On Dependent V2-Clauses and the Rich Agreement Hypothesis

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One of the major obstacles to Koeneman&Zeijlstra's (2014) "rehabilitation" of the strong (biconditional) version of the "Rich Agreement Hypothesis" is the substantial time lag between loss of rich verb agreement and loss of V-to-I in Mainland Scandinavian (cf. Sundquist 2002, 2003). However, diagnosing bona fide instances of V-to-I requires identifying – and subtracting – instances of dependent clauses that could alternatively be analyzed as "embedded" V2 (EV2). This in turn requires establishing the EV2-type of the languages under investigation. In particular, "narrow" and "broad" distributions of EV2 – as usually attributed to Mainland Scandinavian vs. Modern Icelandic – have to be distinguished. My talk will focus on collecting and evaluating the evidence for the relevant historical stages of (a variety of) Scandinavian languages. Time permitting, some remarks on diachronic and acquisitional models will be made.