

Austro-Bavarian Adverbs of Place and Prepositional Case Change

Standard Austrian German is spoken by circa 9 million people within Austria and Italy, however, speakers from various areas can be easily distinguished by their regional dialect. The most prevalent dialect is Austro-Bavarian; which is spoken in Bavaria, South Tyrol and all of Austria excluding Vorarlberg which speaks an Alemannic dialect. The data here is of the Styrian variety; Styria is the second largest of the Austrian federal states and has a population of 1.2 million people. It is located in south-eastern Austria and shares borders with Slovenia as well as with the Austrian states of Burgenland, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, and Carinthia.

The orthography used is mostly standard German orthography with a few changes to represent phonological changes from High German. The alternations are as follows.

â = ɔ

ea = εɔ

ai = aε

au = ɔo

ie = i

Problem 1 Adverbs of Place

Like High German, the all Austro-Bavarian dialects have several alternations regarding adverbs of place.

How many classes of place adverbs are there?

What is causing this alternation?

Isolate any affix morphemes and the root form of these adverbs.

Ea geht aini 'He goes in (towards me)'

I geh aina 'I go in (away from you)'

I bleib drin 'I stay in'

Si geht aussu 'She goes out (towards me)'

I geh aussa 'I go out (away from you)'

Du bleibst draus 'you stay out'

I geh âbi ‘I go down (towards you)’
 Ea geht âba ‘He goes down (away from me)’
 Du stehst auffi ‘You stand up (towards me)’
 Si geht auffa ‘ She goes up (away from me)’
 Es steht drauf ‘It stands up’
 Du kommst aini ‘You come in (towards me)’
 Ea kommt aina ‘He comes in (away from me)’
 I sitz mia drin ‘I sit myself inside’
 Si kommt aussu ‘She comes out (towards me)’
 I komm aussa ‘I come out (away from you)’
 Ea steht draus ‘He stands outside’

Problem 2
 Prepositional Case Change

German has four case alternations, nominative, genitive, dative and accusative; it also has three genders, masculine, feminine, and neuter. These plus the plural correspond to its four articles. In order to help you understand and solve the alternation the following chart regarding the declension of the definite articles sans the genitive in Austrian German dialect is given.

	Masc.	Fem.	Neu.	Pl.
Nom.	dea	d	des	d
Dat.	dem	dea	dem	dea
Acc.	den	d	des	den

It seems that there is something influencing case change within the following data.

What is the explanation for this change?

Tell a story about the past tense in German and the reason behind the auxiliary verb alternation seen below.

Dea Bua liegt auf dem Bett.¹ ‘The boy lays on the bed’
 Dea Bua liegt des Buch auf des Bett. ‘The boy lays the book on the bed’
 *Dea Bua liegt auf des Bett.
 *Dea Bua liegt dem Buch auf des Bett.

¹ Although this alternation is maintained in the most regions of Styria; it is important to note that this is not a complete trend of all of Styria, particularly in the North-Western Ausseerland region there is no dative/accusative alternation clear, as both the dative and the accusative are expressed with the same forms.

*Dea Bua liegt des Buch auf dem Bett.

D Frau springt im² Wassa. ‘The woman jumps in the water’

D Frau springt in den Wassa. ‘The woman jumps into the water’

D Frau is in den Wassa gesprungen. ‘The woman jumped into the water’

*D Frau is im Wassa gesprungen.

D Frau hat im Wassa gesprungen. ‘The woman jumped in the water’

*D Frau hat in den Wassa gesprungen.

Instructor’s Notes

Problem 1

Adverbs of Place

Notes

There are 4 classes of place adverbs, the base form or preposition form, movement away from the speaker form, movement towards the speaker form and the rest form.

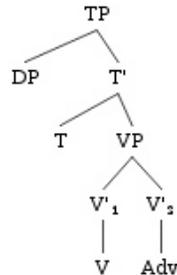
Base	Movement away from speaker	Movement towards speaker	Rest
in	aini	aina	drin
aus	aussi	aussa	draus
auf	auffi	auffa	drauf
âb	âbi	âba	

These can also be simplified to a root with various affixes. The affixes are as follows.

Movement away from speaker	Movement towards speaker	Rest
[+movement]	[+movement]	[-movement]
[+distance]	[-distance]	[Ø distance]
-i	-a	dr-

² It may be helpful to know that *im* is equivalent to in+dem

These adverbs are selected by the verb in regard to the features the verb has. Verbs may have the features [+/- movement], if a verb has the feature [+movement] then it must also be specified for [+/- distance]. Although none of these features affect the verb, they do affect which adverb of place the verb may select for.



The movement features of the V are able to be copied to the VP and then trickle down to the Adverb forcing them to agree for movement features and allow the correct adverb to be selected via spell-out rule.

Problem 2

Prepositional Case Change

This data shows another alternation involving verbs with [+/- movement] features.

The first alternation shown is that verbs with [+movement] always select for the D in the DP of their PP to be in the accusative case whereas those with the feature [-movement] always select for the dative case. We can write a spell-out rule which states this generalization and which adds the correct case feature to the verb. These features can be copied to the maximal projection and then trickle down into the PP complement of V. This then trickles to the DP, giving it the features [+/-movement] with their inherent case alternation specifications. The D has been given the correct number and gender features from the noun. These nominal features fuse with the movement features to create a giant feature bundle which will be spelled-out to the correct determiner.

The second set of data in this problem set also shows an interesting alternation. The past tense in German is formed through the use of an auxiliary and the past participle. Although previously it was stated that the features [+/- movement] although features of the verb had no affect on the verb form, and alternation is shown to be happening in the past tense, in what auxiliary the verb is able to select.

Verbs that are [+ movement] take the auxiliary *sein* whereas those verbs which as [-movement] take the auxiliary verb *haben*.

This problem set was designed with the aim to show that whether or not the verb entails physical movement from one place to another is something which German verbs are specified for. This specification may or may not be realized on the verb itself but is evident in the determiners and adverbs that any verb is able to select for.

All the data for this problem set was self-generated; however, I did use R. E. Kellner's book, *German Dialects: Phonology and Morphology with Selected Texts* as a reference.