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## Backward deletion viewed systematically

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When it comes to backward deletion, i.e. cases of ellipsis where the gap precedes its antecedent, the existing literature appears to focus on mainly two aspects. Either it discusses Leftward Deletion (LD), traditionally known as Right Node Raising (RNR), hence an ellipsis type that is defined, amongst other things, by the very property of operating backwards, or it deals with the Backward Anaphora Constraint (BAC), stating that a gap may precede but not c-command its antecedent (for overviews cf. Reich 2011, Aelbrecht 2015). What is lacking is a systematic survey on backward deletion, varying at least the following factors:

- type of ellipsis
- type of clause linkage (coordination vs. subordination)
- in case of subordination: order of constituent clause vs. rest.

When checking all combinations of the factors listed above, the two most important initial findings are the following.

First, some sentences are potentially ungrammatical although they fulfil the BAC (and do not appear to violate any other constraint), e.g. Gapping in German (1a) and Pseudogapping in English (1b).

- (1) a. \*Gonzo ~~aß~~ die Erbsen und Lola aß die Karotten  
Gonzo ~~ate~~ the peas and Lola ate the carrots  
intended: ‘Gonzo ate the peas and Lola ate the carrots.’
- b. \*Sue will ~~have~~ the lamb, and John will have the salmon.  
(Coppock n.y.:3)  
?Although Sue will ~~have~~ the lamb, John will have the salmon.  
?John will ~~have~~ the salmon although Sue will have the lamb.

Second, the reverse case, i.e. grammatical backward deletion not observing the BAC, has not been observed.

The talk will present the combinations of factors more thoroughly and speculate on how the data may be accounted for. In particular, it is discussed whether the BAC has to be complemented by a second constraint along the lines of “realize some semantically rich verb in the first part”.

**References:** • Aelbrecht, L. (2015). Ellipsis. In T. Kiss & A. Alexiadou (eds.), *Syntax: Theory and analysis/1* (HSK 42.1). Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, 562–594. • Coppock, E. (n.y.). Gapping: In defense of deletion. <https://linguistics.northwestern.edu/documents/award-winners/linguistics-undergraduate-award-past-winner-coppock.pdf> • Reich, I. (2011) Ellipsis. In C. Maienborn, K. von Stechow & P. Portner (eds.), *Semantics/2* (HSK 33.2). Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, 1849–1874.