

## OLOMOUC LECTURES – WINTER SEMESTER

### Description & Purposes

The overarching topic is the **Left Periphery**. There are two possible subtopics, the depth of which can be adapted depending on the students' prior knowledge of the issues discussed.

The goal is to explain and discuss long-standing issues in the syntax of the Left Periphery by resorting to a strongly **analogy-based** teaching (Gabel 2003; Yerrick, Doster, Nugent, Parke, & Crawley 2003). Analogies with various elemental properties and phenomena in the fields of physics and astronomy will in particular be used.

Analogies have been proved useful in helping student grasp particularly abstract concepts, as well as in remembering them (Akamca, 2008; Kılıç & Umdu-Topsakal, 2011; Ören et.al, 2011). They will also allow students to approach classical issues in the syntax of the Left periphery from an innovative perspective, encouraging them to come up with new solutions to these problems.

### Subtopic 1

#### “The Left Periphery: Is a Template Really Necessary?”

Ever since Rizzi's (1997) seminal work on the Italian Left Periphery, the general consensus has been that *CP* may be too simplistic of a label, and that what has traditionally been referred to as such in fact corresponds to an articulated hierarchy of functional projections. For instance, according to Rizzi (1997, 2001a, 2004b), the left edge of the clause has the following structure:

- (1) Force < Topic < Int(errogative) < Topic < Focus < Mod(ifier) < Fin(iteness) < TP

Rizzi's Left-Peripheral hierarchy is by no means uncontroversial. An issue which has attracted significant attention concerns in particular the richness of the sequence in (1), and whether this is in fact motivated; in the words of Newmeyer (2009:132), these “*oceans* of functional projections” represent a particularly unminimalist way of accounting for the Left Periphery. A number of recent models of the LP (Abels 2012; Fanselow & Lenertová 2011; Trotzke & Zwart 2014; Van Craenenbroeck 2006; Zwart 2009) thus dispose of predetermined functional architecture, only to assume that there are no dedicated functional projections.

For this subtopic, I will focus on one of such analyses, namely that of Abels (2012). Abels (2012) claims that the relative order of Left-Peripheral constituents can be derived solely by looking at the crossing possibilities associated with each Left-Peripheral constituent: what cannot be extracted across a given constituent will logically always follow such a constituent. According to Abels (2012), a hierarchy like that in (1) is therefore unnecessary. A crucial prediction of a model like Abels' is that the relative distance between two Left-Peripheral elements will not influence the grammaticality of a given Left-Peripheral configuration. I will show how foci, interrogative complementizers and WH-words do not comply with such a prediction; an explanation in terms of the hierarchy is thus still needed for these constituents.

### Subtopic 2

#### “Keeping Cartography Clean: Reducing the Number of Projections”

The main tenet of *Cartography* (Cinque & Rizzi 2008; Rizzi 1997, 2001a, 2004), is that each morpho-syntactic feature corresponds to an independent syntactic head, and hence to a different projection. The “one feature-one projection” cartographic golden rule is however untenable in the long run:

as more features are discovered, more projections will have to be postulated, resulting in an ever-increasing sequences of functional projections.

In this lecture, we will discuss whether it is possible to keep under control the number of functional projections necessary to account for the Left Periphery and its cross-linguistic variation. In particular, we will focus on complementizers: we will examine a diverse pool of languages, including for example Dutch, Spanish, Bulgarian and Italian dialects. We will critically review existing evidence suggesting that at least three distinct functional projections are needed in the Left-Periphery to account for complementizers, and discuss whether alternative options are available to account for such evidence.