Clause combining in spoken Latgalian: Dialectology meets Spoken Language Research

Nicole Nau
Wydział Neofilologii UAM
Katedra Skandynawistyki

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in the East of the Circum-Baltic area*
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STRUCTURE OF THIS TALK

❖ Dialects and spoken language

❖ Clause combining in spontaneous spoken vs. written language

❖ My data

❖ Some types of clause combining and their characteristics

❖ *ka* – multifunctional, polysemous, or vague?

DIALECTS AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE

❖ Dialects are used mostly in speaking.

❖ Dialects are used mostly in informal situations.

❖ Dialects are used mostly among known speakers in familiar contexts.

These facts influence the syntax of dialects.

When they change, the syntax changes.

SYNTAX OF SPOKEN AND WRITTEN LATGALIAN

❖ In more formal situations the syntax of spoken Latgalian is more similar to Latvian.

❖ The syntax of written Latgalian is more similar to the syntax of written Latvian than to the syntax of spontaneous spoken Latgalian.

❖ The syntax of spontaneous spoken Latgalian is in many points similar to the syntax of other spontaneous spoken languages.

This is most evident in clause combining.

REMEMBER:

There are **no sentences** in spontaneous spoken language.

Consequently:

There are **no complex sentences** in spontaneous spoken language.

There may be **clause complexes** – constructions of linked (connected) clauses.

(But how are these defined?)

CLAUSE COMBINING: REMARKS ON TERMINOLOGY

Clause linkage

1. **Clause combining**
   - Coordination
   - Adverbial subordination

2. Complementation

3. Relativization

4. Other and mixed types

CLAUSE LINKAGE IN SPONTANEOUS SPOKEN LANGUAGE

[…] the intricate arrangements of clauses mentioned above are typical of written language, whereas **spontaneous spoken language favours a looser arrangement of clauses**. This looser arrangement affects relative and **adverbial clauses more than complement clauses**.
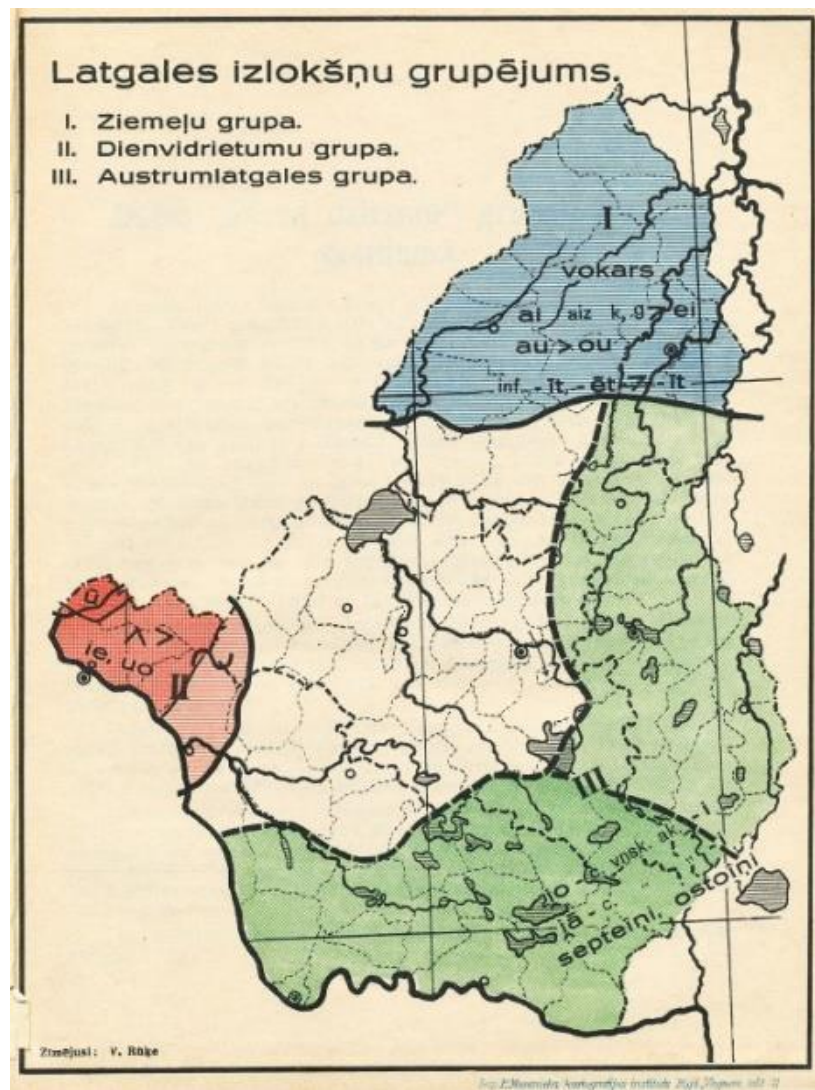
(Miller & Weinert 1998: 78-79)

SOME FINDINGS ABOUT ADVERBIAL CLAUSES IN SPOKEN ENGLISH (BIBER ET AL. 1999; MILLER & WEINERT 1998)

❖ few adverbial clauses of concession introduced by *although*;

❖ few adverbial clauses of reason introduced by *since* or *as*;

❖ few conditional clauses with the protasis in form of a question (*Were you to write to her, she would forgive you*)

MY DATA

❖ 9 (sociolinguistic) interviews from the TriMCo collection of spoken Latgalian, each about 30 minutes

❖ five female and five male speakers, age ca. 50-70, Latgalian aquired in early childhood

❖ Northern, Central, and Southern dialects

❖ recordings transcribed with ELAN, transcription based on standard orthography

❖ samples drawn from these recordings were analysed and main intonational features transcribed using symbols from Conversation Analysis (GAT 2)

LATGALIAN DIALECT GROUPS (RŪĶE 1939)

Latgales izlokšņu grupējums.

I. Ziemeļu grupa.
II. Dienvidrietumu grupa.
III. Austrumlatgales grupa.

Zīmējusi: V. Rūķe

ADVERBIAL CLAUSE: WORKING DEFINITION BY HETTERLE (2015)

Adverbial clauses are clausal entities that **modify**, in a very general sense, a verb phrase or main clause and explicitly express a **particular conceptual-semantic concept** such as simultaneity, anteriority, causality, conditionality, and the like.

WHAT MAKES A CLAUSE-COMPLEX? HOW ARE CLAUSES COMBINED?

❖ **semantic** / **rhetoric relation**: necessary, not sufficient

❖ **adjacency** – usual, but neither necessary nor sufficient;

❖ **prosodic** marking

❖ **lexical** marking (presence of **connectives**)

❖ **grammatical** marking, e.g. verb forms (tense, mood), forms of arguments

TYPES OF (ADVERBIAL) CLAUSE COMBINING ACCORDING TO THE PRESENCE OF CONNECTIVES

1. Asyndetic combination: no connective in either clause

2. Lexical marker in the adverbial clause («adverbial subordinator»)

3. Lexical markers in both clauses

4. Lexical marker in the «main» clause

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EXAMPLE 1: ŠNABEITE

(a)	i nikuo nasaslymu.	and I never fell ill
(b)	(2.7)	
(c)	↑nui (0.7)	yes
(d)	šņabeiti vysod īdzieru—(0.8)	I always had a drink
(e)	nu šņaba nadziers=	well I had not had drinks
(f)	byutu seņ nūmiers.	I would have died long ago

LESS CLEAR EXAMPLES (SPEAKER SD FROM VIĻAKA, NORTHERN BORDER OF LATAGALIAN)

[context: we were gathering cranberries]
es ĪRAUdzeju čūsku—
'I saw a snake'

vairuok rūku pi zemis pīlaist navaru vsjo.
'I can't put my hands down anymore, it's over'

[context: I can't shoot animals]
brīžu muotes stav PRĪKšā,
'does are standing in front [of me]'

es šaušu.
'I will shoot'

CONVERBS AND PARTICIPLES

Separate intonation unit:

Sample 2 (g) ***taisiedams*** *fundamentus*

Sample 3 (g) ***puordavuši*** *(0.6) sovu ražu tī=*

Sample 12 (a): one intonation unit

bet tod	***braucūt***	*pa celi*	*es*	*saceju;*
but then	go.CVB	away	1SG.NOM	say.PST.1SG

'but then, going away (= when leaving), I said'

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SIMPLE CONNECTIVES IN MY DATA

relation	connective
various	*ka* 'that', 'if', 'when', 'as, because', … *kai (kei, kuo, kā)* 'when', 'as', 'how', ...
temporal	*kod* 'when' *cikam, kamer* 'as long as', 'until', 'while'
conditional	*ja, jesli* 'if'
causal	*jo (juo, jū)* 'for'
concessive	-
purpose	*kab, lai* 'in order to'

ORDER OF MAIN AND ADVERBIAL CLAUSE WITH SIMPLE CONNECTIVE

Temporal and **conditional** clauses with *ka, kai, kod, cikam/kamer, ja* may precede or follow the main clause.

Most often they **precede** it. The connective does not have to be at the beginning of the clause (S. 4, c).

mes   ***kuo***   *liecem*—
1PL.NOM   when   jump.PST.1PL

rogovas   *salyuza*—
sleigh.NOM.PL   break.PST.3

'when we jumped / the sleigh broke'

ORDER OF MAIN AND ADVERBIAL CLAUSE WITH SIMPLE CONNECTIVE

A temporal clause may also interrupt the main clause (this is rare). Sample 5, (k):

bet   *jis*   *maņ* (0.35)   *itū* (0.5)

but   he   1SG.DAT   DEM.ACC.SG

kamer   *viņ*   *dzeivs*   *beja*

while   PTC   alive.NOM.SG.M   be.PST.3

↑*atguodynuoja*;

remind.PST.3

'but as long as he was alive he reminded me of it'

Causal clauses introduced with *jo* 'for' always **follow** the main clause (as in Standard Latvian);

(a)	nu uz Rēzekni ratuok braucu;	now I travel to Rēzekne more rarely
(b)	**jo**,	**because**
(c)	(1.7)	
(d)	**jo** ceļš ir duorguoks,	**because** the journey is more expensive
(e)	naizdeveiguoks—	less convenient

COMPLEX CONNECTIVES IN MY DATA

relation	connective
various	-
temporal	*pēc tam ka* 'after'
conditional	-
causal	*diel tuo ka(m), par tū ka* 'because, for' *par cik* 'since' *tai kai* 'as, since'
concessive	*kaut gon, lai gon* 'although' *lai i, lai jou* 'although, even if' *kod i* 'although'
purpose	-

Of the complex markers, only the **causal marker** *diel tuo ka(m)* 'because, for' is reasonably frequent in my material.

It always **follows** the main clause.

Speaker VG from Eastern Latgalia:

as praktiski treis godi nūzamuocejūs,
'I had essentially studied for three years'

pēc tam as aizguoju: (0.4) *iz nakluotīni*—
'then I changed to extramural studies'

dieļ tuo ka *apsapriecejūs,*
'**because** I got married'

COMPLEX MARKERS RELATING TO MORE THAN A CLAUSE

The markers *par tū ka* 'because', *kaut gon* 'although' and *tai kai* 'as, since' are not clearly linked to one main clause. Rather, they introduce a stretch of reasoning.

par tū ka in Sample 2

kaut gon in Sample 6

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3. Lexical markers in both clauses

4. Lexical marker only in the main clause

MARKERS IN CORRELATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

connective in the adverbial clause	correlative marker
ka 'when', 'if', 'as'	*to* (*ta*) PARTICLE *tod* (*tad*) 'then' *tūreiz, tūlaik* 'at that time'
kai (*kei, kuo, kā*) 'when', 'as', 'as soon as'	*tai* (*tuo, tā*) 'such' *tyuleit* 'at once'
kod 'when'	*tod* 'then'

CORRELATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS *K – T*

kai   *suoksi*   *latgaliski*   *runot,*
KAI   start.FUT.2SG   Latgalian   speak.INF

tai   *jau*   *tyuleit*   *tev*
TAI   PTC   at.once   2SG.DAT

pīvierš   *uzmaneibu.*
turn.PRS.3   attention.ACC.SG

'as soon as you start speaking Latgalian / you draw attention upon yourself' (Sample 6, r-s)

nu **ka** *kuoss* *tev* *↑īs—*
PTC KA cough.NOM.SG 2SG.DAT go.FUT.3

tūlaik *tu* *↑vari* *tod* [...]
then 2SG.NOM can.PRS.2SG PTC

tuos *kampetes* *nu* *mani* *paprasēt*.
these candy.ACC.PL from 1SG.ACC ask.INF

'well, **when** you have a cough / **then** you may ask me for these candies'

TA AS A LINKER

Sample 7:
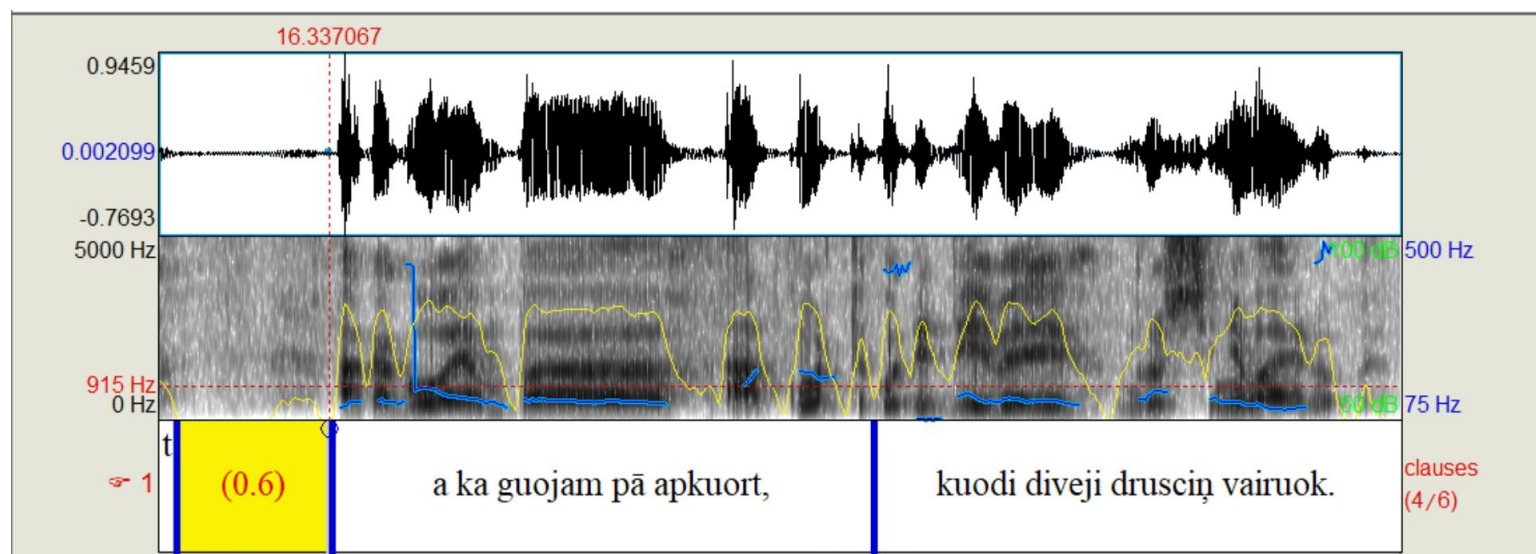
➢ pair: (f), (h)

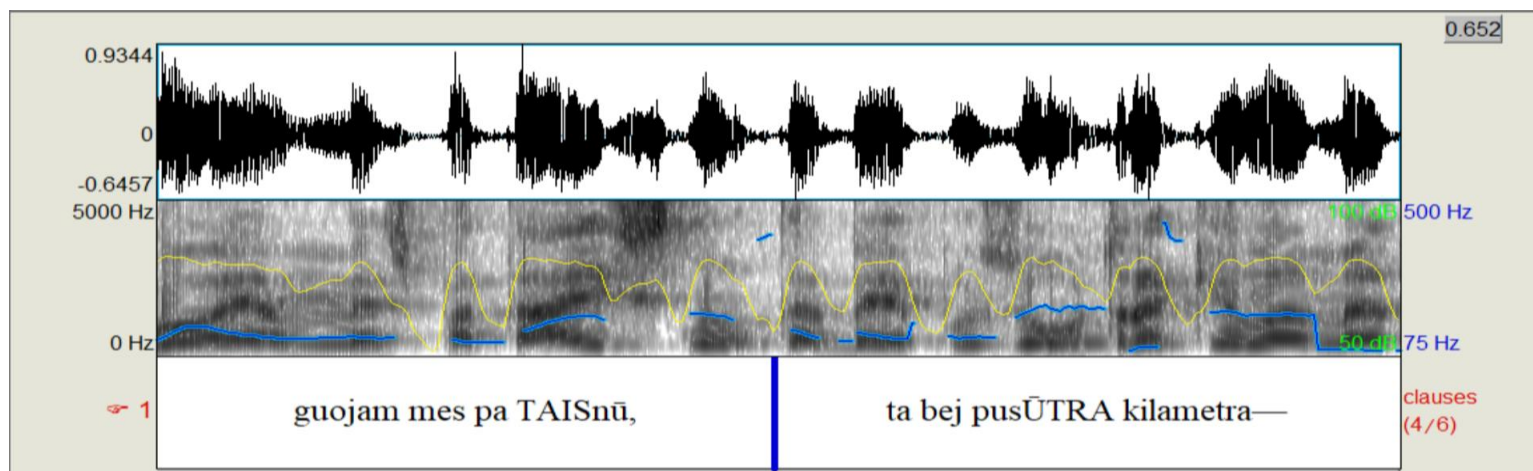➢ (d) linked to (c) without *ka*

Sample 8:

➢ pair: (c), (d)

➢ (h) linked to (d) ?

Sample 9:

➢ (f) linked to (e), (e) marked by inversion

0.652

0.9344
0
-0.6457
5000 Hz
100 dB 500 Hz
0 Hz
50 dB 75 Hz

☞ 1   guojam mes pa TAISnū,   ta bej pusŪTRA kilametra—   clauses (4/6)

16.337067

0.9459
0.002099
-0.7693
5000 Hz
100 dB 500 Hz
915 Hz
0 Hz
50 dB 75 Hz

t
☞ 1   (0.6)   a ka guojam pā apkuort,   kuodi diveji drusciņ vairuok.   clauses (4/6)

T-MARKER JOINING *K*-CONNECTIVE

tai kai (tā kā) 'as, since'

tod kod 'when' Samples 10 and 11

=> new complex markers, more or less lexicalized

5. *KA* AS AN ADVERBIAL SUBORDINATOR AND AS A COMPLEMENTIZER

example (1) *tuodu katlini*

example (2) *Uobeļovas azars*

example (3) *Kūti ka biji*

example (4) = Sample 13

example (5) *nu suokuma laikim*

Sampe 2 *zam nuovis*

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Thank you for listening!

Nicole.Nau@amu.edu.pl

www.naunicol-e.home.amu.edu.pl

and

www.elldo.amu.edu.pl (MA Empirical Linguistics and Language Documentation)