

ASYMMETRIC DOM IN
COORDINATION: A PROBLEM
FOR MOVEMENT-BASED
APPROACHES

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1 Introduction

Differential object marking (DOM) is a common crosslinguistic phenomenon whereby overt case marking on objects surfaces only on a subset of objects, namely, those high in definiteness, specificity, and/or animacy (e.g., Comrie 1979, Croft 1988, Bossong 1991, Enç 1991, Aissen 2003, de Swart 2007). In Spanish, for example, simplifying somewhat, overt case marking of objects (boldfaced throughout the squib) is required when the object is specific and animate and banned when the object is nonspecific or inanimate.

- (1) a. Juan bes-ó [*(a) María].
 Juan kiss-PST.3SG DAT Maria
 ‘Juan kissed Maria.’
 b. Juan destruy-ó [(*(a) una/la ciudad)].
 Juan destroy-PST.3SG DAT a/the city
 ‘Juan destroyed a/the city.’

(Rodríguez-Mondoñedo 2007:91, 92; glosses adapted)

In this squib, we set out to (a) introduce new findings revealing that many DOM languages allow asymmetric marking in coordinations when conjuncts are mismatched in terms of animacy/definiteness, and (b) show that these findings are extremely problematic for many popular (broadly) Minimalist accounts of DOM, namely, those that derive DOM via movement (e.g., de Hoop 1996, Torrego 1998, Woolford 1999, Bhatt 2007, Rodríguez-Mondoñedo 2007, Baker and Vinokurova 2010, Richards 2010, López 2012, Ormazabal and Romero 2013), at least insofar as these accounts are intended to be general accounts of DOM and/or apply to the languages that allow asymmetric marking.

The squib is organized as follows. In section 2, we outline two movement analyses of DOM. In section 3, we discuss why such accounts predict asymmetric DOM in coordinations to be impossible, and in section 4, we show that many DOM languages *do* in fact allow asymmetric DOM. In section 5, we explore whether movement analyses can be salvaged (for languages that allow asymmetric DOM), and we argue that they cannot. In section 6, we offer preliminary conclusions.

2 Prominent Movement Analyses of DOM

Movement-based accounts of DOM take raising of the object out of VP as in (2) to be a necessary (though perhaps not sufficient) ingredient of DOM.

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$$(2) [\text{TP T} \dots [\text{object} \dots [\text{VP V } t_{\text{object}}]]]$$

Here we lay out two specific accounts, which stand in as instantiations of more general types of accounts: (a) accounts in which movement of the object is to a Case position (e.g., Bhatt 2007, Rodríguez-Mondoñedo 2007, López 2012, Ormazabal and Romero 2013), and (b) accounts in which raising of the object feeds case competition with the subject (e.g., Baker and Vinokurova 2010, Baker 2014a, Levin and Preminger 2015). Across movement-based accounts, a common component of the motivation for movement is that the object must raise out of VP to escape existential closure (Diesing 1992).

The first type of account is exemplified by Rodríguez-Mondoñedo 2007. Rodríguez-Mondoñedo argues that transitive *v* in Spanish can only check [number] features, and so can only assign Case to an object that is ϕ -incomplete, in other words, one with only [number]. Case assigned by *v* has a null spell-out. If an object has a [person] feature (carried by animate specific nominals), then the object is ϕ -complete and cannot have its Case checked by *v*. Such an object thus needs to raise (ultimately, to Spec,DatP) to check its Case. Since the projection it checks Case with is DatP, the marking is dative *a*.

The second type of account is exemplified by Baker and Vinokurova 2010. Looking at the Turkic language Sakha, Baker and Vinokurova argue that DOM is derived by movement out of VP, which is a phase, into the higher CP phase. Since the subject is also in this higher phase (and is so far caseless), the object enters into case competition with the subject (Marantz 1991) and so, per the case assignment rules of Sakha, receives dependent accusative case. Unlike in Spanish, this case is not syncretic with dative; rather, its exponent is a unique accusative form, *-(n)l*. Objects that do not raise remain caseless.

A preliminary problem with taking movement to be a general property of DOM is that not all DOM languages have (at least obvious) syntactic movement of the marked object; see, for example, Hebrew (Shlonsky 1997), Kannada (Lidz 2006), and Northeastern Neo-Aramaic languages (Kalin 2018). However, it might be that there is movement in these languages but it is not detectable with the normal tests or is covert, so this is not a fatal blow to movement-based accounts of DOM. In the following sections, we present coordination data that we take to more clearly show that movement is neither a necessary ingredient of DOM nor a general property of DOM in all languages.

3 DOM in Coordinations as a Movement Diagnostic

While the accounts cited above apply various tests to establish the higher position of marked objects (e.g., adverb placement, binding), some of the most reliable tests of syntactic movement are typically not applied, namely, tests involving islands. Islands are syntactic configurations that prohibit movement out of them. If an alleged movement-derived effect fails in such a configuration, this suggests move-

ment is involved. If, on the other hand, the effect is not blocked, this suggests that movement is not involved.

In the domain of DOM, many islands cannot be tested since the alleged movement step is very short. Fortunately, one of the most crosslinguistically robust islands is applicable. As is well-known since Ross's (1967) discovery of the Coordinate Structure Constraint (CSC), it is not possible to move one whole conjunct out of a coordination.

- (3) a. *What did John eat [_{&P} pizza and t_{what}]?
 b. *What did John eat [_{&P} t_{what} and pizza]?

While theoretical accounts of coordination islands vary, the data are clear.

In order to apply this test to the DOM cases at hand, we simply need to conjoin one element that is supposed to undergo movement (a marked object, DP_1 in (4)) and one element that is supposed to stay in situ (an unmarked object, DP_2).

- (4) subject V [DP_1 -CASE & DP_2]

If a marked object and an unmarked one cannot be conjoined (i.e., if (4) is ungrammatical), then this indicates that there is indeed something wrong with the configuration, plausibly because it is ruled out by the corresponding CSC island violation schematized in (5).¹

- (5) [_{TP} T . . . [_{DP} DP_1 . . . [_{VP} V [_{&P} t_{DP_1} & DP_2]]]]
 \uparrow -----X----- \downarrow

If, however, (4)-like sentences are grammatical, and one conjunct is marked while the other is unmarked (or the conjuncts bear different markers), then this suggests that there is not a crosslinguistically necessary connection between DOM and movement, nor is a movement analysis feasible for the languages in which (4) is grammatical.²

¹ Scarcierieu (2012:chap. 3) mounts an analogous argument against a covert movement analysis of VP-internal weak object pronouns in Swedish. In particular, he notes that such weak pronouns can appear inside a coordination, out of which the CSC prevents them from (even covertly) raising. This argument is supported by the fact that covert movement out of a coordination is generally blocked in Swedish (as seen in *wh*-in-situ contexts) and by the failure of the predicted scope relations resulting from covert pied-piping of the whole &P.

² An anonymous reviewer points out that this does not follow if coordination is analyzed as involving multidimensional trees or multiplanar representations (see, e.g., Goodall 1987). An approach that assumes that a coordination structure is grammatical if the same structure is grammatical with each conjunct on its own predicts asymmetric DOM to basically always be grammatical. However, as the reviewer also notes, this type of analysis is challenged by the fact that (as we will show) not all the languages in our sample allow asymmetric DOM. It seems implausible to us that some languages have access to multiplanar representations while others do not, and so we do not pursue this possibility further.

4 Asymmetric DOM Is Robustly Attested

Here, we test the configuration in (4)/(5) against a sample of eleven DOM languages from five language families. Of the eleven languages, nine allow one conjunct to be marked while the other remains unmarked; further, for both languages that disallow asymmetric marking, there is a closely related language that allows it. These results strongly suggest that a movement analysis cannot be maintained for most of the languages in our sample; thus, either movement is not the source for DOM in any language, or there simply is not a unified source for DOM crosslinguistically.

A preliminary note about our examples: For each language, if the language's object marker precedes the object, we use a coordination in which the marked conjunct is the second one, and if the language's object marker follows the object, we use a coordination in which the marked conjunct is the first one. In doing so, we ensure that the DOM marker takes scope over only one conjunct and not the whole coordination phrase. In all the languages we tested apart from Tamil and Spanish, if the conjuncts are reversed, marking of just one conjunct is also grammatical (just not unambiguously asymmetric).

Let us start with Romance languages. Recall from (1) that in Spanish, objects that are specific and animate bear the marker *a*. If we conjoin an animate nonspecific object and an animate specific object, we see that asymmetric DOM is possible.

- (6) Vi [&P una mujer y a María
 see.PST.1SG a woman and DAT Maria
 junt-as] en el parque.
 together-FEM.PL in the park
 'I saw a (some) woman and Maria together in the park.'
 (Gabriel Martínez-Vera, pers. comm.)

Preliminarily, then, even in a language for which a movement-based account has been specifically motivated (e.g., Torrego 1998, Rodríguez-Mondoñedo 2007, López 2012), asymmetric DOM inside coordinations is possible.³ Note also the agreeing adjective *juntas*, which shows that this is indeed a case of DP-coordination.

³ For Spanish, this test has previously been used by Rodríguez-Mondoñedo (2007) and Fábregas (2013). However, in contrast to what they found, our consultants accepted the examples without indicating that the tested sentences were ungrammatical or even marked. This difference may be due to dialectal variation or example choice: the examples Fábregas gives include a possessive pronoun that precedes its antecedent (e.g., (i)), while the examples Rodríguez-Mondoñedo uses only test asymmetric marking on the first conjunct (e.g., (ii)), both of which are also judged degraded by our consultants.

- (i) *Vi [&P su_i coche y a Juan_i].
 see.PST.1SG his car and DAT Juan
 Intended: 'I saw his_i car and Juan_i.'
 (Fábregas 2013:36)

DOM is also found in most southern Italian dialects (D'Alessandro 2017). All have in common that first or second person pronouns are marked, (7b), while nonhuman objects are not, (7a). As in Spanish, DOM appears in the form of the dative marker *a*, and asymmetric DOM is allowed, (8). Data here come from the Neapolitan dialect.

- (7) a. Aggia vist [o can] ndò parc.
 AUX.1SG see.PTCP the dog in.the park
 'I have seen the dog in the park.'
- b. Aggia vist [a tte] ndò parc.
 AUX.1SG see.PTCP DAT 2SG in.the park
 'I have seen you in the park.'
 (Roberto Petrosino, pers. comm.)
- (8) Aggia vist [&P o can e a tte] ndò parc.
 AUX.1SG see.PTCP the dog and DAT 2SG in.the park
 'I have seen the dog and you in the park.'
 (Roberto Petrosino, pers. comm.)

In yet another Romance language, Romanian, the main trigger for DOM is animacy (Dobrovie-Sorin 1994). Animate objects are marked with the preposition *pe* while inanimates are not, (9). Again, asymmetric marking in coordinations is possible, (10).

- (9) a. Văd [o barcă].
 see.1SG a boat
 'I see a boat.'
- b. Văd [pe pescar-ul].
 see.1SG LOC fisherman-DEF
 'I see the fisherman.'
 (Vanessa Petroj, pers. comm.)
- (10) Văd [&P o barcă și pe pescar-ul].
 see.1SG a boat and LOC fisherman-DEF
 'I see a boat and the fisherman.'
 (Vanessa Petroj, pers. comm.)

Romance languages seem to consistently allow asymmetric DOM.

Turning to another branch of Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, we find mixed evidence. In Nepali, dative *-laai* is also used to mark ani-

(ii) *Menciaron [&P a Juan y el libro].
 mention.PST.3PL DAT Juan and the book
 Intended: 'They mentioned Juan and the book.'
 (Camacho 1999:2646; cited in Rodríguez-Mondoñedo 2007:272)

Note that our example in (6) shows that a specificity mismatch (keeping animacy constant) allows asymmetric DOM, but it is also the case that the conjuncts can mismatch in both animacy and specificity while allowing asymmetric DOM (Gabriel Martínez-Vera, pers. comm.).

mate and specific direct objects (Schikowski 2013), (11), and mismatched objects can be conjoined, (12), as in Romance.

- (11) a. Raam-le [kitaab] dekh-yo.
 Ram-ERG book see-PST.3SG
 'Ram saw a book.'
 b. Raam-le [ma-**laai**] dekh-yo.
 Ram-ERG 1SG-DAT see-PST.3SG
 'Ram saw me.'
 (Sushma Pokharel, pers. comm.)
- (12) Raam-le [_{&P} ma-**laai** ra mero kitaab] dekh-yo.
 Ram-ERG 1SG-DAT and 1SG.GEN book see-PST.3SG
 'Ram saw me and my book.'
 (Sushma Pokharel, pers. comm.)

In Hindi, dative *-ko* marks specific direct objects (see, e.g., Mahajan 1990, Bhatt and Anagnostopoulou 1996), (13), but notably does not allow asymmetric marking, (14); any combination of a marked object with an unmarked one is ungrammatical.

- (13) a. Nadya=ne [gari] cala-yi
 Nadya.F.SG=ERG car.F.SG.NOM drive-PERF.F.SG
 he.
 be.PRES.3SG
 'Nadya has driven a car.'
 b. Nadya=ne [gari=**ko**] cala-yi
 Nadya.F.SG=ERG car.F.SG=ACC drive-PERF.F.SG
 he.
 be.PRES.3SG
 'Nadya has driven the car.'
 (Butt and King 2004:161)
- (14) ???/*Vo shikaari [_{&P} sher=**ko** or hiran] maar
 that hunter tiger=ACC and deer kill
 degaa.
 give.FUT.3SG
 'The hunter will kill the tiger and a deer.'
 (Anoop Mahajan, Diti Bhadra, pers. comm.)

In contrast to all the languages exemplified earlier, Hindi disallows asymmetric DOM.⁴

⁴ As pointed out to us by one of the editors, one might wonder whether coordinations in Hindi more generally are restricted with respect to mismatches in animacy or specificity; if so, this could provide an explanation for the ungrammaticality of (14) that has nothing to do with DOM. While coordinations may freely mismatch in animacy in Hindi, it is indeed ungrammatical to conjoin DPs that mismatch with respect to specificity, even in unmarked (i.e., nominative) subject position (Diti Bhadra, pers. comm.). Given this independent reason to rule out (14), one might be tempted to pursue a uniform account of all our

Moving on to another language family, we take a look at Finnish. In Finnish, nonpronominal objects bear genitive case, (15a), while pronominal objects bear accusative, (15b).⁵ It is possible to conjoin a pronominal object with a nonpronominal one, (16).

- (15) a. Tuo-n [karhu-n].
bring-1SG bear-GEN
'I'll bring a bear.'
b. Tuo-n [häne-t].
bring-1SG 3SG.M-ACC
'I'll bring him.'
(Kiparsky 2001:333)

- (16) Me nä-i-mme [&P häne-t ja karhu-n].
1.PL.NOM see-PST-1PL 3SG-ACC and bear-GEN
'We saw him and the bear.'
(Anne Vainikka, pers. comm.)

We thus have evidence from Uralic for the acceptability of asymmetric DOM.

The next family we consider is Turkic. In Turkish, specific objects are marked with a unique accusative case while nonspecific objects are unmarked (Enç 1991, Kornfilt 1997), (17). Like Hindi, Turkish does not allow conjunction of objects with asymmetric marking, (18). (Similar judgments are reported in Kornfilt 1997.)

- (17) a. Ali [bir piyano] kirala-mak isti-yor.
Ali one piano rent-INF want-PROG.3SG
'Ali wants to rent a (nonspecific) piano.'
b. Ali [bir piyano-yu] kirala-mak isti-yor.
Ali one piano-ACC rent-INF want-PROG.3SG
'Ali wants to rent a certain piano.'
(Enç 1991:4, 5)

- (18) *Hasan [&P dondurma-yı ve pasta] ye-di.
Hasan cake-ACC and ice.cream eat-PST
Intended: 'Hasan ate the cake and some ice cream.'
(Ümit Atlamaz, pers. comm.)

However, Caucasian Urum, a related Turkic language spoken by ethnic Greeks in Georgia, exhibits a DOM system that looks nearly identical to the Turkish system on the surface, (19), but *does* allow asymmetric DOM, (20).

data thus far. Crucially, however, this line of reasoning does not apply to Turkish (discussed below), which also disallows asymmetric DOM in coordination but *does* allow the coordination of a specific nominal with a nonspecific one in subject position (Ümit Atlamaz, pers. comm.).

⁵ This DOM characterization of Finnish presupposes Kiparsky's (2001) decomposition of inflection. For traditional Finnish grammarians, accusative is simply syncretic with genitive on nonpronominals.

- (19) a. Lara [pismo] yoll-ier.
Lara letter send-IPFV
'Lara is sending a letter.'
- b. Lara [pismo-**yi**] yoll-ier.
Lara letter-ACC send-IPFV
'Lara is sending the letter.'
(Böhm 2015:429)
- (20) Mesut [&P araba-**i** da birāz pul] ist-ier-di.
Mesut car-ACC and some money ask-IPFV-PST.3SG
'Mesut asked for the car and (some) money.'
(Violeta Moisidi, pers. comm.)

Turkic languages, then, differ as to whether they allow asymmetric DOM.

Next we turn to Semitic languages, many of which exhibit DOM. In Hebrew (e.g., Danon 2006), for example, definite objects are case-marked by the proclitic *et* whereas indefinite objects are not, (21). Asymmetric marking of conjuncts is possible, (22).

- (21) a. Ha-seret her'a [milxama].
the-movie showed war
'The movie showed a war.'
- b. Ha-seret her'a [**et**-ha-milxama].
the-movie showed ACC-the-war
'The movie showed the war.'
(Aissen 2003:453)
- (22) Dan axal [&P uga ve **et**-ha-ugiyot].
Dan ate cake and ACC-the-cookies
'Dan ate some cake and the cookies.'
(Itamar Kastner, Omer Preminger, pers. comm.)

In Amharic, a Western Semitic language, the accusative marker *-n* attaches only to definite objects, while indefinite objects remain unmarked, (23). As in most of the languages we have looked at, it is possible to conjoin marked and unmarked objects, (24).

- (23) a. Ləm̄mma [wiʃʃa] j-aj-al.
Lemma dog 3M.SG-see-AUX
'Lemma sees a dog.'
- b. Ləm̄mma [wiʃʃa-w-**in**] j-aj-əw-al.
Lemma dog-DEF-ACC 3M.SUBJ-see-3M.OBJ-AUX
'Lemma sees the dog.'
(Baker 2012:257)
- (24) [&P Liʃ-u-**n** inna wiʃʃa] ajjə-h^v.
child-DEF-ACC and dog see-1SG
'I saw the child and a dog.'
(Fábregas 2013:37, from Mark Baker's fieldnotes)

Semitic thus seems to consistently allow asymmetric DOM.

Finally, speakers of Tamil, a Dravidian language, mark definite objects with accusative, while other objects are usually unmarked (see

the discussion in Lehmann 1989), (25). In Tamil, it is also possible to conjoin objects with different case markers, (26).⁶

- (25) a. Kumaar [paṇam] keeṭṭ-aaṇ.
Kumaar money.NOM ask.PST-3M.SG
'Kumaar asked for (some) money.'
- b. Kumaar [kar-aiik] keeṭṭ-aaṇ.
Kumaar car-ACC ask.PST-3M.SG
'Kumaar asked for the car.'
(Nagarajan Selvanathan, pers. comm.)
- (26) Kumaar [&P kar-aiy-um paṇam-um]
Kumaar car-ACC-COORD money.NOM-COORD
keeṭṭ-aaṇ.
ask.PST-3M.SG
'Kumaar asked for the car and money.'
(Nagarajan Selvanathan, pers. comm.)

While DOM in each of these languages has many complexities that we cannot discuss here, it is clear that many (if not most) DOM languages allow asymmetries in case marking with conjoined objects. Nine of the eleven languages from five different language families allow conjunction of marked objects with unmarked ones, while only two (Turkish and Hindi) do not. Since movement is prohibited out of coordinations, these data strongly suggest that there must be some non-movement-related mechanism that is behind DOM, at least in nine of our languages.

5 Three Possible Ways Out and Why They Lead Nowhere

In this section, we discuss three possible approaches that could be pursued to maintain a movement analysis of DOM, and present arguments against each.

5.1 Languages without the Coordinate Structure Constraint?

The first potential challenge to our argument is that possibly the coordination island is not as robust as we make it out to be. Exceptions to

⁶ We should mention that dialects of Tamil seem to vary in this respect. Of the three speakers of Tamil we consulted, two (one from Singapore, one from Tamil Nadu) judged examples like (26) as grammatical, while one speaker (also from Tamil Nadu) did not.

Note also that asymmetric case marking in Tamil is only possible when the unmarked conjunct is the rightmost one, adjacent to the verb; the opposite is ungrammatical.

- (i) *Kumaar [&P paṇam-um kar-aiy-um] keeṭṭ-aaṇ.
Kumaar money.NOM-COORD car-ACC-COORD ask.PST-3M.SG
'Kumaar asked for money and the car.'
(Gurujegan Murugesan, pers. comm.)

This might be the result of a requirement that the unmarked object be linearly adjacent to the verb.

the CSC have occasionally been attested. For example, Bošković (2009) has shown that some speakers of Serbo-Croatian allow extraction of the left conjunct.

There are three reasons why a solution along these lines does not go through. First, violations of the CSC are very infrequent crosslinguistically. To our knowledge, no such exception has been reported for any of the eleven languages in our sample. Second, even in languages like Serbo-Croatian, only the leftmost conjunct can be extracted from a coordination phrase; this would predict that only the leftmost conjunct could ever bear DOM. Crucially, this prediction is wrong: the examples from Spanish, Italian, Romanian, and Hebrew above clearly show that the rightmost conjunct can be the only one that bears DOM, and for the most part, there are not linear restrictions on asymmetric DOM. (Again, Tamil and Spanish are exceptions here.)

Third, we can simply test whether short movement allows for violations of the CSC, and we can see that it does not. Tamil, for example, allows short scrambling of the direct object over the indirect object (see Sarma 2003, Baker 2014b), (27). However, Tamil does not allow scrambling of just one conjunct, (28).

- (27) Shakuni {daayatt-**ait**} Dharmaa-kkut {daayatt-**aik**}
 Shakuni-NOM dice-ACC Dharma-DAT dice-ACC
 koḍu-ṭṭ-aaṅ.
 give-PST-3SG
 ‘Shakuni gave the dice to Dharma.’
 (Sarma 2003:238)

- (28) *Shakuni kar-**aiy**-um Dharmaa-kkut
 Shakuni-NOM car-ACC-COORD Dharma-DAT
 daayatt-aiy-um koḍu-ṭṭ-aaṅ.
 dice-ACC-COORD give-PST-3SG
 ‘Shakuni gave the car and the dice to Dharma.’
 (Gurujegan Murugesan, pers. comm.)

We therefore reject the idea that some languages lack coordination islands and that this is responsible for the availability of asymmetric DOM in coordinations.

5.2 *Asymmetric Case Assignment?*

The second objection to our account might be that movement is in fact symmetric but case assignment is not. In other words, in a configuration where only one of the conjuncts is high in definiteness/animacy, it might be that the whole &P raises (dashed line), but in this higher position, only one of the conjuncts receives case (solid line).

- (29) [TP T . . . [F [[&P DP₁ & DP₂] . . . [VP V t_{DP₁&DP₂]]]]}
-

There are two reasons why this proposal cannot save a movement account. First, Weisser (2017) argues that (non-DOM) case marking

in coordinations is always symmetric. On the basis of fifteen case studies, Weisser shows that, once ellipsis and allomorphy are controlled for, case is always distributed evenly among all of the conjuncts in nominal conjunction. If (29) were the right kind of analysis for asymmetric DOM, then this would entail that the grammar does not allow case assigners to reach inside a coordination and target just one conjunct, *except* in the case of DOM.

The second argument against (29) is the same as one in section 5.1. If case assignment could target a specific conjunct inside an &P, then we would expect to find ordering/hierarchy effects, with only the highest or linearly closest conjunct able to receive DOM, as this is what is found with agreement into coordinations (e.g., Marušič, Nevins, and Badecker 2015). But again, our data do not confirm this prediction. Spanish, Romanian, Italian, and Hebrew are all head-initial, and thus we would expect that the DOM case assigner should be able to pick out only the left conjunct because it is (a) structurally higher and (b) linearly closer to the case assigner. However, in all of these languages, we have shown that the second conjunct can be marked while the first one remains unmarked.

5.3 *Asymmetric DOM as the Result of Conjunction Reduction?*

A final alternative for reconciling a movement-based account with the data at hand is to analyze our examples of asymmetric DOM as involving conjunction of a bigger category (e.g., vPs) plus subsequent gapping, rather than DP-conjunction. One possible structure would be something like (30). Under this analysis, the movement that results in DOM could be internal to one of the conjuncts and thus not violate the CSC.

(30) subject [_{vP} V DP₁-CASE] & [_{vP} √ DP₂]

There are a number of arguments against such analyses. First, gapping in many languages, among others in Romance (Repp 2009), comes with a specific intonation, namely, a pause in the position of the elided verb and a high boundary tone on the edge of the first conjunct. Our consultants produce asymmetric DOM examples without gapping intonation. Second, in some languages, we can tell from the morphology that we are dealing with nominal conjunction. For example, in Tamil, the coordination strategy that marks both conjuncts with *-um* conjoins DPs and PPs only (as in (26)), while verbal and clausal conjunction employs a different strategy. Thus, a derivation in terms of ellipsis in this language is not an option. Third, in languages like Spanish, (31), and Hebrew, (32), relative clauses and small clauses show that there must be a plural conjoined DP even in asymmetric DOM cases.

(31) Vi un perro y a una persona que jugaban
see.PST.1SG a dog and DAT a person that play.PST

juntos en el parque.
 together in the park
 ‘I saw a dog and a (specific) person who played together in
 the park.’

(Gabriel Martínez-Vera, pers. comm.)

- (32) Raiti xatul ve **et**-ha-kalba sheli rodfim exad
 see.PST.1SG cat and ACC-the-dog.F mine chase.PL one
 axrej ha-sheni.
 after the-other
 ‘I saw a cat and my dog chasing each other.’
 (Itamar Kastner, pers. comm.)

Under a VP/TP/CP-coordination approach, (31)–(32) are hard to account for because there would simply be no plural constituent to adjoin the relative clause to or to predicate the small clause of. We therefore conclude that, for at least some of the languages we discuss, conjunction reduction is not a plausible analysis.

6 Preliminary Conclusions

We have shown that many DOM languages allow asymmetric DOM in coordinations, a finding that is problematic for movement-based accounts of DOM.⁷ It is important to note that our claim is that *across languages* movement is not a necessary ingredient for the phenomenon of DOM. It may very well be, however, that *within* a particular language, movement is indeed necessary for DOM. For Hindi, for example, movement has been argued to be required for DOM (e.g., Bhatt and Anagnostopoulou 1996); this analysis is in fact supported by our findings, as Hindi disallows asymmetric DOM in coordinations. For Spanish, on the other hand, while many movement accounts have been put forward (e.g., Rodríguez-Mondoñedo 2007, López 2012), these accounts are not supported by our findings; while it may be that marked objects raise when possible in Spanish (and thus movement *correlates* with DOM), it must also be possible for objects to receive DOM *in situ*, namely, in asymmetric coordinations.⁸ A larger, more areally diverse sample of languages should be gathered, in order to better understand why some languages allow asymmetric DOM and how common this really is.

At this point, one might wonder what sorts of accounts *can* deal with asymmetric DOM. First, purely morphological accounts that derive case alternations by means of impoverishment/feature freezing (e.g., Keine and Müller 2008, Glushan 2010) could have these postsyn-

⁷ In addition, for the languages in which marked/unmarked conjuncts are reversible, it must be that unmarked objects need not be immediately adjacent to the verb (they need not *pseudoincorporate*), which speaks against another common component of DOM accounts.

⁸ See also Preminger’s (2011) discussion of object shift, where he makes a similar argument.

tactic operations locally target just one conjunct in a coordination. Second, analyses of DOM that take the fundamental ingredient to be different structural sizes of marked and unmarked objects (e.g., Danon 2006, Lyutikova and Pereltsvaig 2015) could appeal to the idea that the whole coordination receives case, but only one of the conjuncts is of the right size to morphologically host case. Finally, accounts that appeal to last-resort rescue strategies for deriving DOM (e.g., Kalin 2018) could explain single-conjunct DOM as a highly local rescue. We leave this question open for future research.

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