Introduction

This part of *Syntax of Dutch* deals with coordination as well as ellipsis phenomena found in coordinate structures. Coordination will be the main topic of Chapter 1. Although coordinate structures resulting from coordination prototypically involve a single COORDINATOR such as *en* ‘and’ or *of* ‘or’, it cannot be said that such coordinators select for certain internal or external arguments. This means that these coordinate structures differ from other syntactic structures in that they are not (extended) projections of an argument-taking lexical head. Instead, coordinators typically join two or more similar phrases (which will be referred to as COORDINANDS) into a larger phrase of the same kind. Some illustrations are given in (1) with the coordinator *en* ‘and’: example (1a) involves the coordination of two main clauses and (1b&c) the coordination of two nominal phrases. Section 1.1 starts by discussing a number of more general properties of coordinate structures and their constituting parts. The discussion in Sections 1.2 to 1.4 provides a detailed discussion of the various types of coordinate structures and their constituting parts, that is, the coordinators and the coordinands.

(1) a. \[[CP [CP Jan leest het boek] en [CP Peter leest het artikel]]\].
   ‘Jan is reading the book and Peter is reading the article.’

   Jan reads the book and Peter reads the article

b. Jan leest [NP [NP het boek] en [NP het artikel]].
   ‘Jan is reading the book and the article.’

   Jan reads the book and the article

c. [NP [NP Jan] en [NP Peter]] lezen het boek.
   ‘Jan and Peter are reading the book.’

   Jan and Peter read the book

Chapter 2 discusses the fact that coordinate structures are prone to reduction. The examples in (2) show that identical elements in the coordinands tend to be left unpronounced, which is indicated by means of strikethrough. We will focus on two main types of ellipsis. Example (2a) is a case of BACKWARD CONJUNCTION REDUCTION: right-peripheral material in the left coordinand is normally left unpronounced to the extent that it is identical to that of the right coordinand. Example (2b) is a case of GAPPING: the right coordinand of the coordination is reduced by non-pronunciation of (at least) the finite verb.

(2) a. \[[[Jan leest het boek over-coördinatie] en
   [Peter leest het artikel over coördinatie]]\].
   ‘Jan is reading the book and Peter is reading the article about coordination.’

   Jan reads the book about coordination and
   Peter reads the article about coordination

b. \[[[Jan leest het boek] en [Peter leest het artikel]]\].
   ‘Jan is reading the book and Peter reads the article

   Jan reads the book and Peter reads the article.’
Although coordinate structures are relatively easy to recognize, Chapter 3 will discuss a number of cases, which have been claimed to exhibit some but not all of the properties of coordination. The forms that will be discussed are *als* ‘as’ and *dan* ‘than’ in comparative constructions, *behalve* ‘except/besides’, *in plaats van* ‘instead of’, and *laat staan* ‘let alone’. We will argue that here we are not dealing with borderline cases of coordination but with run-of-the-mill subordination; the claim that these forms exhibit borderline behavior and should therefore be analyzed as coordinator-like elements is to be attributed mainly to the misconception that gapping is possible in coordinate structures only.