# Is there Switch-Reference Marking in Coordinate Clauses?

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## 1 Introduction

The question in what types of clausal configurations switch-reference marking (SR) is attested and in which it is not has emerged to be a much discussed one in the typological and in the generative literature on switch-reference.

What is, however, uncontroversial is that SR marking is frequently attested in clause chaining constructions. In these cases, all medial verbs (that is usually all non-final verbs) bear an SR marker which indicates whether their subject is identical with the subject of the immediately following clause:

(1) Jara-bute-tsu betsa-kware. lie-down-SS swim-REM.PAST 'Having lain down (on my raft), I swam.'

Cavineña, Tacanan: (Guillaume 2011, 110)

(2) Peima fitau-fe-e-te wate tepau-a-?a carefully throw-PRF-1SG-MED.DS NEG break-3SG-IND 'I threw it carefully and it didn't break.'

Tauya, Trans-New-Guinea: (MacDonald 1990, 219)

SR marking also frequently occurs in subordinate clauses. In this case, the SR morpheme is always on the verb of the subordinate clause, regardless of the linear order.

(3) [can [nuca-ta ayuda-wa-ngapaj] muna-na-ta] cri-n 2SG 2SG-ACC help-1SG.A-SS want-FUT-ACC think-3 'He thinks that you want to help me.'

Imbabura Quechua (Jake (1985) as cited in Stiebels (2007))

(4) Nu' ['i-pava 'inu-ngam kweewa-t yuku-ni-qa-t ] naawakna

1SG my-brother me-for belt-ACC make-FUT-NC-ACC.DS want
'I want my brother to make me a belt.' Hopi, Uto-Aztecan (Hale 1992)

What has been rarely been studied at this point (though for brief discussion see McKenzie (2011); Keine (2012)) is whether SR marking is attested in coordinating configurations which involve two full-fledged clauses.

#### Question: Why is this of interest?

- The answer may lead us to a better understanding the phenomenon of SR in general. For example, it may help us solve the question of whether SR marking is a purely syntactic process or a discourse strategy or something in between. If SR marking is sensitive to a syntactic distinction like subordination vs. coordination, then this may suggest that SR marking has, at least, some syntactic basis.
- The answer might help us understand the nature of clause chaining constructions which have often been argued to be an instance of coordination. However, it is remarkable that hardly any clause chaining language allows for SR marking between two full-fledged coordinate clauses. If it turned out that we find no SR marking in prototypical coordination, this may help us to pinpoint the distinction between coordinate clauses and clause chains.
- The answer may be helpful to those who want to model SR within a generative framework. As the lively discussion in generative literature has shown, the question of subordination vs. coordination has become crucial for the empirical adequacy of most of the proposed analyses of SR.

## Line of Action:

- Section 2 reviews all five languages which have been claimed to exhibit SR marking in full-fledged coordinate clauses in the literature.
- Section 3 summarizes the results and draws and interim conclusion.
- Section 4 makes an alternative proposal and provides further evidence in favor of the hypothesis.
- Section 5 summarizes and Section 6 discusses the consequences of the results

# 2 Languages in Question

Even though many articles on SR implicitly assume that there are cases of SR marking in coordinate clauses, the empirical support for this assumption is quite scarce. All in all, only five languages are explicitly claimed to make use of morphemes that encode SR relations in coordination:<sup>1</sup>

- Lakhota
- Yakunytjatjara
- Pitjantjatjara
- Kiowa
- Nêlêmwa

In the following, I will investigate the SR system of these languages in detail to show that there is a remarkable resemblance with respect to the form and function of the alleged SR morphemes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>In addition to these five languages, Camacho (2003) gives examples from Hopi to show that there is SR marking in coordinate clauses but these examples come without glosses and since the source on SR in Hopi are not very conclusive, I refrained from including them in this survey.

#### 2.1 Lakhota

According to Chafe (1976), Lakhota has an elaborate SR system applying between coordinate clauses. The morpheme na encodes a same subject relation, while  $y\tilde{u}k^h\tilde{a}$  encodes a different subject relation:

- (5) a. Joe wĩyã wãhãska č<sup>h</sup>a wãyãkĩ na heye... Joe woman tall 'a' see and.SS say 'Joe saw a woman who was tall and he said...'
  - b. Joe wĩyã wãhãska  $\check{c}^h$ a wãyãkĩ  $y \tilde{u} k^h \tilde{a}$  heye... Joe woman tall 'a' see and.DS say 'Joe saw a woman who was tall and she said...'

Dahlstrom (1982)

In a reply to Chafe (1976), Dahlstrom (1982) argues that the Lakhota system cannot be a SR system, at least not a prototypical one which follows the original definition by Jacobson (1967). She gives all four logically possible exceptions to Chafes generalization:

• SS and  $y\tilde{u}k^h\tilde{a}$ . (6-a)

- DS and *na*. (6-c)
- DS and  $y\tilde{u}k^h\tilde{a}$  is prohibited. (6-b)
- SS and *na* is prohibited. (6-d)
- (6) a.  $k^h$ oškalaka nũp  $k^h$ olakič $^h$ iya-pi na lila  $t^h$ ekič $^h$ ixila-pi. Yũ $k^h$ ã heniyos young.man two friend.RECP-PL and.SS very loveRECP-PL and.DS those nũp ila zuya iyaya-pi two only to.war set.off-PL 'Two young men were friends with each other and loved each other very much. One day, those two set off to war.'
  - b.  $*\check{c}^h$ uwe leye le $\check{c}^h$ i taktokan $\check{u}$ h $\check{a}$  he. Y $\check{u}$ k $^h$  $\check{a}$  as $\check{a}$ pi op $^h$ et $^h$  $\check{u}$  wahi ep $^h$ e sister say here what.2.do Q and.DS milk buy 1.come 1.say 'My sister said: What are you doing here? And I said: I came to buy milk'
  - c.  $\check{c}^h$ a ota ileya-pi na el ixpeya-pi na he $\check{c}^h$ el xu $\gamma$ na $\gamma$ e wood much make.burn-PL and.SS on place-PL and.SS thus burn.up 'They set fire to a lot of wood and placed him up on it and he burned'
  - d. \*mazop<sup>h</sup>iyeta wa'i na č<sup>h</sup>uwe wãblake store.to 1-go and.SS sister 1-saw
    'I went to the store and I saw my sister'

Dahlstrom (1982)

According to Dahlstrom (1982), the decisive criterion to distinguish between these two morphemes is not the identical reference of the subject but "the continuity of the action".  $y\bar{u}k^h\bar{a}$  encodes a change of scenery, time or location. Dahlstrom concludes with the remark that the difference between the Lakhota system and a canonical SR system is so big that she would not subsume Lakhota under a the label SR system.

#### 2.2 Yakunytjatjara

In subordinate purpose clauses, Yakunytjatjara exhibits a relatively simple canonical system of SR marking. Here, only the (non-)identity of subjects is relevant for the choice of markers.

(7) Subordinate clauses in Yakunytjatjara

Goddard (1985)

a. kunga-ngku tii kutja-nu tjiki-ntji-kitja-ngku woman-ERG tea.ACC heat-PST drink-NMLZ-INTENT-ERG 'The woman heated the tea (because she wanted) to drink'

b. kunga-ngku tii kutja-nu (tjitji-ngku) tjiki-ntja-ku woman-ERG tea.ACC heat-PST (child-ERG) drink-NMLZ-PURP.DS 'The woman made some tea for someone/the child to drink'

In addition, Yakunytjatjara exhibits a phenomenon which looks like SR marking in coordinate clauses. However, in these cases, they do not use the same morphemes as in subordinate clauses but the two conjunctions *munu* (SS) und *kaa* (DS).

(8) Coordinate clauses in Yakunytjatjara

Goddard (1985)

- a. nyina-ra paluru paka-nu munu yanku-la maa-ngari-ngu munu sit-CVB DEF(NOM) get.up-PST and.SS go-CVB away-lie-PST and.SS piyuku yanku-la maa.ngari-ngu again go-CVB away-lie-PST 'Having stayed some time, she set off, and having travelled for some time camped and again travelled and camped away.'
- b. mamu-ngku patja-ni kaa nganana watarku nyina-nyi evil.being-ERG bite-PRS and.DS 1PL.NOM heedless.NOM sit-PRS 'Evil spirit beings are biting them. And/But we are not paying attention.'

Goddard (1985) gives a number of examples which illustrate that, in coordinate clauses, the choice of conjunctions is not made on the basis of the (non-)identity of reference but rather on whether there is a continuity of actions or not.

(9) kaa nganaṇa iriti kap palya-ngka nyina-ngi... palu nganaṇa-maṇṭu and..DS 1PL.NOM long.ago water good-LOC ait-PST-IPFV but 1PL.NOM-CERT kapi palya-ngka nyina-ngi kaa nganaṇa kuwri kapi puwa-nguru water good-LOC sit.PST-IPFV and.DS 1PL.NOM now water bore-ABL pika ura-ṇi sicknessACC get-PRS 'And in the old days we had good water... only of course in the old days we had good water, but these days we get sicknesses from bore water.'

This non-canonical use is, however, restricted to coordinate clauses. SR marking in sub-ordinate clauses is completely canonical.

## 2.3 Pitjantjatjara

The identical pattern can be found in the sister language Pitjantjatjara. Again, we find completely canonical use of SR marking in subordinate purpose clauses and conditional clauses. We also find alleged SR marking between coordinate clauses and what we find again, is that, in contrast to subordinate clauses, SR marking with coordinate clauses can be non-canonical. DS-marking can be used to signal a change of time, place or scenery. Also, it is remarkable that coordinate SR and subordinate SR make use of two different sets of morphemes.

(10) Trevor-lu watja-nu Mary-lu tjitji nya-kunyangka.

Trevor-ERG say-PAST Mary-ERG child see-ANT.DS

'Trevor said that Mary had seen the child.'

(Bowe 1990:70)

(11) Pula ngalkula wiya-ti-ngkula ngari-ngu ka kunyu palu-mpa 3DU.NOM eat-ANT.SS NEG-INCH-ANT.SS lie-PST and.DS REP 3SG.GEN mama ngunytju-ku ngura ila-ri-ngu-lta father mother-GEN place near-INCH-PST-EMPH 'After they had eaten it all, they lay down. They were really getting near their mother's and father's place now.' (Bowe 1990:97)

#### 2.4 Kiowa

In a number of papers (McKenzie (2007, 2010, 2011)), it was argued that Kiowa exhibits instances of SR marking in clear cases of coordination of two full-fledged clauses. According to McKenzie, gau functions as SS-marker while nau is the respective DS-marker.

- (12) a. Yísàum  $\emptyset$ =hébà gàu èm=sấu. Yisaum 3SG=enter.PRF and.SS 3SG=REFL=sit.down.PRF 'Yisaum<sub>i</sub> came in and he<sub>i</sub> sat down.'
  - b. Yísàum Ø=hébà nàu èm=sấu. Yisaum 3SG=enter.PRF and.DS 3SG=REFL=sit.down.PRF 'Yisaum<sub>i</sub> came in and he<sub>\*i/j</sub> sat down.' (McKenzie, 2011, 82)

Furthermore, Kiowa also has SR-marking in subordinate clauses. In these cases, just as in Yakunytjatjara and Pitjantjatjara, a different set of markers is used, namely verbal affixes.

(13) Háun hájél [èm-gún-mău=ché] èm-dău-jấu-gú NEG person.INDF 3-dance-IPFV=when.SS 3-sing-act-NEG 'Nobody sang while they danced' (McKenzie, 2011, 239)

In Kiowa, we also find non-canonical use of SR-markers, but again only in coordinate clauses. The markers g a u and n a u can be used also to indicate continuity and discontinuity of the action. In (14), we find "unexpected" SR marking in both examples for reasons of information structure.

- (14) a. Óp á=álé. nè=gáu óp jáuchò á=álé.

  There 3>3=chase-PRF then=and.DS there instead 3>3=chase-PRF

  'They chased it here and then they chased it this way' Palmer Jr. (2003)
  - Kathryn gà=gút gàu Esther=àl gà=gút
     Kathryn 3>3=write.PRF andSS Esther=too 3>3=write.PRF
     'Kathryn wrote a letter and Esther wrote one too.' McKenzie (2007)

#### 2.5 Nêlêmwa

McKenzie (2011) cites Nêlêmwa (Bril (2004)) as another language which exhibits SR-marking in coordinate clauses. In fact, Nêlêmwa has two conjunctions which may be interpreted as SR-marker. In (15), on can see the function of na, glossed as DS, and me, glossed as SS.

(15) a. Na na pek me na tu tharaxila-na mwaidu, na
And.DS 1SG avoid and.SS 1SG go.down jump-1SG down.there and.DS
hla thu tho-nuat me hla khabwe: [...]
3PL make call-mouth and.SS say
'But then, I avoid them and jump away and then they call and say: [...]'
Bril (2004)

However, we also find examples, which show that SR marking in Nêlêmwa is non-canonical. Hence, Bril (2004) argues that these markers encode topic-(dis)continuity

(16) a.  $I_i$  oda Teâ Pwayili $_i$  shi Teâ Ovaac $_j$  me  $i_j$  khabwe [...] 3SG go.up Teâ Pwayili side Teâ Ovaac and.SS 3SG say ushi-n a Teâ Ovaac $_i$ ...

BEN-POSS.3SG A Teâ Ovaac
'Teâ Pwayili goes up to Teâ Ovaac and Teâ Ovaac tells him...'

# 3 Interim Summary

All five languages show a very homogeneous picture. The alleged SR systems behaves identical with respect to three independent parameters:

- These five languages are the only ones in which we find SR marking in coordination of full-fledged clauses.
- These five languages are the only ones in which the SR morpheme itself is a conjunction and not a verbal affix.
- These five languages all exhibit a great amount non-canonical use of the alleged SR-marking.<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore it is remarkable that these three parameters not only pattern cross-linguistically but also within a language. Three of the languages in question exhibit SR marking in subordinate and coordinate clauses and even in these language the parameters always go hand in hand. SR in subordinate clauses is always canonical and it is always expressed by a bound morpheme. SR in coordinate clauses is always non-canonical and is always expressed by a free morpheme.

- $\Rightarrow$  Although these three parameters are in principle completely independent of each other, they always go hand in hand. This suggests that the alleged cases of SR marking in coordinate clauses are in fact a completely different phenomenon.
  - ⇒ A classification as a distinct phenomenon would yield several advantages:
  - These five languages would no longer be exotic exceptions to a otherwise quite homogeneous phenomenon.
  - Treating the observed phenomena as a category different from SR marking, would capture the intuitions of the authors of the respective grammars (Dahlstrom 1982; Goddard 1985; Bril 2004)
  - The definition of switch-reference can be confined in several dimensions at once:
    - SR marking could uniformly treated as a verbal category.
    - The application of SR systems would be restricted to contexts of subordinate clauses and clause chains.
  - One would have an elegant explanation for the different behaviour of the same phenomenon in different syntactic contexts in a certain language.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>As has been amply noted in the literature, these languages are not the only ones, which exhibit non-canonical use, but nevertheless it is remarkable that all of them do.

# 4 Tight and Loose Coordination

One of the languages claimed to have SR marking in coordinate clauses is Nêlêmwa, a Oceanic language from New Caledonia. Oceanic languages do not have SR marking generally. However, they do have a great number of conjunctions to conjoin different categories and express a number of different relations. One of these relational differences is *Tight* and *loose coordination*.

The difference can be nicely illustrated with NP coordination: The tight coordinator is used when there is a tight connection between the two conjuncts, that is when they form a natural pair. The loose coordinator is used when the two conjuncts do not have a tight connection or when the conjunction is more accidental.

- (17)  $p\bar{a}$  näj $\acute{a}$  mä  $p\acute{a}$ rui ART months and years 'months and years'
- (18) i nä-wë bau i nä-wâji the taro fields and the sugercane fields 'the taro fields and the sugercane fields'

Paicî (Moyse-Faurie and Lynch 2004)

(19) gu mää ge you and I (as a couple) gu mê ge you and I (no strong relationship)

Xârâcùù (Moyse-Faurie and Lynch 2004)

These coordinators are also used in predicate and clause coordination. Some languages however have begun to use only the tight coordinator in cases of predicate coordination:

(21) È mwââ paá mê mä pūrö 3SG then take DIR and cook 'She brings and cooks them'

Paicî (Rivierre 1983)

Some languages maintained the distinction between tight and loose coordination across the board with the of nouns, predicates and clauses. One of these languages is Tawala:

(23)

- (22) ama-ta po hina-ta father-1.PL and mother-1.PL 'Our father and our mother'
- a kenduluma ma hina-na
  3.SG wife and mother-3.SG
  'His wife and his mother'

Tawala (Ezard (1984))

- (24) Tawala clausal coordination
  - a. Apo a-ne-nae po a-ne-nae po u meyagai...

    FUT 1.SG-DUR-go and 1.SG-DUR-go and LOC village
    'I went and went and (came) to the village'
  - b. I-na-togo a-mae ma i-na-dumol-i naka a-nae 3.SG-POT-blow 1.SG-stay and 3.SG-POT-calm-3.SG that 1.SG-go 'If it's windy I'll stay, but if it's calm I'll go'
  - c. To-nae po hi-gohili-yai 1.EXCL.PL-go and 3.PL-surprise-1.EXCL.PL 'We went and they surprised us'
  - d. Pona a-nonol-i ma gamo-u i-witai language 1.SG-hear-3.SG and mouth-1.SG 3.SG-heavy 'I can hear the language but can't speak it'

Ezard (1997)

According to Ezard, the difference between *po* and *ma* in clausal coordination is the following:

Po "indicates a close connection between two clauses - sometimes a repetition of the predicate, sometimes the identity of the subject, always agreement in polarity" whereas ma "marks a clause as being in contrast to the previous clause – a change of subject, mood or spatio-temporal setting, polarity" (Ezard (1997:247ff))

This is same situation we found in Lakhota, Yakunytjatjara, Pitjantjatjara, Kiowa and Nêlêmwa, the only difference being that in Tawala, we can draw a connection and show that these two conjunctions are also used in tight and loose NP-coordination, which is something that can hardly be reanalysed as SR marking.

Another language where we find the the whole range of uses of both coordinators is Mangap-Mbula, also an Austronesian language spoken in Papua New Guinea.

- (25) a. mben ma aigule
  night and day
  'Night and day.' or 'All the time'
  - serembat mi tuumbu mi zeere...
     Sweet.potato and pitpit and edible.green.plant 'Sweet potatoes, pitpit and edible green leaves...'

Mangap-Mbula (Bugenhagen 1995)

The coordinator ma conjoins natural pairs as in (25-a) while mi conjoins accidental combinations. Similarly with predicate and clause coordination:

- (26) a. Am-kan ma am-win mi am-keene.

  1PL.EXCL-eat and 1PL.EXCL-drink and 1PL.EXCL-sleep
  'We ate and drank and slept.'
  - b. Aŋ-kam Aibike ma am-la mokleene.

    1SG-get Aibike and 1PL.EXCL-go garden
    'I took Aibike with me to the garden.'
  - c. Ni i-miili mi guraaba kini i-la Koobo. He 3SG-return and friend LOC.3SG 3SG-go Aramot 'He returned and his friend went to Aramot Island'

Mangap-Mbula (Bugenhagen 1995)

As (26-a), an instance of predicate coordination, shows, eating and drinking is a natural combination while eating, drinking and sleeping is not. With clause coordination, the difference between ma and mi encodes whether the two clauses express "successive aspects of a single event" or "distinct events" (Bugenhagen (1995:159)).

Again, the distinction is the same with the languages we saw in Section 2. And again, we find that since the conjunctions are the same as in tight and loose NP coordination, this suggests that we are not dealing with SR marking but rather with something different.

## 5 Summary

I intended to show that...

- ... all languages claimed to have SR marking in coordinate clauses behave remarkably similar with respect to the form and function of their alleged SR markers.
- ... this suggests that, in these cases, we are dealing with a different phenomenon with different properties.
- ... what we are dealing with is the phenomenon of Tight and Loose Coordination, which is already known from Oceanic Languages.

Assuming two distinct phenomena enables us to

- ... confine the definition of switch-reference in several dimensions at once.
- ... explain why the seemingly exotic cases of SR marking in coordinate clauses are taken by themselves surprisingly homogeneous.
- ... account for the fact that even within one language the parameters pattern according to the dichotomy I proposed.

## 6 Consequences

- The results of this talk suggest that SR marking is sensitive to the syntactic configuration it applies to
  - ⇒ This may, depending on one's assumptions about pragmatics, be interpreted as an argument for the view that there is a syntactic or semantic basis underlying the phenomenon of SR marking.
- The results of the preceding sections suggest that there is a substantial difference between clausal coordination and clause chaining constructions.
  - ⇒ Otherwise, the clearcut distinction between configurations which allow for SR marking and those which do not would be unexpected.
- Generative approaches which analyze SR marking as a syntactic phenomenon based on the concept of c-command (i.e. binding, agreement, movement) can still claim to be cross-linguistically valid inasmuch as they are not invalidated by obvious cases of SR marking in clausal coordination.
  - ⇒ Nevertheless these theories still face the problem that clause chains are at least to a certain degree (see previous bullet) coordinate in nature.

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## Abbreviations in addition to the Leipzig Glossing Rules:

ANT anterior

CERT certainly (from Goddard (1985))

DIR directional
DS different subject

EMPH emphatic INCH inchoative

INTENT intentional (from Goddard (1985))

MED medial

NC not given by Hale (1992)

REM.PAST remnant past
SR switch-reference
SS same subject