

Quirky Subjects in Old Icelandic

- (1) Mig vantarpeninga
Me (ACC) needs money
'I need money'
- (2) Mér líkar maturinn
Me (DAT) likes the food
'I like the food'
- (3) 1. Topicalization
2. Non-topicalization
3. Position in subordinate clauses
4. AcI (Raising to object)
5. NcI (Raising to subject)
6. Reflexivization
7. Control
8. Extraction
9. Heavy Subject Shift
10. Cliticization
11. Conjunction Reduction
- (4) Jón_i rakaði sig_i/*hann_i
John shaved himself/*him
'John shaved himself'
- (5) Ég rétti Jón_i fötin %sín_i/hans_i
I handed John the clothes REFL/his
'I handed John's clothes to him'
- (6) Jarlþakkaði honum_iorð sín_i
Earl thanked him words REFL
'The earl thanked him for his words'

(Þorsteins saga Síðu-Hallssonar, p. 2062)

- (7) Þaðer mér sagt að þú... grípir fyrir mönnum_i góss sitt_i ...
It is me said that you grasp for men things REFL
'I am told that you steal people's properties'

(Grettis saga, p. 1039)

- (8) Ég_i var svangur og ____i langaði í mat
I was hungry and [ACC] wanted in food
'I was hungry and wanted some food'

- (9) Mér_i (DAT) leiddist og ____i fór því heim
 Me (DAT) bored and [NOM] went thus home
 'I was bored and therefore I went home'
- (10) Hann höggur sverðinu_i ... og kom ____i í þvertréið
 He hits (with) the sword and came in
 the beam
 'He hits with the sword and it stuck in the beam'
 (Brennu-Njáls saga, p. 250)
- (11) ... og er Egill_i sá skipið, þá kenndi hann ____i þegar
 ... and when Egill saw the ship, then knew he at once
 'And when Egill saw the ship, he knew it immediately'
 (Egils saga, p. 452)
- (12) a Ég tel að Sveinn sé sterkur
 I believe that Sveinn (NOM) is strong
 b Ég tel Svein vera sterkan
 I believe Sveinn (ACC) be strong
 'I believe Sveinn to be strong'
- (13) a Ég tel að Sveini leiðist bókin
 I believe that Sveinn (DAT) bores the book
 'I believe that the book bores Sveinn'
 b Ég tel Sveini leiðast bókin
 I believe Sveinn (DAT) to bore the book
 'I believe the book to bore Sveinn'
- (14) Gunnarsagði sér það vera nær skapi
 Gunnarsaid himself (DAT) it be near mood
 'Gunnar said that this was what he wanted to do'
 (Brennu-Njáls saga, p. 159)
- (15) Ingólfur ... sagði þeim vera mál að setjast um kyrrt ...
 Ingólfur ... said them (DAT) be time to sit on
 still ...
 'Ingólfur said that now it was time for them to settle down ...'
 (Flóamanna saga, p. 730)
- (16) Þórður ... kvað Þorgeiri mjög missýnast ...
 Þórður ... said Þorgeir (DAT) much see wrongly ...
 'Þórður said that Þorgeir was much mistaken ...'
 (Ljósvetninga saga, p. 1657)

(17) a Mig dreymdi illa í nótt
Me (ACC) dreamed badly in night
'I had bad dreams last night'

b Í nótt dreymdi mig illa
In night dreamed me (ACC) badly
'Last night I had bad dreams'

(18) a Svein hefur oft vantað peninga í vetur
Sveinn (ACC) has often lacked money in winter
'Sveinn have often lacked money this winter'

b Í vetur hefur Svein oft vantað peninga
In winter has Sveinn (ACC) often lacked money
'This winter, Sveinn has often lacked money'

c *Í vetur hefur oft vantað Svein peninga
In winter has often lacked Sveinn (ACC) money

(19) a Peninga hefur Svein oft vantað í vetur
Money has Sveinn (ACC) often lacked in winter
'Sveinn has often lacked money this winter'

b *Í vetur hefur peninga oft vantað Svein
In winter has money often lacked Sveinn (ACC)

c Í vetur hefur Svein oft vantað peninga
In winter has Sveinn (ACC) often lacked money
'This winter, Sveinn has often lacked money'

(20) Lengi **hefir mér** það í hug verið
Long has me (DAT) it in mind been
'I have been thinking of this for a long time'

(Brennu-Njáls saga, p. 125)

(21) Góðan draum **hefir mig** enn dreymt
Good dream has me (ACC) still dreamt
'Once again, I have had a good dream'

(Flóamanna saga, p. 752)

(22) Ei **mun þig** hér mat skorta
Not will you (ACC) here food lack
'You are not going to lack food here'

(Svarfdæla saga, p. 1806)

- (23) ... en uggir mig ... að þú megir varla í kyrrðum sitja
 ... but fears me that you may hardly in stillness sit
 `But I fear that you will not live in peace'
 (Grettis saga, p. 1019)
- (24) "... En líkar mér," segir hann, "kvonfangið ..."
 "... but likes me," says he, "the marriage ..."
 `But I like," he says, "this marriage ..."
 (Reykðæla saga, p. 1753)
- (25) En það dreymdi mig nú að eg þóttist ganga að húsi einu
 But it dreamed me (ACC) now that I felt walk to house one
 `But I dreamed that I was walking towards a certain house'
 (Gísla saga Súrssonar, p. 876)
- (26) Það þykir mér ráð að vér höldum að landi
 It feels me (DAT) advice that we travel to land
 `I think it advisable that we sail towards land'
 (Víglundar saga, p. 1967)
- (27) Það dreymdi mig að eg þóttist kominn til Hvítár ...
 It dreamed me (ACC) that I felt come to Hvítá ...
 `I dreamed that I was at the river Hvítá'
 (Þórðar saga hreðu, p. 2016)
- (28) Það ætla egað þú sérthinn versti karl
 It think I that you are the worst man
 `I think that you are a very bad fellow'
 (Bandamanna saga, p. 37)
- (29) ... það veitegað hanner í þínum híbýlum
 ... it know I that he is in your houses
 `I know that he is in your house'
 (Fljótsdæla saga, p. 218)
- (30) Það vil egað við séum báðir saman ...
 It want I that we be both together ...
 `I want us to be together'
 (Bandamanna saga, p. 23)
- (31) Það uggi eg að þú sért sár
 It fear I (NOM) that you are hurt
 `I fear that you are hurt'
 (Víga-Glúms saga, p. 1909)

- (32) ... en þaðuggir mig að of lítt hafi á komið ...
 ... but it fears me (ACC) that too little has on come ...
 `But I fear that it did not hit (her) well enough'
 (Grettis saga, p. 1073)
- (33) ... en vil eg segja yður hvað eg vil af yður
 ... but want I say you what I want from you
 `... but I shall tell you what I want from you'
 (Bárðar saga Snæfellsáss, p. 69)
- (34) En veiteghvað þú munt þér ætla
 But know I what you will you intend
 `But I know what you want'
 (Brennu-Njáls saga, p. 323)
- (35) ... en veiteghverjir gert hafa
 ... but know I who done have
 `But I know who have done (this)'
 (Hallfreðar saga, p. 1222)