

# LAD Conferences

23 novembre 2009, 13h30  
DS-6365, 320 Ste-Catherine Est, Montréal

L a b o r a t o i r e d e r e c h e r c h e s u r l e s a s y m é t r i e s d ' i n t e r f a c e s

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## Syncretic heads at the left periphery

Since Chomsky (1986), generative grammar characterizes the high left periphery of clauses as a Complementizer Phrase (CP), a domain in which we license the selection features that trigger sentential complements. Subsequently, CP has been extended to root clauses (Chomsky 2001) and has been associated (Horvath 1995; Kiss 1995 a.o.) with functional features of a discourse pragmatics nature (i.e., topic and focus). With the advent of cartography (Rizzi 1997), the CP field has been represented as a hierarchy of functional projections, where discourse pragmatics is sandwiched between the heads that license the sentence (Force) and the inflectional (Finiteness) typing. The assumption is that this hierarchy holds cross-linguistically and that any CP is amenable to the split analysis. Variation arises only from the (non)instantiation of one or another projection above Finiteness.

Historical and dialectal studies on Balkan languages seem to challenge the obligatory splitability of CP fields. This talk argues that the Bulgarian particle *ta* we see in the damaskin texts of the 17<sup>th</sup> century merges in the derivation as an unsplitable CP node. This syncretic derivation of the left periphery is justified by certain changes in the language that weaken the evidence for the mapping of the split CP.

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### Selected Publications

- 2010. The status of Romanian *ia* in imperative clauses. *Balkanistica* 23: 75-92.
- 2008. Pragmatics markers as syntactic heads: a case study from Romanian. In Grohmann, Kleanthes and Phoevos Panagiotidis (eds.), *Selected papers from the Syntaxfest* Cyprus. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge University Scholars Press. 237-265.
- 2007. Romanian adverbs and the pragmatic field. *The Linguistic Review* 24 (1): 61-86.
- 2007. Vocatives and the Pragmatics-Syntax Interface. *Lingua* 117 (12): 2077-2105.

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