

Preface

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**Left Sentence Peripheries in Spanish: Diachronic,
Variationist and Comparative Perspectives**

**Edited by Andreas Dufter and Álvaro S. Octavio de Toledo y
Huerta**

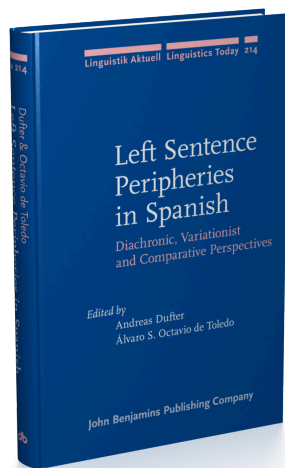
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Preface

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The idea for this volume originated in the workshop entitled “To the Left: Dislocations and Frontings in Old and Modern Spanish” that we convened at the 18th *Hispanistentag*, the Biannual Meeting of the German Association of Hispanists, in Passau, Germany in March 2011. Judging from both our own impressions, and the feedback received, the workshop proved quite successful in bringing together different research traditions and approaches, as it provided some inspiring theoretical stimuli for the historical descriptive linguists as well as some empirical hard nuts for the more theoretically-minded. All in all, eighteen papers were presented, many of which gave rise to lively discussions about recent findings and theoretical analyses of various aspects of left sentence peripheries in Spanish. During that meeting, it became clear that a collection of articles exploring the many facets of the topic would be more than welcome: Until now Spanish has continued to figure less prominently in the descriptive and theoretical literature on left peripheries than other major European languages, such as English or Italian. Furthermore, considerable progress has been achieved over the last few years in accounting for some of the intriguing properties of the higher functional field in Spanish clausal syntax, and their implications for semantics, information structure and discourse pragmatics. With these reasons in mind, we felt it was high time for a collection of articles to be compiled, which attest recent developments and insights in this dynamic field of investigation. This volume features nine contributions submitted by participants of the conference workshop and four additional contributions by syntacticians from Europe and America.

Acknowledgments are due to a number of people and institutions: To begin with, we would like to thank all participants in the Passau workshop for actively engaging in stimulating discussion, in an open-minded, albeit critical spirit, and all contributors to this volume for their cooperation and commitment. In addition, we are indebted to Kerstin Kazzazi, to Rohaana Wijekulasuriya, and to no less than twenty-eight anonymous reviewers for their constructive criticism and many insightful suggestions for improvement. Last but not least, we wish to express our special debt of gratitude to Werner Abraham and Elly van Gelderen, the editors of the *Linguistik Aktuell/Linguistics Today* series, and to the editorial staff of John Benjamins, in particular Kees Vaes,

for their patience and professional guidance during the production process. In the course of compilation of this manuscript, a number of circumstances changed for us, most for the better, some for worse. The project took its start while we were working at the Universities of Erlangen-Nürnberg (Andreas Dufter) and Tübingen (Álvaro S. Octavio de Toledo), however its final stages saw us working together at the University of Munich. In May 2013, in the midst of the editorial process, Prof. Emilio Octavio de Toledo y Ubieto sadly passed away. In April 2014, Theresia Dufter, Andreas' mother, died after several months of illness. We would like our editorial efforts to stand as a very modest tribute to their memory.

Andreas Dufter and Álvaro S. Octavio de Toledo y Huerta
Munich and Madrid, April 2014