

Parallel Chains at PF: Insights from Krachi Predicate Fronting with Verb Doubling

Jason Kandybowicz (City University of New York)

This talk examines verb doubling predicate focus constructions in Krachi, an endangered language of Ghana. Krachi has three such constructions: one in which V alone appears in the left periphery; another in which V-O has been fronted; and a third involving O-V inversion in the fronted constituent. I propose that all instances of predicate focus with verb doubling in Krachi involve the formation of identical parallel chains, namely, V-to-T and vP-to-Spec,FocP movement, and that these parallel chains arise because different probes (Foc & T) target the same goal (V). I propose that differences in the PF interpretation of the two peripheral vP copies account for the surface differences in word order between the predicate focus constructions in the language. Krachi predicate focus thus provides additional support for analyses like Kandybowicz 2008 and Aboh & Dyakonova 2009 that attempt to derive verb doubling from narrow syntactic mechanisms like parallel chain formation rather than multiple copy spell-out at PF.