

Prosodic monsters and extraposition

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In this talk, the implications of extraposition for syntax-prosody interface are examined in the Match model of syntax-prosody interface (Selkirk 2011). It is shown that extraposition in German often improves the prosodic structure of a sentence. The prosodic grammar has its own rules and constraints, which can have an impact on syntax in the following way: If two syntactic structures are in competition for expressing the same content, and at the same time one of them is clearly preferred in terms of prosodic structure, the latter one is chosen. Only a theory allowing recursivity on a regular basis can reveal the formal influence of prosody on syntax. If entire syntactic constituents are parsed in entire prosodic constituents, in the spirit of Match constraints, a clause located in the middle field should violate LAYERDNESS, which bans domination of higher prosodic constituents by lower ones. Such a constellation is called a 'prosodic monster'. In the case of PP extraposition, recursion of prosodic domains is avoided, but no prosodic monster is at play. Extraposition is not always available: it is blocked by an accented constituent intervening between the antecedent or reconstructed position and the extraposed constituent. In the last part of the talk, an optimality-theoretic approach is proposed that accounts for extraposition as a prosody-driven operation. If time allows, a comparison between Match and Align will be made.