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## Tracing the patterns of splittability of determiners and N in Old Saxon and Old Norse

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**Summary:** This paper draws on new, originally extracted data from Old Saxon (OS) and on established data from Old Norse (ON). We review evidence tentatively suggesting that both languages featured Left Branch Extraction (LBE) and lacked articles (on the relation, cf. i.a. Uriagereka 1988: 115; Corver 1990; Bošković 2005). Historically, both underwent morphological change in that a weakening of primarily case inflection on nouns took place, cf. i.a. the useful survey by Delsing (2014) on ON. Syntactically both assumed article systems over time and suffered the loss of LBE. The grammaticalization of definiteness slightly precedes the deterioration of morphological case which we capture by a formal reanalysis which accounts for the emergence of obligatory determiners and the delay wrt morphological case (cf. Faarlund 2009 on the former without, however, taking into account the latter). Moreover, we make a novel descriptive generalization that exceeds narrow diachronic and Germanic confines: Next to previously established descriptive conditions, i.e. lack of articles and morphologically manifested nominal concord (Reeve 2019) LBE is available only in languages in which predicatively used APs exhibit agreement (cf. Alexeyenko & Zeijlstra, submitted, on related if distinct matters).

**Analysis:** We pursue a labeling-based approach adopting Blümel's (2024, 2025) extension of Chomsky's (2015) notion of weak and strong T to the nominal domain. Specifically, we analyze the nominalizing head in OS/ON as strong  $n_{str}$ , morphologically corresponding to the rich and varied gender and case inflection on the nouns. The successors of OS/ON feature weak  $n_{wk}$ , corresponding to the weakened or lost gender and case inflection on nouns. The historical trajectory is given in (1). (Analytical and derivational details will be given during the talk.)

(1)  $n_{str} \rightarrow n_{wk}$  (cf. Blümel 2025 on Latin vis-à-vis modern Romance)

**Outlook and new descriptive generalization:** During the talk we establish that both OS (Hock 2009) and ON (Nygaard 1905: 68) exhibited agreement in predicatively used APs – a pattern that generalizes across languages permitting LBE. Analytical options will be discussed.

**Selected References:** • Blümel, A. (2025). Revisiting diachronic change in the nominal domain from Latin to modern Romance. *Linguistic Variation* • Delsing, L.-O. (2014) Den stora katastrofen med för- och efterskalv: om kasussammanfallet i fornsvenska. In C. Falk & M. Bylin (eds.), *Studier i svensk språkhistoria* 12. • Lander, E. (2025) Verbal hyperbaton in the Viking Age runic inscriptions; *Scripta Islandica: Isländska Sällskapets Årsbok*, 5–38.