

A Swedish middle

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There are two aims of this paper: (i) to present an analysis of English middles (e.g. *This paper reads well*) that does not involve Agent demotion but which takes the agentive flavour of the middle to be due to the semantics of the root underlying the middle verb (see also Marantz 1997), and (ii) to argue for a productive Swedish middle construction. There seem to be a number of possible middle candidates in Swedish, if the middle is defined semantically as *a dispositional ascription to an underlying object* (see Lekakou 2005) and in this paper I focus on one of them: *Den här boken är lättläst* ('This book reads easily'). The sentence type under consideration employs a complex past participle with an incorporated modifier as its left-hand segment: *lättläst* (easy.read-past.part). In the paper I show that this sentence type shares the core properties of middles in other languages (see e.g. Ackema and Schoorlemmer 2005).

Lekakou, M. 2005. *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated. The semantics of middles and its crosslinguistic realization*. PhD Thesis, University College London.

Marantz, A. 1997. No Escape from Syntax. In Alexiadou, D (ed) *Proceedings of the 1998 Penn Linguistics Colloquium*.

Ackema, P. & M. Schoorlemmer. 2005. Middles. In Martin Everaert and Henk Van Riemsdijk (eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, Vol III, 131 – 203, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.