 329–349.
- King, Jonathan & Just, Marcel A. (1991): "Individual differences in syntactic processing: The role of working memory". In: *Journal of Memory and Language* 30. 580–602.
- Lenerz, Jürgen (1977): *Zur Abfolge nominaler Satzglieder im Deutschen (Studien zur deutschen Grammatik 5)*. Tübingen: Narr.
- Marslen-Wilson, William (1973): "Linguistic structure and speech shadowing at very short latencies". In: *Nature* 244. 522–523.
- Roehm, Dietmar; Schlesewsky, Matthias & Bornkessel-Schlesewsky, Ina (2007): *Position or Morphology? An electrophysiological examination of incremental argument interpretation in Icelandic*. Poster presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, UC San Diego, California, March 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007.
- Rott, Julian Andrej (2013): "Syntactic prominence in Icelandic experiencer arguments: Quirky subjects vs. dative objects". In: *Language Typology and Universals (STUF)* 66(2). 91–111.
- Scheepers, Christoph (1997): *Menschliche Satzverarbeitung: Syntaktische und thematische Aspekte der Wortstellung im Deutschen*. Dissertation. Universität Freiburg.
- Seefranz-Montag, Ariane von (1983): *Syntaktische Funktionen und Wortstellungsveränderung. Die Entwicklung „subjektloser“ Konstruktionen in einigen Sprachen*. München: Wilhelm Fink.

# References



- Smith, Henry (1994): "'Dative Sickness' in Germanic". In: *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 12. 675-736.
- Stabler, Edward (1994): "The finite connectivity of linguistic structure". In: Clifton, Charles; Frazier, Lyn & Rayner, Keith (eds.): *Perspectives on sentence processing*. Hillsdale: Erlbaum. 303–336.
- Townsend, David J. & Bever, Thomas G. (2001): *Sentence comprehension. The integration of habits and rules*. Cambridge, Massachusetts/London: The MIT Press.
- Verhoeven, Elisabeth (2015): "Thematic asymmetries do matter! A corpus study of word order in German". In: *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* 27(1). 45-104.
- Waters, Gloria S. & Caplan, David (1996): "The capacity theory of sentence comprehension: Critique of Just & Carpenter (1992)". In: *Psychological Review* 103. 761–772.
- Wunderlich, Dieter (2003): "Optimal case patterns: Icelandic and German compared". In: Brandner, Ellen & Zinsmeister, Heike (eds.): *New Perspectives on Case Theory*. Stanford: CSLI Publications. 329-365.
- Zaenen, Annie; Maling, Joan & Höskuldur Þráinsson (1985): "Case and grammatical functions: The Icelandic passive". In: *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 3. 441-483.
- Þórhallur Eypórsson (2000): "Fall á fallanda fæti: Um breytingar á frumlagsfalli í íslensku". In: *Íslenskt mál* 22. 185-204.

**Thank you!**  
**Takk fyrir!**  
**Vielen Dank!**