

Micro Workshop in Romance Dialectology

Université de Genève
Faculté de Linguistique

Date : **November 1st, 2017**

Place : Bâtiment Landolt, room **L511**

Contact : caterina.bonan@unige.ch

Description

Following Pescarini's talk on Tuesday, October 31st, we will be hosting a (micro) doctoral workshop in Romance dialectology on Wednesday, November 1st. The main themes will be the syntax of North Italian dialects and some varieties of Swiss Romansh.

Speakers

Caterina Bonan – Université de Genève

Giulia Donzelli – Zürich Universität

Laure Ermacora – Université de Genève

Giuseppe Samo – Université de Genève

Programme

When ?	What ?
10.45-11.30	Caterina Bonan – On non in situ « in situ » wh-elements
11.30-11.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.45-12.30	Giulia Donzelli – Subject Clitic Inversion in a Lombard Dialect
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13.30-14.15	Laure Ermacora - Subject and object pronouns in valdotan Francoprovençal
14.15-14.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
14.30-15.15	Giuseppe Samo – Some notes on Subjects and the Left Periphery of Swiss Romansh varieties

[Abstracts on pages 2-4]

Abstracts

Caterina Bonan – On non in situ « in situ » wh-elements

Trevigiano, a Venetan dialect, licenses both fronted and sentence internal wh-phrases. This property, along with the systematic combination of “insituness” and Subject clitic Inversion, makes it different from more widely studied languages like *Bellunese* (Munaro 1995, Munaro et al 2001, Poletto and Pollock 2000 and subsequent works) and *French*, hence worth studying. In this presentation, I argue that the relative distribution of sentence internal wh-adverbs and V-selected arguments of Trevigiano shows that what we call wh-phrases “in situ” actually undergo partial IP-internal wh-movement. I also show that “insituness” in this language is *not* only a root phenomenon, and present novel data on a special “if”-complementizer used in this language to licence sentence internal wh-elements in indirect questions. Finally, I argue in favour of a low landing site for wh-movement, located in the *low* periphery of the clause, and of a left peripheral *WhP* (à la Rizzi 2004) active (at least) in indirect wh-questions.

References

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Poletto & Pollock (2000) On the Left Periphery of Some Romance Wh-Questions. In Press, O. U., editor, *The Structure of CP and IP*, pages 251–296. Rizzi, Luigi, Oxford.

Rizzi, L. (2004) On the Cartography of Syntactic Structures. In Rizzi, L., editor, *The Structure of CP and IP, The Cartography of Syntactic Structures, Volume II*, page 223 – 251. Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax, Oxford University Press.

Giulia Donzelli – Subject Clitic Inversion in a Lombard Dialect

This talk deals with the syntax of Subject Clitic Inversion (SCI) in Comunuovese (a Northern Italian dialect spoken in Comun Nuovo, a little town near Bergamo, Italy). It elaborates on a link between wh-items, SCI structure and temporal values. Comunuovese (CN) exhibits different syntactic strategies to build a wh interrogation (wh ex situ, wh in situ, pseudoclefting, wh + COMP, SCI) and various types of wh-items, e.g. *ndo*, *indoe*, *indoè* ‘where’. Different types of wh-items have different behaviours: clitic wh-items occur ex situ and co-occur with SCI, strong wh occur either ex situ or in situ and super strong wh only occur in situ (Pescarini/Donzelli 2017). The combination of morphological and syntactic structures yields different interpretations of the same interrogative sentence (Obenauer 2006). CN displays a strong system of subject clitics, which can be either proclitic or enclitic. The

paradigm of subject enclitics is richer than the one of proclitic forms (Renzi/Vanelli 1983). It is a null-subject language (Rizzi 1986), but subject clitics are obligatory with certain persons. SCI is the most conservative interrogative structure in Northern Italian dialects (NID) and it is really rare and marked in CN. It is only permitted in wh interrogation when it co-occurs with Clitic Wh ex situ. The interpretations of Qs with SCI could be associated with the position of the verb, which differs from the position occupied by the verb in wh ex/in situ, wh-che and cleft interrogative structures. The left rising of the verb provides a different pragmatic value of the Qs (Munaro 2016). The SCI ClWh Qs in CN are SpecialQs marked in terms of *presupposition*: the information is ‘given’ and the speaker presupposes a strong common informational background with the listener (Calabrese 1982). These syntactic structures are a particular type of special Qs, which I term *JustificationQs*: the answer is already ‘given’, while the speaker expects a justification of the event that is happening.

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|-----|----|--|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| (1) | a. | sa fa-l?
what do=he
‘what is he doing?’ | What Clitic | Wh ex situ + SCI | JustificationQs |
| | b. | cosa fa-l ol Mario?
what do=he the M.
‘what is Mario doing?’ | What Strong | Wh ex situ + SCI | JustificationQs |
| | c. | ndo core-l?
where run=he
‘where is he running?’ | Where Clitic | Wh ex situ + SCI | JustificationQs |

SCI in CN is allowed with a deictic present tense. Conversely, the structures without inversion occur with a futurate and habitual present and with past/future tenses. The position of the verb with a deictic value seems to be different from the position of verbs with other temporal values.

References

- Calabrese, A. (1982) “Alcune ipotesi sulla struttura informazionale della frase in italiano e sul suo rapporto con la struttura fonologica”, *Rivista di Grammatica Generativa* 7:3-78.
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Laure Ermacora – Subject and Object Pronouns in Valdotan Francoprovençal

In this talk, I will present some data about a variety of Francoprovençal spoken in the Aosta Valley (North Italy), more precisely in the village of Fenis, situated to a few kilometres from the East of the city of Aosta. I will first present data about the distribution of subject pronouns. Then I will do the same about object pronouns and past participle position, which both seem to be linked. I will not propose an analysis, because this research just started and data still have to be confirmed by a more systematic collection.

Giuseppe Samo – Some notes on Subjects and the Left Periphery of Swiss Romansh varieties

The label Swiss Romansh (SR) indicates at least 5 different varieties spoken in the south-east of Switzerland (Anderson 2005, 2016). SR varieties together with Rhaeto-Romance (Poletto 2002) represent the only Romance languages showing V2 effects in root contexts. The aim of my work is to present some interesting linguistic patterns within these varieties, focusing on the Subject and the Left Periphery of these varieties which micro-parametrically vary. As for subjects, I will show that clitic doubling is possible only in non-subject initial clauses. Such a result welcomes the idea proposed in Travis (1984) and Zwart (1991, 1997) that in V2 contexts the verb does not move to a C° position in subject-initial clauses. Furthermore, SR varieties subjects may also target a lower Subject position (Belletti 2004) in non-subject initial contexts. As for the Left Periphery, I will present some data concerning V3 orders in root clauses and V2 contexts in embedded clauses. The data could be considered a further element in order to consider the LP of SR varieties very “rich” and closer to the one discussed for Italian in Rizzi (1997).

References

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