

Introduction

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This volume contains a selection of the papers that were presented at the 35th Going Romance conference. Going Romance is one of the leading European annual

conferences on the theoretical analysis of Romance languages. While since the creation of Going Romance in 1986 it used to be organized in turn by one of the six Romance departments of the Dutch universities, since 2009 it is organized in turn by a Dutch university or by another European university.

Going Romance XXXV took place in Amsterdam on 1-3 December 2021. It was hosted jointly by the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam) and took place in a digital form, due to the pandemic. On the first day of the conference there were two workshops in parallel in the afternoon. The themes of the workshops were “Syntactic theory and language acquisition: The Romance perspective” and “Partitivity in Romance languages”. The acquisition workshop was organized by Marco Bril and Martine Coene. The partitivity workshop was organized by Tabea Ihsane and Petra Sleeman, two members of the European PARTE (“Partitivity in European Languages”) network, funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research NWO and the University Ca’ Foscari of Venice, the Károli Gáspár University in Budapest, the University of Pavia, and the University of Zurich. The invited speaker of the workshop on acquisition was Francesca Volpato. The invited speakers of the workshop on partitivity, PARTE members Elisabeth Stark and David Paul Gerards, presented a joint paper. The invited speakers of the main session were Ingo Feldhausen and Henriette de Swart. The main session contained a selection of the papers that were submitted for oral or poster presentation. The abstracts of all sessions were reviewed by three experts in Romance linguistics from all over the world. As usual, the areas of research varied from syntax and semantics to morphology and phonology, from a synchronic, diachronic and acquisitional perspective.

All presenters and alternates, including the presenters of the two poster sessions, were invited to submit their paper for publication. All submissions were thoroughly peer-reviewed by three external reviewers for each paper, who gave their judgment on the acceptability of the papers, and who recommended revisions. The final decision was made by the volume editors.

Whereas previous volumes were part of the John Benjamins’ series *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, since 2009 the selected papers of Going Romance appear in the series *Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory (RLLT)*. In 2014 it was decided that the selected proceedings of one of the major American conferences on the theoretical analysis of Romance linguistics, the *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL)*, would also be published in the RLLT series. While RLLT was published since 2009 until volume 16 (2020) by John Benjamins, it is published now as special issues of the Open Access journal on Romance linguistics *Isogloss*. RLLT contains selected papers from the three main conferences on Romance theoretical linguistics: not only from Going Romance (Netherlands/Europe) and the *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (USA)*, as before, but also from *Romania Nova (Latin America)*. The series editor is Haike Jacobs. The first *Isogloss RLLT* volume is RLLT17, containing selected papers from Going Romance XXXIV, which was the first digital edition of Going Romance, due to the pandemic, and which was hosted in November 2020 by the UMR 7023 *Formal Language Structures (CNRS / University Paris 8/ University Paris-Lumières, France)*.

We were very much honored that all invited speakers of Going Romance XXXV accepted to submit their paper to this volume, RLLT19 for review. Besides the contributions of the invited speakers, the volume contains some papers that were

presented at the two workshops on acquisition and on partitivity, papers that were presented as an oral presentation or as a poster presentation in the main session. This volume reflects the current state-of-the-art concerning the theoretical analysis of a number of topics in a wide variety of Romance languages and dialects: French, Italian, European Portuguese, Catalan, Romanian, Old French, Old Spanish, Peninsular Spanish, Central American Spanish, Bolognese and Franco-Provençal. Besides syntactic, lexical, morphological, semantic and acquisitional studies, the volume contains a contribution on pedagogical linguistics. The papers are presented in alphabetical order.

Anamaria Bentea and *Stéphanie Durrleman* investigate children's comprehension difficulties with object relative clauses which seem reduced when the embedded subject is a pronoun, rather than a lexical noun. The authors evaluate the predictions of two approaches within the intervention locality account in an experimental study assessing the comprehension of object relatives in French-speaking children between the ages of four and five. Using a character-selection task Bentea and Durrleman show that there is low performance on object relatives with pronominal interveners matching on number, gender, and person features.

With his paper "Pedagogical Linguistics in Romance", *Ingo Feldhausen* highlights the relevance of linguistics in educational and societal matters and urges linguists to take on this role. He demonstrates how linguists can contribute both to foreign and heritage language teaching, as well as to teaching linguistics in higher education. To illustrate the potential of *Romance Pedagogical Linguistics*, he discusses five exemplary cases, varying from studies on subjunctives and intonation in Spanish and French foreign language acquisition to academic writing in higher education.

Alexandra Fiéis, *Ana Maria Madeira* and *Joana Teixeira* investigate the interpretation of pronominal subjects in intrasentential contexts in Italian and European Portuguese (EP). They present new experimental data which reveal microvariation, both with overt and null pronominal subjects. The authors show that, with the former, the preponderant factor of this microvariation is the animacy of the antecedent in Italian and the position of the antecedent in EP. With null pronouns, the bias for subject antecedents is weaker in Italian than in EP. These results lead to a better understanding of the resolution of pronominal subjects and of the effect of animacy.

David Paul Gerards and *Elisabeth Stark* present novel data from Old Spanish and Modern Franco-Provençal, on the basis of which they argue in favor of the existence of "non-maximal" definites, a hitherto underresearched use of the Romance article. They claim that these weakly referential definites with a "representative object interpretation" are licensed by a kind-denoting mode of talk. It is argued that these definites are favored by "habitual" readings of the predicate and by text genres such as recipes. This paper contributes in an important way to our knowledge of definiteness.

Peter Herbeck focuses on dative experiencers in Spanish control infinitives and investigates data extracted from Spanish corpora. He argues that, although Spanish dative experiencers cannot be obligatorily controlled in complement infinitives, they can appear in adjunct infinitives in non-obligatory control contexts. He proposes that they are pronominal elements which show preferred local co-reference with a matrix antecedent, on a par with null subjects in such constructions. Herbeck considers the

data examined as evidence for an *Agree*-based Theory of Control in which referential dependencies in nonfinite domains are mediated by T and C.

The central topic of the paper “Spatial prepositions for original (and richer) meanings: the case of Spanish” is a well-known difference in use of the preposition *hasta* ‘until’ between Iberian and Central American Spanish. In Central American Spanish, the preposition *hasta* also productively occurs with both spatial situation verbs and punctual verbs, which is not allowed in Iberian Spanish. To account for this difference, *Maria Eugenia Mangialavori Rasia* proposes a novel theoretical analysis, which accounts for both the conservative Iberian Spanish, as well as for the progressive Central American Spanish usages.

Jon Ander Mendia presents an analysis of Degree Neuter Relatives (DNRs) in Spanish which avoids compositionality problems due to sortal mismatches between degrees and entities. Based on this analysis, it is suggested that the cross-linguistic rarity of DNRs can be explained by specific aspects of the morphological inventory of Spanish allowing the construction of degree denoting Free Relatives headed by a definite article in this language.

Javier Caro Reina’s paper provides evidence that inherently unique human nouns constitute a peripheral group of lexemes within the word class of common nouns. In semantic definite contexts, they semantically resemble proper names with respect to monoreferentiality and can therefore morphosyntactically behave like personal names. Reina claims that different lines of diachronic and synchronic evidence support the properhood of human inherently unique nouns ranging from Differential Object Marking in Old Spanish, over possessive constructions in Old French to article-drop in unmodified prepositional phrases in Romanian.

Edward Rubin and Aaron Kaplan analyze in their paper the Bolognese *3MS.NOM* clitic using the framework of Lexical Selection in Optimality Theory. This clitic differs from other Romance languages in the sense that it has a third allomorph, [α], when preceding dative, accusative or negative clitics. The authors argue that this type of constructions does not involve a string of clitics, but rather a ‘duplex’ clitic combining *3MS.NOM* with *2S.DAT*.

Giuseppe Rugna and Ludovico Franco discuss the derivation of prepositional compounds in Italian. In their paper, they propose a theoretical analysis of these compounds under which the prepositions involved are taken to be general relators that are not burdened with semantic content. Their proposal attempts to account for the fact that one preposition can express different inclusion relations between the two elements of the compound. The authors argue that these distinct inclusion relations are determined by the morphosyntactic context.

In her paper “Satellite-framed lexicalization of creation events in French? A view on effected objects and resultative PPs”, *Barbara Schirakowski* discusses the compatibility of manner verbs with result-denoting constituents in French. These combinations are often said to be rather restricted in French, being considered a verb-framed language. By using the results of two acceptability judgement tasks, however, the author shows that even in French, manner verbs can sometimes be combined with result-denoting PPs. The acceptability of such combinations is shown to depend on general structural constraints as well as on verb-specific restrictions.

Carla Soares-Jesel, Maria Lobo and Ana Lucia Santos focus on intervention effects on the comprehension of standard clefts and pseudoclefts in French-speaking children. Intervention effects found in language acquisition research suggest that

feature similarity between a moved element and an intervening element is related to processing difficulties. In their paper the authors provide empirical evidence for the differentiation scale ranking the relations between features on the moved and intervening element: disjunction>intersection>inclusion>identity (Belletti et al., 2012; Durrleman & Bentea, 2021).

Henriëtte de Swart, Bert Le Bruyn, Cristina Grisot and Teresa M. Xiqués compare auxiliary (have or be) + past participle constructions considered as a specific tense-aspect category among various Romance languages to investigate aoristic drift. Using the *Translation Mining* methodology in a parallel corpus study of *L'Étranger* by Albert Camus (1942) they found empirical support for the view that the use of the PERFECT varies between modern French, Romanian, Italian, Spanish, Catalan and Portuguese. They argue that a PERFECT scale best captures this synchronic variation and that the distribution of the HAVE-PERFECT across Romance languages is governed by lexical, compositional and discourse semantics ranging from sensitivity to aspectual class, pluractionality, hodiernal and pre-hodiernal past time reference to narration.

Caterina Tasinato and Emanuela Sanfelici investigate Italian word order variation in the position of subjects with respect to finite predicates in adult populations of L1-Italian speakers and L1-French L2-Italian speakers. By using a forced-choice preference task they show that discourse focus and a decomposed approach to unaccusativity determine variation in word order of subjects and finite predicates in both L1 and L2 populations. The findings are accounted for by a return to the original version of Sorace's Interface Hypothesis (Sorace, 2005).

Francesca Volpato looks into pied-piping of prepositional and genitive relatives. Her paper offers an overview of some recent studies in which these structures were investigated in Italian typically developing individuals and in individuals with learning difficulties using repetition and elicited production tasks. She shows that whereas the rate of production of pied-piping structures increases with age it never reaches ceiling effects. Also, the level of accuracy for individuals with learning difficulties is lower than for typically developing individuals. Volpato further shows that syntactic complexity, agreement phenomena, and the number of arguments that receive a thematic role explain the difficulties language learners have with these structures.

Jiaojiao Yao distinguishes in her paper "The Syntax of European Portuguese Resultatives" true resultatives, pseudo-resultatives and simple resultatives. She shows that true resultatives are not allowed in European Portuguese. She proposes and motivates three different structures for the three types of resultatives, and argues that the causative structure involving Manner Conflation is allowed in English, but not in European Portuguese or in Romance in general.

This short summary of the contents of the contributions reveals the wealth of topics, languages and theoretical approaches included in this volume. It also shows that our insights into Romance linguistics are still developing.

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