Towards a unification of copular constructions: An integrated approach
Francesca Ramaglia & Mara Frascarelli
(University of Roma Tre)

1. Background

- Analysis of clitics and pseudo-clitics as marked copular constructions (Frascarelli & Ramaglia 2013)
  - (i) The postpositional DP serves as a focus of the clause.
  - (ii) The relative DP is dative in both constructions, constituting a right-hand Topic in (i) and a left-hand Focus in (ii).

- The copula DP inflects the Focus of the sentence.

- In (i) it is (gestich) that [nach] gibt [the] (2) [was] gibt [the], is a book.

- Given their discourse function and syntactic position, the right-hand Theme of clitics (i) can only be the G-Topic, while the left-hand Theme of pseudo-clitics (ii) is left unspecified.

- Discourse and syntactic properties of the postpositional DP show that it is a predicative, consistent with cross-linguistic evidence of Foucault (Franca 1996).

3. A unification of marked copular constructions...

- A subject analysis for the postpositional DP is challenged by syntax evidence.

4. and a distinction within thence-sentences

- The thence-sentences show the existence of different types of e-sentences in Italian: (i) subjective sentence, where the subject is the person (or thing) that is giving the location of a place; (ii) objective sentence, where the subject is the place that is being given.

4.1. Intentional properties of prepositional e-sentences (Italian)

- The prepositional e-sentences have a raising context (L-R), which is typical of subjective e-sentences.

- The expression of the prepositional DP is a raising context (L-R), which is typical of subjective e-sentences.

- The expression of the prepositional DP is a rising context (L-R), which is typical of subjective e-sentences.

References:


This research was partially funded by MIUR (Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca) within the “ISRI Program 2014-20” (Principal Investigator: Francesca Ramaglia) with project title “Computing Nominal Predication at the Interfaces: a cross-linguistic study”, project code: MIUR 40%.