

## A1: The role of the left clausal periphery in determining clause types

Prof. Dr. Günther Grewendorf

An adequate analysis of the relation between categories such as clause types or verbal moods (and other mood indicators) and the attitudes and speech acts expressed by these categories requires that syntactic, semantic and pragmatic levels of description be methodically differentiated. Thus, the identification of different clause types must be based on a proper understanding of the grammatical properties that define different forms and types of clauses.

As is well-known, discourse-linked formal properties of clauses are commonly located in the clausal periphery (cf. e.g. Chomsky 2002). A theory of clausal typing must explore how formal features of inflectional categories interact with formal properties of the left periphery to mark different types of clauses (e.g., via movement of elements into the C-domain). In this project, we adopt Rizzi's (1997, 2001, 2004) theory of the left clausal periphery to investigate properties of functional projections that are relevant for clausal typing.

The primary topics of the project include: (i) structural properties of complementizer systems and their role in clausal typing, (ii) constructions that involve phrasal movement into the left periphery including *wh*-questions, focus and topic constructions, and (iii) the V2 phenomenon, in particular the operation that results in XP-fronting.

Based on the observation that there are different types of complementizers (pure subordinators vs. mood-indicating elements, cf. Bhatt/Yoon 1991), the investigation of (i) aims at linking different functions of complementizers to different structural positions in the left periphery. In addition, we want to establish how properties of different types of complementizers correlate with the feature content of the relevant functional heads.

The study of (ii) exploits the observation that dislocation phenomena that traditionally have been analyzed as uniform instances of A'-movement in fact exhibit fundamentally different properties. These differences can be explained on the assumption that the individual movement operations target different positions in the left periphery (cf. Rizzi 1997 on Italian). Accordingly, the investigation of fronting processes provides new insights concerning the make-up of this part of the clause. In addition, we want to provide new analyses of the various cross-linguistic surface realizations of the relevant constructions, based on an elaborate functional structure of the left periphery. Not only should these analyses explain the different properties of the individual movement types, they should also adequately represent the role of these movement operations in clausal typing, in particular in the case of *wh*-questions.

Recently, it has been shown that the kind of XP-fronting characteristic of V2 languages can be neutral with respect to topic and focus properties, in contrast to other movement operations such as left dislocation (Grewendorf 2002b). This can be taken to indicate that XP-fronting targets SpecFinP in V2 languages, a position which is not associated with topic or focus status. Accordingly, it is a central goal of the project to explore the interaction between V2-driven XP movement and other functional projections in the left clausal periphery.

In addition to Prof. Günther Grewendorf, potential supervisors for dissertations include Prof. Jost Gippert, Prof. Helen Leuninger, and Prof. Rainer Voßen.