

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-04088-5 - English Coordinate Constructions: A Processing
Perspective on Constituent Order
Arne Lohmann
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

English Coordinate Constructions

Drawing on extensive corpus-based research, this book explores the nature and behaviour of coordinate constructions in three case studies, covering order in copulative compounds, binomials (bare phrases) and more complex phrases. Historically, research on order in coordination has concentrated on so-called irreversible binomials, but Lohmann's research places significant focus on reversible ad hoc coordination and also presents a detailed comparison between irreversible and reversible binomials.

This book uses empirical analyses to explore a wide range of factors, from pragmatic to phonetic influences on the ordering process. It also offers readers a processing perspective on the results obtained, and puts forth a processing explanation for the characteristics of irreversible binomials.

The book is ideal for researchers and advanced students working in English linguistics, syntax and psycholinguistics, and due to the multifactorial methodology applied, it will be of particular interest to quantitatively minded corpus linguists.

ARNE LOHMANN is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of English at the University of Vienna.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-04088-5 - English Coordinate Constructions: A Processing
 Perspective on Constituent Order
 Arne Lohmann
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

STUDIES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

General editor

Merja Kytö (Uppsala University)

Editorial Board

Bas Aarts (University College London), John Algeo (University of Georgia), Susan Fitzmaurice (University of Sheffield), Christian Mair (University of Freiburg), Charles F. Meyer (University of Massachusetts)

The aim of this series is to provide a framework for original studies of English, both present-day and past. All books are based securely on empirical research, and represent theoretical and descriptive contributions to our knowledge of national and international varieties of English, both written and spoken. The series covers a broad range of topics and approaches, including syntax, phonology, grammar, vocabulary, discourse, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics, and is aimed at an international readership.

Already published in this series:

Raymond Hickey: *Eighteenth-Century English: Ideology and Change*

Charles Boberg: *The English Language in Canada: Status, History and Comparative Analysis*

Thomas Hoffmann: *Preposition Placement in English: A Usage-based Approach*

Claudia Claridge: *Hyperbole in English: A Corpus-based Study of Exaggeration*

Päivi Pahta and Andreas H. Jucker (eds.): *Communicating Early English Manuscripts*

Irma Taavitsainen and Päivi Pahta (eds.): *Medical Writing in Early Modern English*

Colette Moore: *Quoting Speech in Early English*

David Denison, Ricardo Bermúdez-Otero, Chris McCully and Emma Moore (eds.): *Analysing Older English*

Jim Feast: *Premodifiers in English: Their Structure and Significance*

Steven Jones, M. Lynne Murphy, Carita Paradis and Caroline Willners: *Antonyms in English: Construals, Constructions and Canonicity*

Christiane Meierkord: *Interactions across Englishes: Linguistic Choices in Local and International Contact Situations*

Haruko Momma: *From Philology to English Studies: Language and Culture in the Nineteenth Century*

Raymond Hickey (ed.): *Standards of English: Codified Varieties around the World*

Benedikt Szmrecsanyi: *Grammatical Variation in British English Dialects: A Study in Corpus-Based Dialectometry*

Daniel Schreier and Marianne Hundt (eds.): *English as a Contact Language*

Bas Aarts, Joanne Close, Geoffrey Leech and Sean Wallis (eds.): *The Verb Phrase in English: Investigating Recent Language Change with Corpora*

Martin Hilpert: *Constructional Change in English: Developments in Allomorphy, Word Formation, and Syntax*

Jakob R. E. Leimgruber: *Singapore English: Structure, Variation and Usage*

Christoph Rühlemann: *Narrative in English Conversation*

Dagmar Deuber: *English in the Caribbean: Variation, Style and Standards in Jamaica and Trinidad*

Jock O. Wong: *The Culture of Singapore English*

Eva Berlage: *Noun Phrase Complexity in English*

Nicole Dehé: *Parentheticals in Spoken English: The Syntax–Prosody Relation*

Anita Auer, Daniel Schreier and Richard J. Watts (eds.): *Letter Writing and Language Change*

Marianne Hundt (ed.): *Late Modern English Syntax*

Arne Lohmann: *English Coordinate Constructions: A Processing Perspective on Constituent Order*

Earlier titles not listed are also available

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-04088-5 - English Coordinate Constructions: A Processing
Perspective on Constituent Order
Arne Lohmann
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

English Coordinate Constructions

A Processing Perspective on Constituent Order

ARNE LOHMANN

University of Vienna



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-04088-5 - English Coordinate Constructions: A Processing
 Perspective on Constituent Order
 Arne Lohmann
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107040885

© Arne Lohmann 2014

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lohmann, Arne,

English coordinate constructions : a processing perspective on constituent order / Arne Lohmann.

pages cm – (Studies in English Language)

ISBN 978-1-107-04088-5 (hardback)

1. English language – Coordinate constructions – Case studies. 2. English language – Grammar – Case studies. 3. Grammar, Comparative and general – Coordinate constructions – Case studies. 4. Construction grammar – Case studies I. Title.

PE1385.L64 2014

425–dc23

2014008647

ISBN 978-1-107-04088-5 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of tables</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Aims of the study	1
1.2 Coordinate constructions in English	5
1.2.1 Definitions and general properties	5
1.2.2 A typological perspective on coordination in English	10
1.3 Why study order in English coordinate constructions?	14
1.4 Delimiting the scope of the analysis	15
1.5 Theoretical and disciplinary orientation	17
1.6 Organisation of the present study	19
2. Previous research on ordering in coordinate constructions	20
2.1 Research on irreversible binomials in linguistics	20
2.2 Coordinate constructions in language production research	23
2.3 Methodological approaches	25
2.3.1 Impressionistic approaches	26
2.3.2 Experimental studies	27
2.3.3 Corpus-linguistic approaches	28
2.4 Limitations of previous attempts	29
3. Variables and hypotheses	31
3.1 Pragmatic and semantic variables	31
3.1.1 Information status	32
3.1.2 Focus and emphasis	32
3.1.3 Iconic sequencing	33
3.1.4 Extra-linguistic hierarchy	35
	v

vi Contents

3.1.5	Conceptual accessibility	36
3.1.6	The <i>Me-First</i> -principle and other reductive explanations	40
3.2	Factors related to the stress pattern of coordinate constructions	41
3.2.1	Rhythm	41
3.2.2	Avoidance of the second constituent to bear ultimate stress	42
3.2.3	Accentuation of the second constituent and syllable weight	43
3.3	Length and complexity	44
3.3.1	Number of syllables	44
3.3.2	Number of phonemes	45
3.3.3	Number of morphemes (morphological complexity)	45
3.3.4	Number of syntactic nodes (syntactic complexity)	45
3.4	Further variables related to phonological and phonetic length	46
3.4.1	Vowel length	47
3.4.2	Voicing of the final consonant	48
3.4.3	Final consonant obstruency	49
3.5	Other phonological and phonetic variables	49
3.5.1	Number of final consonants	49
3.5.2	Vowel quality	50
3.5.3	Number of initial consonants	52
3.5.4	Initial consonant obstruency	53
3.6	Frequency	54
3.7	Reductive explanations	54
3.8	Variables and the different levels of analysis	55
4.	Data and method	58
4.1	Data	58
4.1.1	Sources of data and sampling	58
4.1.2	Identifying irreversible cases in corpus data	60
4.2	Method	62
4.2.1	Advantages of multifactorial over monofactorial approaches	62
4.2.2	The statistical analysis of ordering phenomena	63
4.2.3	The method applied: logistic regression with scalar variables	68
4.2.4	Key notions in regression modelling	70

	Contents	vii
4.3 Operationalisation and data coding		71
4.3.1 Pragmatic and semantic variables		71
4.3.2 Factors related to the stress pattern of coordinate constructions		72
4.3.3 Length and complexity		73
4.3.4 Further constraints related to phonological and phonetic length		75
4.3.5 Other phonological and phonetic variables		77
4.3.6 Frequency		78
5. Order of compound constituents		79
5.1 Background and previous research		79
5.2 Specific aims and hypotheses		81
5.3 Data extraction		82
5.4 Operationalisation details		84
5.5 Results		85
5.6 Interim summary		88
6. Order of bare noun phrases (binomials)		89
6.1 Background and previous research		89
6.2 Specific aims and hypotheses		90
6.3 Data extraction		90
6.4 Operationalisation details		92
6.5 Results		93
6.6 Interim summary		95
7. Order of complex noun phrases		96
7.1 Background and previous research		97
7.2 Specific aims and hypotheses		98
7.3 Data extraction		98
7.4 Operationalisation details		99
7.5 Results		101
7.6 Interim summary		103
8. Results		104
8.1 Overview of results obtained		104
8.2 Results of individual constraints		110
8.2.1 Pragmatic and semantic variables		110
8.2.2 Variables pertaining to the stress pattern of coordinate constructions		112
8.2.3 Length and complexity		115
8.2.4 Further variables related to phonological and phonetic length		119
8.2.5 Other phonological and phonetic variables		121
8.2.6 Frequency		122

viii Contents

8.3	Revisiting reductive explanations	122
8.4	Interim summary	126
9.	A comparative discussion of the results	128
9.1	At a glance: multi-dimensional scaling	128
9.2	Comparing reversible and irreversible binomials	130
9.3	Comparing the different levels of analysis	138
9.4	Different coordinators and ordering: <i>and</i> versus <i>or</i>	141
9.5	Interim summary	143
10.	A processing perspective	144
10.1	Implications for language production models	144
10.2	Coordination in an interactive activation model	149
10.2.1	Production as the flow of activation	150
10.2.2	Serial order in an interactive activation model	153
10.2.3	Competing for selection	157
10.2.4	The variables and the activation of constituents	158
10.2.5	Correspondence between layer and effect size	168
10.2.6	Activation differences and empirical results	173
10.3	The processing and representation of irreversible binomials	174
10.3.1	Irreversible binomials and models of idiom representation	174
10.3.2	A processing explanation for the characteristics of irreversibles	179
10.4	Interim summary	181
11.	Implications and outlook	183
11.1	Implications for the study of other alternations in English	183
11.2	Performance–grammar correspondence and typological perspectives	189
12.	Summary and conclusion	194
	<i>Appendix: Abbreviations of variables used in statistical models</i>	199
	<i>References</i>	200
	<i>Index</i>	213

Figures

1.1	Structure of coordinate constructions	<i>page 6</i>
8.1	Average coefficients of ordering constraints across samples	107
8.2	Percentage of correct predictions of alternative models	109
9.1	Results of multi-dimensional scaling	129
9.2	Average effect sizes of ordering constraints in irreversible and reversible binomials	132
9.3	Frequency/length of constituents by position in irreversible and reversible binomials	134
9.4	Semantic constraints in irreversible and reversible binomials	135
9.5	Length and frequency differences in irreversible and reversible binomials	135
9.6	Alliteration in irreversible and reversible binomials	137
9.7	Ordering constraints across linguistic levels	139
10.1	Grammatical encoding in the model by Bock and Levelt (1994)	145
10.2	Intra-phrasal serial order in the node structure theory of sequencing	154
10.3	Word onsets of <i>crime</i> and <i>court</i>	167
10.4	The influences of ordering constraints in a layered network	169
10.5	Activation of an irreversible binomial in the superlemma model	176

Tables

3.1	Variables and the different levels of analysis	<i>page</i> 57
4.1	Data sources used in the present study	59
4.2	Coding of scalar variables	69
4.3	Hypothesised ordering preferences with regard to voicing of the final consonant	76
5.1	Samples of copulative compounds	84
5.2	Results of the regression analysis for two samples of copulative compounds (minimal adequate models)	85
6.1	Samples employed for the analysis of binomials	92
6.2	Results of the regression analysis for type samples of binomials (minimal adequate models)	93
6.3	Results of the regression analysis for token samples of binomials (minimal adequate models)	93
7.1	Results of the regression analysis for samples of complex NPs (minimal adequate models)	102
8.1	Overview of results	105
8.2	Morphological complexity (binomials)	117
8.3	Average coefficients of length and syntactic complexity	118
8.4	Predictions of FREQ cross-tabulated with CONACC and LENGTHSYL	124

Acknowledgements

This book grew out of my doctoral dissertation, which I completed at the University of Hamburg while being employed there as a junior researcher. I am immensely grateful to Thomas Berg, my thesis advisor, not only for his academic advice, but also for his words of encouragement when I most needed them.

I thank my colleagues in Hamburg and Vienna for their helpful comments on earlier versions of this study. Florian Dolberg especially needs to be singled out, as he was always willing to interrupt whatever he was doing to discuss what I had on my mind, although I could not always reciprocate the favour. I am grateful to the support of the DFG-funded project on frequency effects in Freiburg (Project 1624/1) for giving me the opportunity to attend a number of inspiring workshops.

Many people have contributed to the successful completion of this book, by sharing their ideas on language with me, as educators, colleagues, collaborators or simply as friends. Ning Hilpert deserves credit for awakening my interest in linguistics and for introducing me to other friendly people sharing that passion. I would like to mention, in alphabetical order: Stefan Gries, Martin Hilpert, Evelien Keizer, Chris Koops, Britta Mondorf, Marion Neubauer, Klaus-Uwe Panther, Günter Radden, Katerina Stathi, Anatol Stefanowitsch, Tayo Takada, Daniel Wiechmann and Arne Zeschel.

Furthermore, I am grateful to Merja Kytö, the editor of this book series, for her feedback and advice. A word of thanks also goes to Helen Barton at Cambridge University Press for assisting me in all practical matters of publishing this book and generally for her positive attitude.

Most importantly I thank Helen, my wife, for all the loving support without which writing this book would have been impossible, and I thank Elsa for making life so much more exciting.