

On the strength of D⁰: case resolution phenomena in free relative clauses

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This talk proposes a novel account of free relative clauses (RCs), which associates case resolution patterns to the typology of D⁰ heads à la Longobardi (1994), Guardiano & Longobardi (2005). Although free RCs generally obey matching requirements, certain languages tolerate configurations where the case assigned by the matrix clause to the nominal phrase containing the free RC conflicts with that assigned within the RC. Languages vary as to whether they allow for case conflicting configurations and apply case resolution, and, if they do, as to whether the case conflict is resolved in compliance with that assigned from the matrix or the RC probe. By adopting a cartographic approach to free RCs, I account for the linguistic variation by means of the property of the D⁰ head in a given language, strong vs. weak D⁰, and, in turn, of the feature-sharing mechanisms between D⁰ and the lower heads.