Reduplication here, reduplication there.  
Is German N *hin, N *her* an instance of syntactic reduplication?

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Reduplication is typically understood as a morphological process by which some morphological purpose is reached by doubling (or copying) of some part of a morphological constituent (Inkelas 2012: 353). However, reduplication may also target syntactic objects. (1) and (2) are examples of patterns in which two identical words (or phrases) are paired within a syntactic unit to realize a certain semantic meaning.

(1) NPN (Jackendoff 2008, Müller 2011)  
*student after student, Seite für Seite* (‘page by page’)

(2) X or no X (Pullum & Rawlins 2007, Kobele 2008)  
*The North Koreans were developing nuclear weapons anyway, Iraq war or no Iraq war.*

While NPN has XP-status and can be used as argument or adverbial modifier, X or no X is a (clause-level) disjunction which occurs in peripheral syntactic position. For NPN, Müller (2011) proposes a minimalist account, assuming a post-syntactic phonological copying process triggered by an abstract morpheme RED. In a similar vein, Kobele (2008) outlines a syntactic copying process licensing X or no X. Contra the copy analysis, Pullum & Rawlins (2007) argue from a semantic point of view that X or no X is not licensed by syntactic string identity, but by denotational identity. Jackendoff (2008) proposes a constructionist account for NPN, claiming that “the internal syntactic structure of NPN violates standard principles of phrase structure” (p. 8) (cf. also Jacobs 2008, Zwarts 2013).

In my talk, I will take a closer look at the German pattern N *hin, N her*, cf. (3), which displays certain commonalities with NPN and X or no X.

(3) N *hin, N her* (Finkbeiner 2015)  
*Krieg hin, Krieg her, es muss eine »gute Show« werden. (Zeit Online, 20.03.2003)*  
‘War here, war there, it [the Academy Awards] must get a „good show“.’

However, while identity of the two variables is mandatory in NPN and X or no X, cf. (4)-(5), it is only a (salient) option in N *hin, N her*, as demonstrated by the attested (6).

(4) *Seite für Buch* (‘page by book’)

(5) *Iraq war or no IAEA inspections*

(6) Energiewende hin, Atomstrom her – den Hausbesitzer interessieren in erster Linie die Finanzen. (Mannheimer Morgen, 17.01.2014)  
‘Energy revolution here, nuclear power there – homeowners are primarily interested in how much it costs.’

Thus, the question arises whether N *hin, N her* is an instance of syntactic reduplication or whether the (optional) identity of the two N is licensed by some other process. Moreover, beyond the challenge of providing a technically possible analysis, the question is in how far a formal approach is able to account for the specific pragmatic functions of N *hin, N her*, which are in construing textual coherence and stance taking. In order to develop a comprehensive account, I apply existing minimalist and constructionist analyses to the case of N *hin, N her*. It turns out that neither of the analyses can fully explain the formal and functional properties of the construction. I therefore propose a new account that highlights the role of pragmatics in the meaning constitution of the construction.
References


