Explaining microvariation in P-dropping varieties
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The phenomenon

- If we have to go Dartford, we’ll go Dartford. (Kent)
- Swim the end and back. (Liverpool, Biggs 2015)
- Pao (ston) kinimatografo
- I. Go (to.the-ACC) cinema. ACC
- ‘I am going to the movies.’ (Greek, Ioannidou & Den Dikken 2006)
- Khala Karachi aoen gii aunt.NOM Karachi.BDL.LOC come will
  ‘Aunt is going to come to Karachi.’ (Urdu, Sana Kidwai, p.c.)
- Timoun yo al Mache Pòspyewo children DEF.PL go Market Post-Pierrot
  ‘The children have gone to the Post-Pierrot Market.’ (Haitian Creole French, DeGraff 2007)

Implications of incorporation of directional P

Directional P. Goal argument
(see examples above)

Semantically weak motion verbs (go, come)
Cf. v-framed vs s-framed languages: incorporation of P forces v-framed interpretation and rules out manner-of-motion verbs:

*Joe plodded the pub (Biggs 2013; grammatical in Liverpool)

*The bottle floated bridge = location, I think….

Locatives are not expected (but cf. Greek):

I stayed B&B that year (Kent/Sussex):

I Maria ine (ston) Aggilia
the.nom Maria.nouns3sg se.the.acci England.acc
‘Maria is in England.’ (Kouneli 2014)

Ex-)Londoners seem more permissive

Right/straight modification → presence of (null) P
(Biggs 2015, Emonds 1985)

I’m going straight carvery after

Was gonna take kids beach Thursday

Motion verbs
I might wander harbour arm and go for a wee

Adjuncts
He set one up Mile End.

Adjectives permitted in NW English (and then some!)

I went the exact same shop we were just talking about with him. (Myler 2013)

Wider range of locations in Jordanian Arabic

Ruhna ma’?rad il-sayyarat went.MPL dealership the-cars
‘We went to the car dealership…’ (Alhailawani 2020)

Sociolinguistic aspects
(that are not relevant here)

Tim Key’s poem with the line….

…all the youngsters going Fabric on Christmas Eve* chav-speak.

There’s an equivalent but maybe not the same phenomenon in MLE… cf. other contact varieties such as Kiezdeutsch vs Bavarian German.

Implications of N-to-D

Activity-naming predicate (Bare Singular Count Noun, Stvan 2009)

I’m going to (my own) university, to attend seminars

#I’m going to a university to run a training session

Anaphoric/familiar (cf. Collins 2007 on ‘home’)

I’m going to my own university

#I’m going to my daughter’s university

I’m going to the (only) university in our town, that is a well-known local institution

Proper noun (cf. Longobardi 1994, Matuhsansky 2006)

Most place names are good:

Lad I went India with

Come Daddy just for a minute

No adjectival modifiers

*I went new Tesco. *I’m going other

(Some) References