Norwegian pseudocoordinations are a grammatical construction in which two verbs form complex sentences which superficially resemble usual coordination of the kind $V$ and $V$. However, these sentences exhibit several syntactic properties that set them apart from real coordination. For reasons of space, only two such properties shall be listed here:

1. In a pseudocoordination, the two verbs cannot be swapped (unlike regular coordination):

   (1) a. Barna sitt-er og skriv-er.
       child-DEF.PL sit-PRS and write-PRS
       'The children are sitting and writing.'
   b. *Barna skriv-er og sitt-er.
       child-DEF.PL write-PRS and sit-PRS
       '(intended:) The children are writing and sitting.'

2. Pseudocoordinations allow for objects of the second verb of the construction to occur in the clause-initial position of Norwegian main clause (shown in (a)), whereas this is impossible when it comes to real coordinations (b):

       book-DEF sit-PRS boy-DEF and read-PRS.
       'The boy is sitting and reading the book.'
       book-DEF write-PRS boy-DEF and read-PRS.
       '(intended:) The boy is writing and reading the book.'

It is unclear whether pseudocoordinations are best to be analysed as instances of complex predicates, coordination or subordination (see e.g. the discussion in Lødrup 2002, 123f.), which is one of the reasons why pseudocoordinations have been of continuous interest for syntacticians.

While it has often been claimed that the number of verbs that can occur first in a pseudocoordination is "small" (Lødrup, 2002: 121) or that they belong to a "closed class" (Gjersøe, 2016: 353), corpus studies such as the ones conducted by Kinn (2018) show that this assumption is probably untrue.

When it comes to the semantic characterisation of pseudocoordinations, discussion of certain individual semantic properties of some or all pseudocoordinations — such as aspectual readings of pseudocoordinations with posture verbs such as sitja 'sit' (see e.g. Vannebo, 2003: 166f., Lødrup, 2002: 122 and the references cited there), or the differences between "simultaneous" and "successive" pseudocoordinations (essential to the analysis by Jørgensen, 2000) — occurs in the literature. However, discussion in
terms of a large-scale classification of (the different types of) pseudocoordination is somewhat lacking.

In this talk, steps toward such a classification shall be undertaken. It will be argued that different types of pseudocoordination can be placed on a "semantic bleaching" continuum (probably also correlating with the extent of grammaticalisation), and formalisations in terms of frame theory will be presented for the more lexically transparent (i.e. less semantically bleached) types of pseudocoordination.

First, a central claim of my analysis of pseudocoordination constructions is that all pseudocoordinations exhibit the Macro-Even Property (MEP) as laid out by Bohnemeyer & Van Valin (2017) (against ideas by Lødrup, 2014). In informal terms, the MEP entails that no two incompatible temporal modifiers can modify different parts of a complex syntactic construction, i.e. pseudocoordination sentences such as "Han satt i går og leste i dag." 'He sat yesterday and read today.' are impossible.

When it comes to the internal classification of different types of pseudocoordination consider the following sentences which exemplify different ends of the "semantic bleaching scale" (taken from Vannebo, 2003: 169, and Vagstad, 2010: 8 respectively):

(3) a. Du få-r ta og gå heim.
   you get-PRS take.INF and go.INF home
   'You can just go home.'

b. Kari og Mari ring-de og bestil-te pizza.
   Kari and Mari call-PST and order-PST pizza.
   'Kari and Mari called and ordered pizza.'

In (3a), the verb ta 'take' does not contribute any semantic content directly related to its lexical meaning, and as such it is entirely bleached semantically.

On the other end of the scale, one finds examples such as (3b), in which the first verb of the construction seems not to have lost any of its lexical meaning. Other instances of pseudocoordination, such as pseudocoordinations with posture verbs mentioned above, occupy a middle ground on this scale, where the first verb partially contributes its lexical meaning to the construction and partially grammaticalised meaning such as aspectual information.

When analysing pseudocoordinations of the type of (3b), it is important to note that the English translation of (3b) fails to convey the fact that the calling and the ordering of the pizza constitute one event. In line with the MEP, readings under which there are separate acts of calling and ordering a pizza, are excluded.

The relationship between the first verb ringja 'call' and the second verb bestilla 'order' constitutes an in-relation in the sense of Löbner (submitted: 8) defined as follows:

"h IN l
Under the given circumstances
- the agent, in doing l, exemplifies an act h of type H;
- doing h consists in exemplifying an act l of Type L;
- the agent's doing l counts as / amounts to / means exemplifying an act of type H"

With regard to (3b), Kari and Mari ordered pizza in making a phone call.

Finally, the meaning conveyed by the construction ringja og bestilla can be represented in a simple cascade (i.e. a frame-theoretical representation of such a relationship, see Löbner, submitted for what cascades entail in detail):


