

Adjunct Island Violations in Romance: the case of Clitic Left Dislocation

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In this talk I will present several problems associated to the extraction of Clitic Left Dislocated phrases from the domain of conditional clauses, and to provide an attempt at their analysis. Behaviour patterns are unexpected in several regards. In the first place, Conditional Clauses are taken to be adjuncts and as such, they are expected to behave as syntactic islands (Huang 1982). Nevertheless, there are conditions under which such extraction is possible, as the examples in (1) show:

(1) a. *A María, Juan se enfadará si le cuentas esa historia.
To María, Juan will get angry if CL-*her* you tell that story.

b. A María, si le cuentas esa historia, Juan se enfadará.
To María, if CL-*her* you tell that story, Juan will get angry.

The main empirical observation, already found in Etxepare (2002) and Taylor (2007) is that only sentence-initial conditional clauses allow Topic extraction.

Besides, Clitic Left Dislocation itself has unexpected properties of its own when taking place from within a conditional clause. For instance, there seems to be a Dative-Accusative asymmetry (2), and a limit on the number of Topics extracted (3), all of which does not fit with the general description of topicalization found in Rizzi (1997) and much subsequent work on the sentential periphery.

(2) a. *A María Juan se enfadará si le cuentas esa historia.
To María, Juan will get angry if CL-*her* you tell that story.
b. Esa historia, Juan se enfadará si se la cuentas a María.
That story, Juan will get angry if CL-*her* CL-*it* you tell to María.

(3) a. A María, si le cuentas esa historia, Juan se enfadará.
To María, if CL-*her* you tell that story Juan will get angry.
b. Esa historia, si se la cuentas a María, Juan se enfadará.
That story, if CL-*her* CL-*it* you tell to María Juan will get angry.
c. * A María, esa historia, si se la cuentas, Juan se enfadará.
To María, that story, if CL-*her* CL-*it* you tell, Juan will get angry.