

A Study of 4 types of English Non-canonocical Constructions: From the locativity and gradience perspectives

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1. Introduction

1.1. The Four Presentative Sentences

A. Non-locative Be-Inversions(NLBI)

- (1) a. Her face was stony and even stonier **was** the tone of her voice.
- b. The tone of her voice was even stonier. (Canonical)

B. Locative Inversions (LI)

- (2) a. Across the street **is** a grocery store.
- b. A grocery store is across the street. (Canonical)

C. ~~There~~Sentences

- (3) There is a grocery store across the street.

D. Locative Preposing from ~~there~~sentences

- (4) a. Across the street **there is** a grocery store. [Locative Preposing from (3)]

1.2. The Purpose of this Paper is twofold:

- ❶ To unify Kim's (1995, 1996) distinct analysis of two types of inversions in the perspective of gradience and
- ❷ To compare the functions of the four presentative sentences in the perspective of iconicity

1.3. Distinction between NLBI and LI (Kim 1995, 1996)

... LI as Inversion Proper vs. NLBI as 'Headless Reduced Constructions(HRC)'

1.3.1. LI as Inversion Proper (Kim 1995/1996 vs. Birner & 1998)

A. Kim's (1995, 1996) 'Connectivity'

- ♣ Kim (1995: 280-294) = Locative inversions are formed via
 - 'external' connection [i.e. A -> B] or
 - 'internal' connection [i.e. A (-> B)]

between the prior context and the preposed element, and, at the same time, between the preposed and postposed element.

(A: prior context; (->): preposed element('Bridge'); B: postposed element)

- "Two different entities can be '**externally connected**' (or '**side-by-side**' connected) by way of their physical (e.g., temporal, spatial, or perceptual) contiguity/closeness or metaphorical (e.g., notional or conceptual) closeness."
- "Two entities, one of which is conceived of the part of the other, can be '**internally connected**' (i.e. '**part-in-whole**' connected)"

- (5) Along with its historical and agricultural orientation, *Johnson City*(X) claims a college-town atmosphere. Washington Academy, established in 1780, is the state's oldest educational institution. During the Civil War the school was used by Union troops as ... <Also in Johnson City> are East Tennessee State University, Milligan College and the Emmenuel School of Religion(Y).

<A short distance **from** the city> are two Tennessee Valley Authority recreation areas, Boone Lake and Fort Patrick Henry Lake (see Recreation Chart). Buffalo Mountain Par and Winged Deer Park offer miles of hiking trails;

[*TourBook*, AAA 1994, TN, p.87]

B. Birner & Ward's(1998: 17-24) 'Link Relations' defined in terms of Poset Relations

- (6) I walked into the kitchen(X). (a) On the counter(Y)/#On the jacket was a large book.

- poset = {elements of a house} ordered by the relation 'part-of'
- link = 'on the counter'
- X and Y are related to each other in one of three possible ways, in terms of their relative rank in the poset: Lower/Higher/Alternate Values

► Weakness of Birner & Ward's (1992, 1998) Account based on Relativity of Discourse Familiarity

- (7) (a) Her voice was low and gentle. (b)Her golden yellow hair moved on her temples and (c) a few curls fell across her face. ¬

⊥(c') # <across her face> fell a few curls.⊥

- (d)A neat, straight part cut through the lustrous mass.

["The House Under the Hill," by Yuri Kazakov, trans. from the Russian by Gabriella Azrael, *Compass I*, 1971: 126]

1.3.2. NLBI as 'Headless Reduced Constructions(HRC)'

- (8) The University of Minnesota offers *hundreds of academic programs*.
 ┌a. <Unique among them> **is** <that provided by the Department
 | of Independent Study>.
 └b. ?? <That provided by the Department of Independent Study>
 | is <unique among them>.
 ┌c. ((The program) (which is)) unique among them is
 <that provided by the Department of Independent Study>. The program
 affords special opportunities to [94/95 Independent Study: U of M Bulletin
 p. 2]

♣ **Three Pieces of Evidence for HRCs** (Kim 1995, 1996)

- Reduction in Relative Clauses (as in (9))
- Other motivations for HRCs or RNPs (Kim 2003) (as in (10-11))
- Topical Progression (as in (12))

- (9) a. There are some fish *lying in the punt*. (which comes from b or c)
 b. There are some fish *which are lying in the punt*.
 c. There are some fish *which lie in the punt*.

- (10) a. My *income* is smaller than Peter's \emptyset .
 b. Much more relevant, you might imagine, would be presumably ungrammatical
sequences like these \emptyset :
 c. These *families*, like so many \emptyset today, are childcentred.
 d. Propp's system was just the first \emptyset of very many '*grammars*' aimed at ...
 e. Jane is the cleverest \emptyset of all the *students* in her class.

(11) **Condition for the Felicitous RNPs:**

"One of the two related NPs which can share the same head noun in the same or previous sentence must lose its own head noun and become a RNP **unless the one is SUPERORDINATE to the other in the POSET.**"

♣ **Discourse Function of NLBI Constructions as Topic Continuity Marker**

- **High Frequency of NLBI in LISTING contexts**
- **Two types of Topical Progression**

Co-topical Progression

$X(t_i) \text{ ---Y---} Z(t_{i+1})$

Sub-topical Progression

$X(T) \text{ ---Y---} Z(t)$

- X: prior context; Y: preposed element ('Bridge'); Z: postposed element
- T : t = topic : subtopic $t_i : t_{i+1}$ = cotopic : cotopic

(12) ... the topic of (T)presupposition. . . The above are examples of relatively direct, (t_1)linguistically encoded presupposition that conform to the definition I supplied above. But < ϕ *Probably even more interesting to explore* > are (t_2)the societal presuppositions that . . .

1.4. Problems with Kim(1995/1996)

▣ Blending of NBLI and LI

(13) Crawling into the room **came** the messenger from Sparta.

▣ Degrees of Evokedness of the Head Noun in NBLI

(14) S o u r c e s =====

. . . An underlying *source* for the section address terms is the article by Roger Brown and Albert Gilman, "The Pronouns of Power and Solidarity" in *Style in Language*, edited by . . .

┌ a) < ϕ Underlying the sections on text and discourse > ┐
 | b) < ((A source) (that) underlies) the sections on text |
 └ and discourse > ┘

is <Michael Stubbs, *Discourse Analysis: The Sociolinguistic Analysis of Natural Language* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1983)>. [O'Grady et al 1991:460]

(15) One area of story-narration *relations* is again to do with time . . .

- < ϕ Rather more varied than the temporal relations between story and narration > are <the framing or embedding relations>.
- < ((The **relations**) (that are)) rather more varied than the temporal relations between story and narration > are <the framing or embedding relations>.

2.1. Constructional Gradience

- ♣ The long dispute of the matter of linguistic categorization:
 Aristotle's **strict categorization** (so-called *all-or-none* principle of categorization) vs.
 Russell's **vagueness**
- ♣ Three types of (linguistic) '**indeterminacy**' (Coates 1983: 14)
 = **Gradience** + Ambiguity + Merger
 ... She used the term of '**gradience**' to account for the fuzziness of examples intermediate on the continuum of meaning between core and periphery, and even with continuously graded degrees of membership.
- ♣ "**Gradience** in grammar is usually characterized as the phenomenon of blurred boundaries between two categories of form classes." (Aarts 2007: 34)

- ♣ **Semantic** gradience (Coates 1983) vs. **Syntactic** gradience (Aarts 2004, 2007)
Cf. **informational** gradience (e.g. Prince's (1981) 'Familiarity Scale'; Gundel's (1993) 'Givenness Hierarchy')

2.1.1. Subjective vs. Intersective Gradience

... Two kinds of gradience (Aarts 2004, 2007)

- a) **Subjective** gradience (= within categories/ **intra**-categorical) and
- b) **Intersective** gradience (= between categories/ **inter**-categorical)

♣ Examples of **subjective gradience**

- a) Aarts's (2007: 105-107) Adjective criteria

----- **less adjectival** -----
happy > thin > alive > utter

- b) Toyota (2008): Passive *be* - Presentative passive *be* - Existential *be*

♣ Examples of **intersective gradience**

- a) Ross's (1972: 316) perceived squish between V, Adj and N:

Verb > Present participle > Perfect participle >

Passive participle > **Adjective** > Preposition (?) > 'adjectival noun' > **Noun**

{ [+V/-N] > . . . > [+V/+N] > [-V/-N] > . . . > [-V/+N] }

- b) Ross's (1973b: 141) **nouniness squish**: verb-adjective-noun continuum

----- **More Nouny** ----->
that > for to > Q > Acc Ing > Poss Ing > Action Nominal > Derived Nominal > Noun

- c) Between determinatives and adjectives (e.g. *many/much/little/few*)
- d) <coordinators - conjuncts - subordinators continuum> (Quirk et al 1985)
- e) Between complement and adjunct (Keizer 2004, Lee 2008)

2.2.2. Constructional Gradience

- ♣ As Aarts (2007: 171ff.) suggests, subjective and intersective gradience also involve '**constructional**' as well as lexical, phrasal, and clausal gradience in grammatical phenomena.
- ♣ This paper will use his loose definition of a **syntactic 'construction'**, which means a string of elements (words, phrase, etc.) that has a distinctive patterning which plays a role in different parts of the grammar.
- ♣ Ross's (1987) examples of '**subjective constructional**' gradience in ~~wh~~-clefts
 - (16) a. What Molly discovered was a Grand Unified Theory.
 - b. Where Molly lived was in London.
 - c. What Molly is is brilliant.
 - (17) a. Was what Molly discovered a Grand Unified Theory?
 - b. ?Was where Molly lived in London?
 - c. ?*Is what Molly is brilliant?

.... The degree of acceptability in (23) is motivated by the degree of prototypicality of focal constituents in (22)

♣ **Gradience of Features involved Between *It*-Clefts and *Wh*-Clefts (Kim 2008, 2012)**

Kinds	<i>It</i> -clefts <-----			-----> <i>Wh</i> -clefts
Ontological categories	Entities			Qualities/ State/ Actions/ Activity
	Ist-order	2nd-order	3rd-order	
Cleftable constituents	Nominal <— NP [–V/+N]	Adverbial — PP/ AdvP <-----	Propositional — S	Adjectival —> Verbal VP -----> [+V/–N]
Grammatical Functions	(NP) Argument-oriented			Predicate-oriented
Identifying Readings	Specificational <—			—> Predicational
Specificfiness	Specific <-----			-----> Non-specific
Informational combination	<u>N-O > O-N > O-I</u> [> I-I > O-O > N-N]			Connd - C-connd - Given

3. Unified Analysis of Two Inversions in the Gradience Perspective (Aarts 2007)

3.1. Semantic paraphrasability of NBLI with semantic location as LI

Sundby (1970: 47,49) lists the preverbal VP whose head can be replaced by locative prepositions (Cf. a-m) --> '**Temporal-Spatial Locativity**'

- (18) CONFEDERATE PARK, on Front St. ... preserves the ramparts used in defense against Federal gunboats in 1862. <Facing Front Street> is a statue of Confederacy President Jefferson Davis, who (TourBook, AAA 1994, TN, p.95-96)

(19) (T)**Special Events**

The biggest event in Indianapolis, as well as in auto racing, is (t₁)*the Indianapolis 500*, held Memorial Day weekend. <Preceding the grand race> is the (t₂)*Indianapolis 500 Festival*, a month-long celebration which includes a festival queen contest and ...

Spring is ushered by (t₃)*the Indiana Flower and Patio Sh0w* the first full week in March. June brings (t₄)*the Midsummer Festival* to ... (t₄)*The event* takes place on ... In July is (t₅)*Black Expo*, a 3-day event highlighting ...

A perennial August favorite is (t₆)*the Indiana State Fair*, featuring amusement

park fun, ... (t₇) *Benjamin Harrison's Birthday Celebration* in mid-August honors the 23th president of the United States. (t₈) *The U.S. National Drag Racing Championships* at Raceway Park takes place Labor Day weekend.

(t₉) *The Penrod Arts Fair*, held at ... on the first Saturday after Labor Day, is a festival of arts and crafts. <Highlighting the day> is (t₁) *the live entertainment* —including opera, theater, ballet and mime— provided by Indianapolis' performing artists.

In October several historic homes in Zionsville are opened to ... The first full weekend in October brings (t₁₀) *the Blue River Valley Pioneer Craft Fair* at ... (t₁₁) *The fair* features demonstrations of ...

<Setting the scene for the Christmas season> is (t₁₂) *the Christmas Gift and Hobby Show* the first week in November. Through December thousands of tiny lights turn the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Monumnet into the "world's tallest Christmas tree." (*TourBook*, AAA 1994, IN., p.105)

- (20) <Following> comes <a paper by W.P. Robinson>, 'Social psychology and discourse'(107-44). I shall consider it together with two other: [Frawley 1987: 367] (⇒ '*Next* comes ...')

3.2. Blending of LI & NLBI & Gradience in Locativity

- A. Condition for LI = Preposing of Adverbial Complement(AC) + S-V Inversion(SVI)
 B. Concomitant SVI ← Linguistic Closeness via '**Conceptual Closeness** (Haiman 1985a: 107)/ **Semantic Affinity** (Firbas 1992: 60)' (as one of the iconicity principles)

♣ <Adverbial Modifier(AM) vs. Adverbial Complement(AC)>

- (21) a. John cried/was crying in the garden. (Adverbial Modifier(AM))

b. In the garden John cried/was crying.

c. *In the garden cried/was crying John.

- (22) a. *Everything* was peaceful in the garden.

b. In the garden *everything* was peaceful. (a ≠ b)

c. *In the garden was peaceful *everything*.

C. LI triggering Verbs:

- (a) Birner & Ward (1992): Verbs allowing LI are 'informationally light' (← Hartvigson & Jakobsen 1974)

(b) Kim & Ahn(2005: §6.2; Levin 1993)

(c) Levin & Rappaport Hovav (1995): Unaccusative/*Unergative Verbs

D. LI triggering Verbs and Semantic Locativity

- ❶ Underlying a meaning of 'locativity' is the Existence of the entity, which in turn extends to Appearance, which means 'come to exist'

- ② Locativity involves not only 'be in state' but also the movement to a place.
- ③ If the motion or action verbs may appear is in presentative sentences, it must be 'informationally light' in that it does not convey its content but describes 'manners' of appearance or motion
- ④ Thus LI triggering Verbs are not compatible with many accomplishment verbs and any achievements in the predicate types (Cf. Vendler 1967)

E. Conceptual Closeness between Verbs and AC in LIs and NLBIs

- ① (Manner-of-)Existence/
(Manner-of-)Appearance/
(Manner-of-)Emission Verbs ┌
└ + Locative AC
- ② (Manner-of-)Motion Verbs + Directional AC
- ③ <(M)Existence/(M)Appearance/(M)Emission/(M)Motion Verbs
+ Locative/Directional AC>

F. <(Peripheral)(Mod) + **Core(AC)** + Be/Non-Be + ...>

<(Spec) + AC + *BE/Non-BE* + ...>: LI

- (23) a. (Next) on the agenda is
 b. (Also) at the Opryland is
 c. (Quickly) into the room were
 d. (Directly) in front of me were
 e. (Somewhere) in its depths were
 f. (In) through the Renaissance windows wafted
 g. ((On a trestle table) directly) in front of our seating was

<(Adverbial NP) + AC + *BE/Non-BE* + ...>: LI

- (24) a. (A short distance) from the city are
 b. (A half mile) north of the visitor center is
 c. (Halfway) across the room stood
 d. (A few feet) away was
 e. ((About) 10 miles) up the Ohio River from Portsmouth is

<(AP) + AC + *BE/Non-Be* + ...>: AP Inversions structurally, but LI semantically

- (25) a. (Motionless) in the corner stood
 b. (Deeper) in the column was
 c. (Notable) among these was
 d. (Relevant) in this broader context of interaction are
 e. (Implicit) in Mackey's statement is

<(VP) + AC + *BE/Non-Be* + ...>: VP Inversions structurally, but LI semantically

- (26) a. (Walking her dog) into the park was

- b. (Standing) up next to him is
- c. (Crawling) into the room came
- d. ?(Missing) from the President's inner council> will be
- e. ?(Contrasting) with the CSM> is
- f. ?(Rounding) out the eventful century> was
- g. (Lying) between them was
- h. (Included) among the linking verbs are
- i. (Listed) below are
- j. (Described) in (8d) is
- k. (Inscribed) above its main entrance were

<(PP) + AC + BE + ...>: PP Inversions structurally, but LI semantically

- (27) a. Of interest) downtown is
 b. ((Also) of interest) in Kernan's study is

<(PP) + (VP) + BE + ...>: LI or NLBI ??

- (28) <With me, assembled in one place for the first time>, was

G. Alternation between LI and NLBI

- (29) a. Among them **are included** the men who make their way into private houses and ... [WEY: 2 Timothy 3: 6]
 b. <Also functioning as linking verbs> are the verbs of perception — **feel, taste, smell, sound.** ...
Included among the linking verbs are certain verb-adjective combinations that express a state. [Frank 1975: 48]

H. Gradience in Locativity

Locative (LI)		Non-locative (NLBI)		
Spatio-temporally	Verbally	Head-driven Locative	Semantically Locative	Equative
41a	41b/c	41d/e/f	41g	41h
Locative		Abstract Locative	Not-Locative	

- (30) a. On a little table **stood** a heavy tray with
 b. Crawling into the room **came** the messenger from Sparta.
 ('crawling': 'manner-of-motion' adjunct; 'came': 'directed motion' verb)
 c. **Suspended from** her belt hung her knife, her tobacco pouch, and her mug.
 ('suspended': 'manner-of-existence' adjunct;
 'hung': 'manner of existence' verb)
 d. Waiting behind the door might be an unwelcome visitor.

- e. Included among the linking verbs are certain verb-adjective combinations that express a state.
- f. Implicit in Modern English are several assumptions about language learning.
- g. Preceding the grand race is the Indianapolis 500 Festival, ...
- h. Not so well known are treatments within a different tradition which ...

3.3. Unified Analysis of S-V Inversions in terms of Scales

A. Kim's (1995/1996) **Signals** of Connection Types in LI &

(31) a. Signals of '**internal**' connection:

among, at, in, into, through, within, etc.

b. Signals of '**external**' connection:

above/beyond, another/the other, (halfway) across, alongside, a few feet away, behind, below, between, down, (a short distance) from, in front of, near(by), next, off, on, out (of), (a half mile) south/north of, then, to, underneath, with, etc.

B. Topical Progressions in NLBI

<Co-topical Progression Bridges/Triggers>

(32) a. also/ similarly/ particular/ rather/ equally/ still

b. much/even/far more; (no) less

c. compatible/synonymous **with**

d. very different **from**

e. similar/parallel/equivalent/relevant **to**

<Sub-topical Progression Bridges/Triggers>

(33) a. particularly/ especially

b. most/best/grandest **of** ...

c. implicit **in**

d. unique/notable **among**

e. characteristic **of**

f. central/basic/crucial/fundamental **to**

C. Preposed PP in LI as **Spatio-temporal Continuity** of Virtanen's (1992: §6.1.& 6.2) Text-Strategic Continuities (TSC)

D. Scalar Relations via Poset (Cf. Hirschberg 1991, Kim 1995: §5.1.6)

(34) **Scalar Relations via Poset to be Proposed in this study**

"In the POSET, relations such as 'Internal Connection' of LI and 'Sub-topical

Progression' of NLBI are collapsed into a **SUBORDINATE-TO relation**, whereas those such as 'External Connection' of LI and 'Co-topical Progression' of NLBI are collapsed into a **COORDINATE-TO relation**."

4. A Comparison of Presentative Functions between the Four Presentative Sentences

Presentative Functions							
There-sentences		LI			NLBI		
Existential Presentation		Presentation of Entities Relative to Location			Commentary Presentation		
Existence of an Entity	Existence of an Entity in the Locative Framework	Only Spatio-Temporal	With Manners of Existence/Motion		Head-driven Locative	Semantically Locative	Equative
Optionally Relative to Location			NON-BE-Verbs	Passive Verbs			
48c	48d, 49c, 50c, 52	48b, 49a, 50a	49b, 49c	50b, 51a	49e, 49f, 50d, 51b	49g	49h
Locative Objective					Non-locative Subjective		

- (35) a. A grocery store is across the street. (캠프장 소개 글: (관심이 있을/필요할 법한) 식료품 가게는 길 건너 있습니다.)
 b. Across the street is a grocery store. (콘도 소개 글: 콘도 위치 얘기 끝에 주변 위치 이야기 시작 시 나옴: “길 건너에 식료품가게도 나옴/있습니다.”)
 c. There is a grocery store across the street. (자기 아파트 소개 글: “식료품가게가 하나 있는데 길 건너에)
 d. Across the street there is the bus station. (버스이용 안내 글: (버스 정거장을 옆두에 두고 있는 상황에서) “길 건너면 (버스정류장이) 있습니다”는 정보 제공)

- (36) a. On a little table **stood** a heavy tray with
 b. **Suspended from** her belt hung her knife, her tobacco pouch, and her mug.
 ('suspended': 'manner-of-existence' adjunct;
 'hung': 'manner of existence' verb)
 c. Crawling into the room **came** the messenger from Sparta.

('crawling': 'manner-of-motion' adjunct; 'came': 'directed motion' verb)

- d. Waiting behind the door might be an unwelcome visitor.
- e. Included among the linking verbs are certain verb-adjective combinations that express a state.
- f. Implicit in Modern English are several assumptions about language learning.
- g. Preceding the grand race is the Indianapolis 500 Festival, ...
- h. Not so well known are treatments within a different tradition which ...

5. Conclusion

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