

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/ihll.2.preface>

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The Syntax of Multiple-*que* Sentences in Spanish: Along the left periphery

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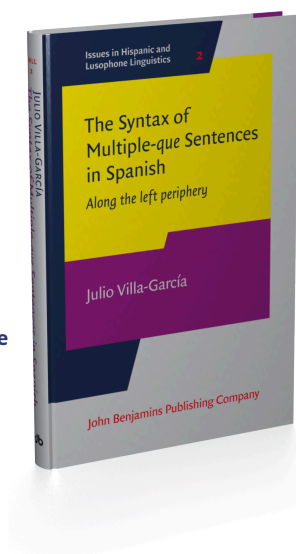
[Issues in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics, 2]

2015. xv, 274 pp.

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Preface

It was back in the academic year of 2003–2004, while majoring in English at the University of Oviedo, in Spain, that I first learned about the left periphery. The topic was part of a course on English syntax taught by Ana Ojea. The approach was that of Rizzi (1997 *et seq.*) and the empirical domain was mainly English. I felt the ‘chemistry’ with the topic right away, but it was not until November 2009, while trying to write a doctoral dissertation on subjecthood in Spanish, that I realized the immense complexity of the Spanish left periphery. This was thanks to the fact that I came across Demonte & Fernández-Soriano (2009), the final proofs of which Violeta Demonte herself kindly sent to me after I asked her for a bibliography on the Spanish CP layer. When I first saw examples of double-complementizer clauses in that work, I was fascinated right away, and, in all honesty, envious. I said to myself that this would have been the perfect topic for me... Little did I know that this topic was going to become a book-length project at the time. I quickly started thinking of additional, puzzling data, which I discussed with Željko Bošković and Mamoru Saito. The verdict was unanimous: “in all likelihood, you will never get out of this topic.”

At that time, the main goal of the project was to provide a syntactic analysis of clauses whose left edge contains more than one instance of the element *que* ‘that’ in present-day Spanish. Such constructions, widely referred to as recomplementation structures, constitute a fruitful laboratory. Although mapping out the left periphery through investigation of its heads was the original objective of this study, one non-trivial by-product of this enterprise is that the data brought to light in this monograph have led to the discussion of a number of hotly debated topics in Spanish and Romance syntax within Chomsky’s generative paradigm. These include the much-debated syntax of preverbal subjects in quintessentially *pro*-drop languages like Spanish, the contentious derivation of Clitic-Left Dislocations (CLLD) and Hanging-Topic-Left Dislocations (HTLD), the analysis of indirect questions embedded under non-inherently-*wh*-selecting verbs, ellipsis, clitic placement in Asturian, obligatory subject-verb inversion in constituent questions and extraction of subjects from postverbal position, as well as the broader question of locality of movement. I hope that the data and analyses presented here will be of interest to researchers working on these areas as well as ignite future research conducive to answering some of the ulterior theoretical questions raised herein. I am happy to see that the topic has attracted the attention of a number of scholars

working on different languages in recent years, which has resulted in a variety of articles, conference presentations, and even doctoral dissertations, not just from a syntactic point of view, but also from other perspectives (e.g., Frank's ongoing work on processing by Spanish Heritage Speakers, to mention just one example).

The data presented in this monograph come from different sources, namely introspective judgments checked with several naive and non-naive native-speaker consultants from different dialects, spontaneous data in a broad sense (oral and written), published data, and corpus data. Although some of the empirical claims made in this book apply across dialects, the main focus is Iberian Spanish. I also use data from other languages when appropriate.

The monograph starts with an introduction that briefly presents Rizzi's framework and lays out the main claims of the book. Chapter 2 centers on the syntactic behavior of recomplementation constructions in Spanish and provides an analysis. Chapter 3 takes the findings of Chapter 2 as its point of departure and compares recomplementation constructions with jussive/optative constructions in a systematic way, while discussing the implications for the analysis of preverbal subjects. Lastly, Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 are devoted to the lengthy issue of the locality of recomplementation (and jussive/optative) constructions, with Chapter 4 focusing on the empirical basis and Chapter 5 on the analysis and the consequences for syntactic theorizing and for related constructions. The book assumes a good degree of familiarity with Chomsky's generative framework, particularly in its recent instantiations (i.e., the Minimalist Program). While aiming at clarity, the book takes the knowledge of a vast number of syntactic concepts for granted. It is my hope that the book will be attractive and useful not only to researchers working on the left periphery of Spanish and Romance, but also to anyone interested in syntax more generally, especially those eager to test the hypotheses formulated in this book in light of other linguistic varieties and from different angles.

This volume has benefited enormously from the data, comments, and criticisms of a number of individuals. First and foremost, this work owes much to Željko Bošković, whose guidance since I embarked on this project in 2009 has been pivotal. I am also indebted to the following people for their feedback and help at various stages (any unfortunate omission is purely unintentional): Klaus Abels, Elena Anagnostopoulou, Scott AnderBois, Karlos Arregui, Adolfo Ausín, Marc Authier, Pilar Barbosa, Josef Bayer, Mary Beriša, Jonathan Bobaljik, Andrea Calabrese, Alex Cuza, Roberta D'Alessandro, Violeta Demonte, Marcel den Dikken, Ana de Prada Pérez, Paco Fernández-Rubiera, Olga Fernández-Soriano, Joshua Frank, Francesc González i Planas, Melvin González-Rivera, Howard Lasnik, Luis López, Luisa Martí, Krzysztof Migdalski, Yoichi Miyamoto, Irina Monich, Jairo Nunes, Masao Ochi, Ana Ojea, Liljana Progovac, Andrew Radford, Luigi Rizzi, Mamoru Saito, Daiko Takahashi, Christina Tortora, Susi Wurmbrand,

and Jan-Wouter Zwart. The content of this monograph also has improved greatly thanks to the comments from numerous anonymous reviewers: the abstract reviewers of the conferences where parts of this book have been presented, journal and edited volume reviewers where previous versions of some of the materials included here were published, and two John Benjamins book proposal reviewers. I am particularly grateful to four John Benjamins manuscript reviewers (Ángel Gallego, Paula Kempchinsky, Lara Reglero, and Emma Ticio), whose thorough and constructive feedback has helped me with virtually every aspect of the book. I would especially like to thank Paula for reading the manuscript after revision and offering even more insightful reviews. I would also like to express my gratitude to the audiences at several venues for their helpful suggestions and observations: MLS 40 Flint, ConSOLE XIX Groningen, BLS 37 (Berkeley), PLC 35, 36, and 37 (UPenn), GLOW 34 Vienna, LSRL 41 Ottawa, HLS 2011 Georgia, LSA 2012 Portland, HLS 2012 Florida, WECOL/AZLS 2013 Phoenix (ASU), LSRL 44 Western Ontario, HLS 2014 Purdue, the CUNY Syntax Supper, the 38th Colloquium of the Center for Linguistics at Nanzan University, the Linguistics Colloquium at Osaka University, the 1st UConn Linguistics Roundtable, the Cognitive Science Colloquium at Villanova University, and the audiences at the University of Connecticut, the University of Florida, and Villanova University. None of the above should be held responsible for the errors I myself have made.

Thanks are also due to Jason Rothman, the founding editor of the new series *Issues in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics*, for his help and unremitting support. Jason believed in me from the outset and always thought that this book would be a great way of opening this valuable series. Thanks also to Kees Vaes and his team at John Benjamins for their enormous help -and patience- with the production of this volume, to Mary Beriša and Seth Whidden for help with the blurb of the book, and to Mercedes Juliá, Chair of the Romance Languages and Literatures Department at Villanova University, for her constant encouragement and support.

I dedicate this book to María Teresa Arias Somohano de García Prieto (Tita Mary), for being the best grandmother in the world and for certainly uttering some of the most elegant, informative, and inspirational multiple-*que* sentences that constitute the object of study of this book.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
February 2015