

Micro-variation in the left periphery

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1. Course description

This course will discuss the syntax of the left periphery of the clause, taking a detailed look at cross-linguistic differences found across both languages that are typologically different (like English and Korean) and languages that are very similar (like Italian and some of the so-called Italian dialects). In particular, we will focus on imperative and interrogative clauses and show that micro-syntactic comparison can help us bring to light aspects of the structural representation of a clause that reflect key components of clause type meaning.

The first half of the course will focus on imperatives, in particular examining the restrictions found on their subjects cross-linguistically. We argue that such restrictions are not purely semantic or pragmatic in nature but have a syntactic basis. We then extend our investigation to languages that use an intriguing system of particles to mark jussive clauses (imperatives, exhortatives and promissives), devoting particular attention to Korean. The second half of the course will focus on interrogative clauses in a number of closely related Romance languages. It will examine the syntactic variation found in the properties and the distribution of *wh*-phrases and their relation with different elements of the left periphery, like complementizers, clitics and particles. We will show that the range and limits on this variation shed light both on the complexity of the left periphery of the clause and on the internal structure of *wh*-items; this investigation will lead us to distinguish among several syntactically distinct subtypes of interrogatives.

2. Course format

This is an advanced (6 credits) course, which presupposes some background in syntactic theory, though not on the topics to be covered.

In order to get credit for the course, each student must read the papers listed under the heading "Reading(s) for class" and come to class ready to participate in the discussion. In addition, *s/he* must come up with at least three questions related to the issues discussed in the course, write them up and send them or hand them in to the instructors. The questions may be based on empirical observations (for example, from a pattern one notices in his/her native language) or related to any of the theoretical points raised in class or in the readings. Each question should not exceed three pages in length.

Raffaella Zanuttini will teach the first half of the course and Cecilia Poletto will teach the second half. They can be reached by e-mail at zanuttir@georgetown.edu and cecilia.poletto@unipd.it.

3. Course schedule

1. Class 1 (August 15th)
 - a. Topic: Overview of the syntax of imperatives. Cross-linguistic restrictions on imperative subjects: the puzzles to be resolved and some previous accounts.
 - b. Readings for class: Beukema & Coopmans (1989); Platzack & Rosengren (1998); Potsdam (1996), chapter 3.
 - c. Background readings: Sadock (1974); Davies (1986); Han (1998); Rivero & Terzi (1995).
2. Class 2 (August 17th)
 - a. Topic: The role of agreement in restricting imperative subjects.
 - b. Readings for class: Bennis (to appear); Jensen (2003); Zanuttini (2006).
 - c. Background readings: Chomsky (2000); Pesetsky & Torrego (2006).
3. Class 3 (August 19th)
 - a. Topic: The role of agreement in restricting the subject of three kinds of Jussive clauses: Korean promissives, imperatives and exhortatives.
 - b. Reading for class: Pak, Portner and Zanuttini (2006).
 - c. Background readings: Pak (in prep); Pak (to appear); Pak, Portner, & Zanuttini (2004); Portner (2004).
4. Class 4 (August 22nd)
 - a. Topic: Badiotto sentential particles and point of view.
 - b. Reading for class: Poletto and Zanuttini (2003).
 - c. Background readings: Portner (in prep)
5. Class 5 (August 24th)
 - a. Topic: Overview of the syntactic variation in main and embedded interrogative clauses in Romance dialects.
 - b. Reading for class: Poletto (2000), chapter 3.
 - c. Background readings: Rizzi (1997), Benincà and Poletto (2005).
6. Class 6 (August 26th)
 - a. Topic: Analysis of several interrogative structures with or without subject inversion, with and without complementizer.
 - b. Reading for class: Poletto and Pollock (2004a).
 - c. Background readings: Kayne and Pollock (2001), Pollock (2002), (2004).
7. Class 7 (August 29th)
 - a. Topic: Different positions for wh-items: wh in situ and wh-doubling and the internal structure(s) of wh-items.
 - b. Reading for class: Poletto and Pollock (2004b).
 - c. Background readings: Munaro (1999), chapters 2 and 3; Munaro (2003).
8. Class 8 (August 31st)
 - a. Topic: Mono-clausal and bi-clausal cleft constructions and their relation to the type of wh-item.
 - b. Reading for class: Munaro and Pollock (2004).
 - c. Background readings: Obenauer (2004), Munaro and Obenauer (2002), Munaro (2002).

4. Bibliography

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- Pak, M. (in prep) "Investigating the role of sentence end particles in Korean." Manuscript, Georgetown University.
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