

Abstract

In Bangla, an Eastern Indic language, structure A is not ill-formed for all values of V:

(A) [... [...V₁te] V₂te], where V is a Verb and *te* is the infinitival ending

It is ill-formed only when V₁ = V₂. Thus, (1) is fine, but (2) is out; we call this the Identical Infinitives Filter:

(1) ram SomeSke bonnar kOtha bolte dite caYni

Ram Somesh.Dat flood.Gen about tell.Inf let.Inf want.Pa.Neg

'Ram didn't want to let Somesh talk about the flood'

(2) *ram SomeSke bonnar kOtha bolte bolte caYni

Ram Somesh.Dat flood.Gen about tell.Inf tell.Inf want.Pa.Neg

'Ram didn't want to tell Somesh to talk about the flood'

Is the Identical Infinitives Filter a processing effect along the lines of the ban on excessive centre embedding? Or does it reflect principles of grammar? Bearing in view the fact that the template V₁te V₂te in Bangla (where V₁=V₂) is the canonical form of the progressive adverbial participle, this study tries to situate the phenomenon on the map of familiar processes in grammar and in psycholinguistics.

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