

Giuseppe Samo

V2 languages do not challenge Cartography, if the analysis follows Cartographic guidelines

In my talk, I shall present a criterial approach V2 which rigidly follows from the guidelines of Cartography (Cinque & Rizzi 2010; Rizzi & Cinque 2016). V2 languages are believed to challenge the fine-structure of the Left Periphery (Rizzi 1997, Rizzi & Bocci 2017). According to Abels (2017: 5; 18): “a cartographic splintering of the left periphery has not produced an internally coherent, descriptively satisfying approach to V2. The central problem is the syntactic splintering of C.”. As a matter of fact, recent analyses (Haegeman 1996; Benincà & Poletto 2004; Holmberg 2015, Wolfe 2016) adopted Den Besten’s (1983) intuition of the movement of the verb to a C°. Within a richer Left Periphery, the complementizer positions are Force° and Fin°. In this framework, (i) the verb (INFL) moves and (ii) it triggers the movement of the fronted XP. However, these proposals violate theory-internal guidelines of Cartography: the movement to the XP to SpecFin° is not expected under a criterial movement approach and the movement to SpecForce° is a violation of criterial freezing (Rizzi 2015).

Thus, it would be desirable to find further landing sites of the verb movement. Samo (2018) does not consider V2 as a unitary phenomenon, but as a sum of “Residual V2s” (Wh-criterion, Rizzi 1991; Neg-Criterion, Haegeman & Zanuttini 1991, etc.). The XP moves to an activated criterial position (scope-discourse semantic position) in the Left Periphery (e.g. TopicP, FocusP, ModP) and creates a Spec-Head configuration with INFL. In this framework, (i) the fronted XP moves and (ii) it triggers the movement of the verb (INFL). Finally, I will provide some examples of the predictive power of the Criterial approach to V2.

Giuseppe Samo recently discussed his PhD dissertation at the University of Geneva and he is currently lecturer in Linguistics at the Beijing Language and Culture University and Committee Member of the International Association of Syntactic Cartography (Macau).