Preface

The research for this study of extraposition from NP, which is based on my Habilitationsschrift, has been exciting and rewarding, particularly, because the outcome is so completely different from what I initially imagined. I was firmly convinced that the topic should be approached from the perspective of information structure and syntax, because this is what previous work actually led me to believe. With the influence that Richard Kayne had on the generative linguistic community since the mid nineties, the number of studies on rightward movement constructions was constantly diminishing. The effect was so drastic that terms like extraposition or heavy NP shift, let alone the description of these constructions, virtually disappeared from textbooks on English syntax. It was the right moment to take a fresh look at the syntax of rightward movement. I also conjectured that my previous experience of working on information structure would be of some avail in this undertaking.

My interest, however, quickly shifted away from syntax to phonology. Eventually, this study does contain a (not necessarily radically) new syntactic proposal, but the focus is on causes or triggers for extraposition, particularly phonological ones.

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