

# An Eclectic Analysis for Turkish Backward Gapping

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**Goal.** This paper proposes an eclectic analysis of Turkish Backward Gapping constructions, building on the observations made in Gürer and Göksel (2019).

**Introduction.** Backward Gapping (BG) in Turkish shows two patterns of agreement: a single verb agreeing with the final conjunct (1), and a single verb displaying plural agreement (2).

- (1) Sen uranyum-u    ben de    baryum-u    onaylı-yor-**um**  
you uranium-ACC I    and barium-ACC approve-IMPF-1SG  
‘You (approve of) uranium and I approve of barium.’

- (2) Sen uranyum-u    ben de    baryum-u    onaylı-yor-**uz**  
you uranium-ACC I    and barium-ACC approve-IMPF-1PL  
‘You (approve of) uranium and I approve of barium.’

Gürer and Göksel (2019) propose a multidominance (MD) analysis for both patterns, arguing that they differ in the position of the multiply dominated verb: when the verb is focused, it is base-generated in a position from which it c-commands both subjects (right-adjoined to the conjunction phrase), and shows plural agreement because of this position. When the verb is not focused, the authors propose that the multiply dominated verb is in-situ, i.e., it is inside both conjuncts. Since the verb does not c-command both subjects from this position, it shows singular agreement.

**Problem.** Singular agreement on the verb in (1) indicates that the functional head that enters agreement with the subject (T or Agr) is *not* shared between the conjuncts (if it were, it would agree with *both* subjects). This suggests that each conjunct has its own T/Agr head, which agrees with the subject of that conjunct. In comparison, plural agreement on the verb in (2) does not have the structure that can feed ATB-movement or ellipsis, as shown by the ungrammaticality of (3).

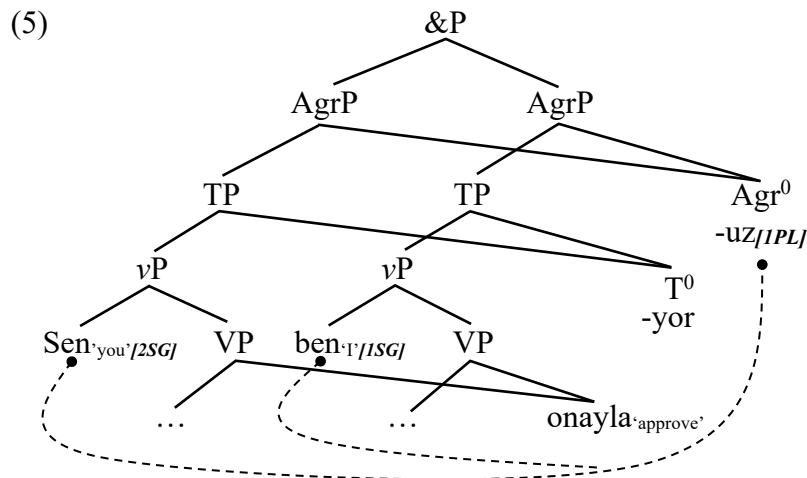
- (3) \*Sen uranyum-u    onaylı-yor-**um**    ben de    baryum-u    onaylı-yor-**um**  
you uranium-ACC approve-IMPF-1SG I    and barium-ACC approve-IMPF-1SG  
*Int.* ‘You (approve of) uranium and I approve of barium.’

I thus conclude that in BG examples where the verb shows singular agreement (with the subject of the second conjunct) cannot involve MD, i.e., there is a conjunct in each verb. Meanwhile, plural agreement on the verb in BG constructions indicates MD (there is a single verb that agrees with both subjects).

**Analysis.** Following the eclectic RNR analysis of Barros and Vicente (2011), I propose an eclectic analysis for Turkish BG. I propose that singular agreement on the shared verb is the result of the elision of the verb in the initial conjunct (Ince 2009) (as shown in (4)).

- (4) Sen uranyum-u ~~onaylı-yor-sun~~ ben de baryum-u onaylı-yor-um  
 you uranium-ACC approve-IMP-2SG I and barium-ACC approve-IMP-1SG  
 ‘You (approve of) uranium and I approve of barium.’

Although the verbs carry different agreement morphology, ellipsis can tolerate these mismatches, as shown by e.g., Bosković (2004). To derive plural agreement, I follow the analysis of Grosz (2015) for summative agreement in RNR. Grosz explains the plural T in RNR configurations as a result of two unshared subject DPs entering  $\phi$ -agreement with a shared T. This idea is applied to Turkish BG in (5), where a single  $\text{Agr}^0$  agrees with two subjects.



**Conclusion.** I argued that different agreement patterns in Turkish BG constructions cannot be captured by a single analysis; instead, I proposed ellipsis as a mechanism that derives singular agreement on the verb and MD as a mechanism that derives plural agreement on the verb.

## References

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**Abstract.** This paper focuses on Turkish Backward Gapping constructions, building on the observations made in Gürer and Göksel (2019). Backward Gapping (BG) shows two cases of agreement patterns, a single verb agreeing with the final conjunct and a single verb displaying plural agreement. They propose a multidominance analysis for both cases of BG. I will argue against a multidominant analysis for both cases, and following Barros and Vicente (2011), I will propose an alternative analysis. I will argue that BG constructions with singular agreement on the verb involves ellipsis following Bosković (2004). I will also argue that only the configurations where the verb shows plural agreement can involve multidominance following Grosz (2015), since multidominance requires what is called a summative agreement.

**Keywords.** syntax, gapping, ellipsis, multidominance, Turkish, altaic languages

**Introduction.** Turkish Forward and Backward Gapping are given in (1) and (2), respectively.

- (1) Hasan karides-i        ye -di,    Mehmet te    istiridye-yi.  
Hasan shrimp-ACC eat-PST Mehmet and oyster-ACC  
'Hasan ate the shrimp, and Mehmet (ate) the oyster.'

- (2) Hasan karides-i, Mehmet te istiridye-yi ye -di.  
 Hasan shrimp-ACC Mehmet and oyster-ACC eat-PST  
 ‘Hasan (ate) the shrimp, and Mehmet ate the oyster.’  
 (Kornfilt 2019)

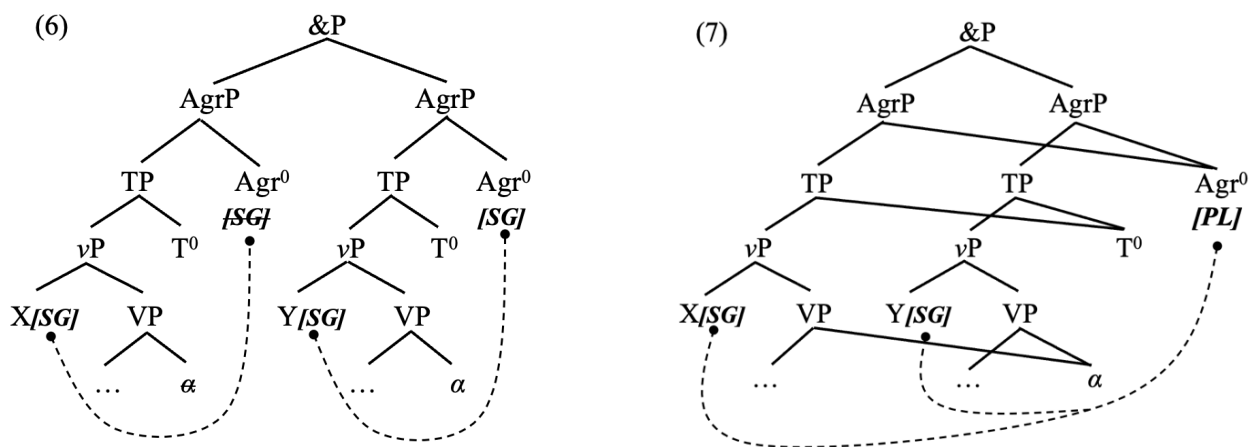
Following phonological phrasing patterns in BG constructions, Gürer and Göksel (2019) propose a multidominance analysis for BG, and when the multiply dominated element follows a prosodic break, it shows plural agreement ((3)). When the shared verb does not follow a prosodic break, it shows singular agreement ((4)).

- (3) Sen uranyum-u ben de baryum-u onaylı-yor-**uz**  
 you uranium-ACC I and barium-ACC approve-IMPF-1PL  
 ‘You (approve of) uranium and I approve of barium.’
- (4) Sen uranyum-u ben de baryum-u onaylı-yor-**um**  
 you uranium-ACC I and barium-ACC approve-IMPF-1SG  
 ‘You (approve of) uranium and I approve of barium.’

**The Problem.** For the cases of plural agreement, the authors argue that the shared verb is base-generated at a position from which it can c-command both subjects (right-adjoined to the conjunction phrase). For singular agreement, they propose that the shared verb is in-situ, i.e., it is inside of both conjuncts and is dominated by two distinct mothers from each conjunct. For singular agreement on the verb, they couch their argument on lower position of this verb, since it cannot c-command both subjects, it displays singular agreement. Following this, however, the shared verb should be able to satisfy both conjuncts, but (5) is ungrammatical.

- (5) \*Sen uranyum-u onaylı-yor-**um** ben de baryum-u onaylı-yor-**um**  
 you uranium-ACC approve-IMPF-1SG I and barium-ACC approve-IMPF-1SG  
 ‘You (approve of) uranium and I approve of barium.’

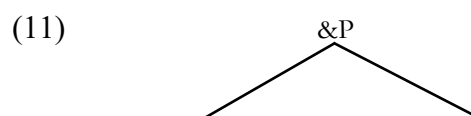
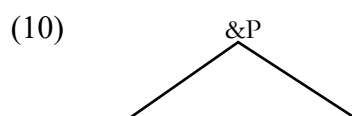
**Analysis.** Following the eclectic RNR analysis of Barros and Vicente (2011), I will also propose an eclectic analysis for Turkish BG. I will propose that singular agreement on the shared verb is the result of the elision of the verb in the initial conjunct (depicted in (6)). Although the verbs mismatch in agreement, ellipsis can tolerate these as shown by Bosković (2004). I will also propose that multidominance is only possible when there is plural agreement on the shared verb. To derive plural agreement, I will follow the analysis of Grosz (2015) for summative agreement. Grosz explains the plural T in RNR configurations as a result of two unshared DP's entering  $\phi$ -agreement with a shared T. Similarly, I will argue that two unshared DP's will agree with a single, shared Agr head (?), resulting in plural agreement (as depicted in (7)).

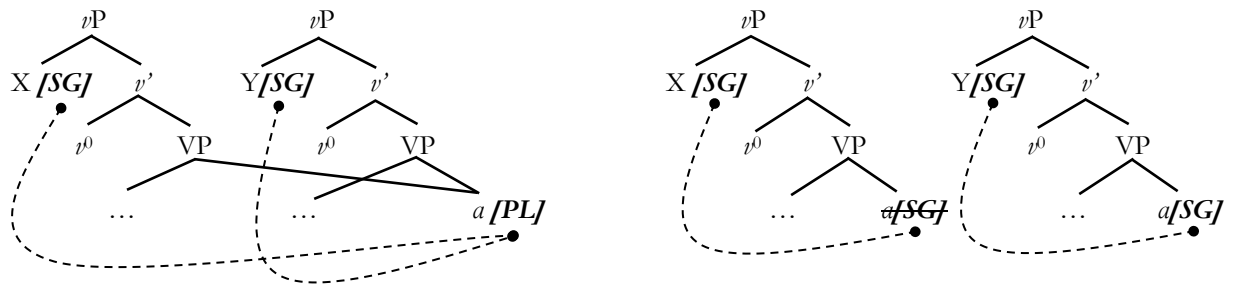


**References (Selected)** [1] Barros, Matthew, and Luis Vicente. 2011. Right node raising requires both ellipsis and multidomination. [2] Grosz, P. G. (2015). Movement and agreement in right-node-raising constructions. [3] Gürer, A., & Göksel, A. (2019). (Prosodic-) Structural Constraints on Gapping in Turkish.

Hi hocam, they ask for a 2-page abstract, so I thought I should use the rest as notes for you. Firstly, I saw this type of referencing in the abstracts of older Bogazici students, so I used it to fit at least three papers (But I think I can try to make the trees smaller by turning them into photos if you think I should add the rest of the paper details.)

Secondly, I do not know if the plural agreement on the head in Turkish arises due to some kind of phi-agreement. I drew 10 for plural agreement in the handout I sent you, but in this one I changed it to non-bulk (in 6) because the agreement seemed to be downward. It seemed like the logical thing to do so, now the probe c-commands two DP's as in Grosz's story. But I am not sure which one is better.





Also, they say that the spacing should be 1,5, but I aligned the spacing to 1 for glossing and translations but 1,5 everywhere else. If it is not okay, I can revise it, but I guess I have to exclude some things.