

EXTRACTION FROM NP Y OR Y NOT

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I. Introduction

In French, there are two clitics that Kayne 1975 calls “pro-PP’s,” these are the clitics *y* and *en*. They are so called because they correspond to PP’s, and not to NP’s as do the other French clitics, *y* corresponds to *à* + NP, while *en* corresponds to *de* + NP. Both of these clitics can be arguments to a verb or to an adjective, as in 1 through 4. Although *en* can be a nominal argument (5), it is accepted that the clitic *y* may not be an argument to a noun (Godard 1992, Kupferman 1991), however, there are some data that suggest that extraction from NP is not entirely impossible for *y*. In this paper, I will show these data and argue that extraction of *y* from an NP is only possible when the source of *y* is very transparent, that is, when it is clearly neither a locative nor a verbal or adjectival argument.

- 1 Claude [_{VP} parle de son travail] Claude *en* parle
Claude talks about his work Claude about-it talks
Claude talks about his work Claude talks about it
- 2 Claude [_{VP} pense à son travail] Claude *y* pense
Claude thinks about her work Claude about-it thinks
Claude thinks about her work Claude thinks about it
- 3 Claude est [_{AP} fier de son travail] Claude *en* est fier
Claude is proud of his work Claude of-it is proud
Claude is proud of his work Claude is proud of it
- 4 Claude est [_{AP} fidèle à son travail] Claude *y* est fidèle
Claude is faithful to her work Claude to-it is faithful
Claude is faithful to her work Claude is faithful to it
- 5 [_{NP} La descente du village] est dangereuse
The descent from the village is dangerous
The descent from the village is dangerous
La descente *en* est dangereuse
The descent from-it is dangerous
The descent from it is dangerous

The clitic *y* presents certain problems. In an earlier paper (Ossipov 1995), I argued that there are in fact two *y* clitics: one is attached to the verb by means of

movement (all clitics in French appear in pre-verbal position, except in affirmative exclamations) Thus one is the argument *y*, so-called because it is extracted from argument position to a verb or adjective. It is frequently equivalent to *à* + NP, although some other prepositions are possible, such as *en* 'in, at' (not to be confused with the homophonous clitic). The other clitic *y* is the locative clitic that is base-generated on the verb. It shows location, and can thus correspond to any locative preposition, including *à* (*dans* 'in', *en*, *sur* 'on', *sous* 'under', *chez* 'at', etc.) + NP. These two clitics are homophonous, which is what clouds the analysis and makes the source of the clitic unclear.

In this paper, I will examine data that show when *y* may not be extracted from NP, when *y* could be extracted from NP, and when *y* clearly must be extracted from NP.

II *Y* may not be extracted from NP

The following sentences show instances where extraction of *y* from NP is unacceptable, although the locative reading for the clitic is available.

6 Je prépare un voyage à la campagne *J'y prépare un voyage
I prepare a trip to the country I to-it prepare a trip
I prepare a trip to the country I prepare a trip to it

7 La descente au village est dangereuse *La descente *y* est dangereuse
The descent to the village is dangerous The descent to-it is dangerous
The descent to the village is dangerous The descent to it is dangerous

In both of these sentences, although odd, it is possible to have a reading such that the *y* has a locative meaning, because the action of the verb can take place in a location. In that case, (6) means that the preparation for the trip takes place in the country, and (7) means that the village has some kind of dangerous descent located within its geographical limits. These sentences show that the locative *y* will override a nominal argument interpretation for the clitic.

III Ambiguous sentences

The ambiguity in these sentences resides in the fact that the source of *y* is not immediately apparent. While in some of the following sentences the locative reading is unavailable, it is unclear how to analyze the verb phrase. That is, the *y* could have its source within the VP or within the NP.

8 Je ferai un voyage à la campagne J'y ferai un voyage
I will-make a trip to the country I to-it will-make a trip
I'll make a trip to the country I'll make a trip to it

- 9 La semaine prochaine, nous ferons un petit saut a Prescott
 The next week we will-make a little hop to Prescott
 Next week, we'll make a short hop to Prescott
 La semaine prochaine, nous y ferons un petit saut
 The next week, we to-it will-make a little hop
 Next week, we'll make a short hop to it

While the locative reading is not possible here ((8) would mean that I will take a trip once I get to the country and (9) that I will hop when I get to Prescott), neither is it clear that the *y* is not a verbal argument Kupferman 1991 suggests that the structure for these sentences is V-NP-PP, with the verb *faire* 'to make' as some kind of ditransitive While *faire* does not normally take an indirect object, there are sentences such as (10) that indicate it is a possibility

- 10 Il a fait signe à ses amis Il leur a fait signe
 He has made sign to his friends He to-them has made sign
 He signaled to his friends He signaled to them

However, neither is it clear that extraction is not from within the NP If *faire* is not a ditransitive verb, then there is no other source for the *y* except from within the NP

In the following sentences, Kupferman argues that, because the verbs are passive, and both are ditransitive, the clitic *y* is not extracted from the NP, but is the dative argument of the verb

- 11 La réponse à ta demande a été donnée La reponse y a été donnée
 The answer to your request has been given The response to-it has been given
 The answer to your request has been given The response to it has been given
- 12 L'accès à cette piece est interdite L'accès y est interdite
 The access to this room is forbidden The access to-it is forbidden
 Access to this room is forbidden Access to it is forbidden

The d-structure for (12) would resemble (13)

- 13 est interdit [_{NP} l'accès] [_{PP} à la pièce]

However, this is unlikely, since the dative clitic is *lui* or *leur*, even if the NP is inanimate Note the following

- 14 Qu'allez-vous faire pour embellir le mur?
 What are you going to do to decorate the wall?
 On va commencer par lui donner un bon coup de peinture
 We go to start by to-him to give a good coat of paint

*On va commencer par y donner un bon coup de peinture
 We go to start by to-it to give a good coat of paint
 We'll start by giving it a good coat of paint

Furthermore, there are semantic reasons for not accepting Kupferman's analysis in (13), the interdiction applies to anyone who tries to enter the room, and not to the room itself. It is the latter, incorrect, interpretation that obtains if the PP is a verbal argument.

The following sentences show that the y must be extracted from the NP because both the dative and accusative argument positions are filled. There is no other source for y because the locative reading is also unavailable.

15 On leur a donné la réponse à ta demande
 We to-them have given the answer to your request
 We've given them the answer to your request
 On leur y a donné la réponse
 We to-them to-it have given the answer
 We've given them the answer to it

16 L'accès au film est interdit au moins de quinze ans
 The access to the film is forbidden to less than fifteen years
 Access to the film is forbidden to those under fifteen
 L'accès leur y est interdit
 The access to-them to-it is forbidden
 Access to it is forbidden to them

The only truly ambiguous sentences then are those that have the verb faire in them, and then, extraction from the VP is only possible if one accepts that faire is ditransitive. Otherwise, the y must be extracted from the NP.

IV Unambiguous sentences

There are some sentences where the y is clearly not a locative or a verbal argument, but must have its source within the NP. Note that in these sentences, the verb is an experienter verb (17-19), which does not easily take a locative adverb. If the clitic in (19) is the locative y, then the meaning of the sentence would be that I like people when I am in Paris and not otherwise, an unnatural reading.

17 Je trouve la réponse à ta demande adequate J'y trouve la réponse adequate
 I find the answer to your request sufficient I to-it find the answer sufficient
 I find the answer to your request sufficient I find the answer to it sufficient

18 Je déteste le voyage à Paris Je y deteste le voyage
 I hate the trip to Paris I to-it hate the trip
 I hate the trip to Paris I hate the trip to it

19 J'aime les gens en France J'y aime les gens
 I like the people in France I in-it like the people
 I like the people in France I like the people there

20 Sa participation au congrès est surprenante
 Her participation in the meeting is surprising
 Her participation in the meeting is surprising
 Sa participation y est surprenante
 Her participation in-it is surprising
 Her participation in it is surprising

In all of these sentences, the locative reading is impossible (17) or very odd (18-20), and the verbal or adjectival argument is unavailable Kupferman (1991 143-44) lists other sentences where the only possible source for *y* is within the NP

- 21 [Cette pièce], l'accès *y*, est commode
 This room the access to-it is convenient
 Thus room, access to it is convenient
- 22 [La demande qu'il a formulée], la réponse *y*, est négative
 The request that he has made the answer to-it was negative
 The request he made, the response to it was negative
- 23 [Les sports de combat], une bonne aptitude *y*, était requise
 The games of combat a good aptitude to-them was required
 Combat games, a good aptitude for them was required
- 24 [Les postes les plus prestigieux], la promotion *y*, était devenue possible
 The jobs the most prestigious the promotion to-them has become possible
 The most prestigious jobs, promotion to them had become possible
- 25 [Ces produits-là], une allergie *y*, était apparue
 these products there an allergy to-them had appeared
 These products, an allergy to them had appeared

In (21-23), the adjective does not take an à + NP argument, which is usually the source for *y* In (24-25), a locative reading is only possible without the Left Dislocated NP, which must be co-indexed with a clitic inside the sentence

V Conclusion

If the clitic *y* can have a locative meaning, it will have that meaning If it can be a verbal or adjectival argument, it will be such an argument All other possible interpretations of *y* must be unavailable before it can have a nominal argument

interpretation With these constraints, extraction of *y* from NP is only possible if the verb heading the VP which contains the NP cannot easily have a locative adverb, examples of such verbs are such as experimenter verbs Extraction from NP is not impossible, but extremely rare

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