

Agreement or Binding: Who blinks first?

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Rizzi (1990) proposed a generalization called Anaphor Agreement effect (henceforth AAE) which states that anaphors cannot control the φ covarying verbal agreement. In this paper, I argue that AAE generalization is too strong and holds only for those languages that has the order of syntactic operation Agree > Binding. If the opposite order Binding > Agree holds, then it would lead to the violation of AAE.

To begin with, let me illustrate the AAE facts in Shona, a Bantu language spoken in Zimbabwe. Shona has both subject and object markers prefixed to the verb. These subject and object markers correspond to the noun classes of the subject and the object.

- (1) pro **ndì-nó-mù-gèz-bvùnz-à** pro
1SG **SM-PST-OM-question-FV** 3SG
'I question him' (Dechaine & Wiltschko 2012: 17 (37a))

Following Storoshenko's (2016) analysis, I take the subject and object markers to be real instance of subject and object agreement markers. And whenever the object is a reflexive pronoun of any person, number and gender, an invariable *-zvi* morpheme shows up as an object marker.

- (2) Shona reflexive:
- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-------------|-------|---|
| | SM | Pres | OM | wash | |
| 1SG | ndì- | nó- | zví- | gèz-á | 'I wash myself' |
| 1PL | tì- | nó- | zví- | gèz-á | 'We wash ourself' |
| 2SG | ù- | nó- | zví- | gèz-á | 'You wash yourself' |
| 2PL | mù- | nó- | zví- | gèz-á | 'You(PL) wash yourself' |
| 3SG | à- | nó- | zví- | gèz-á | 'She washes herself' |
| 3PL | và- | nó- | zví- | gèz-á | 'They wash themselves' (Dechaine & Wiltschko 2012: 17 (35)) |

Storoshenko illustrates that, elsewhere in Shona grammar, this *-zvi* morpheme occurs as an exponent of default agreement marker as a result of failed agreement with the corresponding goal. In (3), the *-zvi* morpheme occurs when the target of agreement is a conjunct phrase made of conjuncts from different noun classes. Similarly in (4), when the target of agreement is a clause, *-zvi* morpheme again shows up in the object agreement slot.

- (3) Nda-Ø-**zvi**-tor-a [sadza no-mu-riwo]
Sub.1.SG-PST-**OM**-take-FV Sadza.5 and-3-relish
'I took them (sadza and relish)'
- (4) [Ku-tsav-ir-a mu-mba ma-zuva e-se] **zva**-ka-kosh-a
[INF-sweep-APPL-FV 18-house.9 6-day 6-every] **Sub.8-RPST**-important-FV
'Sweeping the house every day was important' (Storoshenko 2016: 170 (22))

Given that *-zvi* morpheme is a default agreement marker, then its occurrences in (2) can be explained straightforwardly if one assumes along with Kratzer (2009) that anaphors are born without φ features. Therefore, the anaphors that lack φ features cannot control the φ covarying agreement on the verb. This fact stands testimony to Rizzi's AAE.

However, on an approach that explains anaphoric binding as an instance of φ agreement (Reuland, 2001, 2011; Heinat, 2008;), at some point in the derivation, anaphors acquire φ features from their antecedents. If this is true, then it predicts that if Agree happens after Binding, then it would have the required φ features to control the agreement. Gujarati, an Indo-Aryan language, illustrates this fact. In Gujarati, the ergative argument never controls the agreement but the differential object marked argument can control the agreement on the verb.

