

Context-Anchoring and the Syntax of Spanish

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1. Introduction

It has been argued in the literature that, in Spanish, focused phrases in the left periphery of the clause are interpreted as contrastive, whereas new information focus correlates with a rightmost position in the sentence (1), e.g., Zubizarreta (1998) and Domínguez (2004), a.o.¹

- (1) a. A: Quién ha comprado un café hoy? B: Hoy ha comprado un café María.
Who has bought a coffee today? Today has bought a coffee María.
'Who bought a coffee today?' 'Today, María bought a coffee.'
- b. A: María quiere un café. B: Pero qué dices? UN TE quiere María, no un café.
María wants a coffee. But what you-say? A TEA wants María, not a coffee.
'María wants a coffee.' 'What did you say? María wants a TEA, not a coffee.'

Still a puzzle arises under the assumption that there is no such a thing as two kinds of focus, i.e., contrastive or new information focus, but only a unified notion of focus (e.g., Herburger 2000, Rooth 1985, Brunetti 2003 and Casielles-Suarez 2004), in that it is not clear why the difference in word order should exist. It is argued that this puzzle can be solved by positing *uniform movement of the focused XP to FocP* (e.g., Ordóñez 2000 and Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria 2008) and *differential context-anchoring* understood within the framework of Raposo and Uriagereka (1995), henceforth R&U. This paper is structured as follows: First, a number of previous proposals in the literature are briefly presented. Afterwards, the framework of this research is introduced, namely, R&U's context-anchoring mechanism, a framework that accords well with the Neo-Davidsonian approach to focus (Herburger 2000). Next, I present syntactic evidence in favor of the approach and discuss how some potential counterarguments can be overcome.

2. Previous approaches to focused-related word order variation

For the purpose of this discussion, focus refers to the new information that is being asserted in any given proposition. It is "the part of the sentence that answers the relevant wh-question (implicit or explicit) in the particular context in which the sentence is being used" (Gundel 1994 in Casielles-Suárez 2004: 144). Strictly speaking, word order variation caused by focalization processes affects not only subjects but also other elements of the sentence. However, it is subjects that have captured more attention in the literature and, therefore, I pay particular attention to the VOS order. At least the following approaches to focused-related word order variation illustrated with the VOS order are found in the literature:

- (i) Right adjunction of the subject to some projection (Torrego 1984)
- (ii) Rightward movement of the subject at PF (Parafita Couto 2005)
- (iii) P(rosodic)-movement of presupposed phrases past the in situ subject (Zubizarreta 1998)
- (iv) Pronunciation of the low copy of the subject to meet Sentence Stress Assignment conditions, under the assumption that all arguments and the verb vacate vP / VP, arguably for Case checking purposes à la Chomsky (1995) (Ortega-Santos 2006a and 2006b, following Stjepanic's 1999 analysis of Serbo-Croatian)
- (v) Object scrambling past the (in situ) subject (Ordóñez 1998; cf. Gallego 2007)
- (vi) Movement of the subject to a Focus projection at the VP periphery, with movement of the presupposed material to a clause internal Topic projection higher than the Focus projection (Belletti 1999 and Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria 2008)
- (vii) Remnant movement (Kayne and Pollock 1999 for French and Ordóñez 2000 and Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria 2008 for Spanish)

The purpose of this research is to provide novel evidence for the remnant movement approach to (at least a subset of) focused subjects at the right edge of the sentence within R&U's (1995) context anchoring mechanism. Additionally, some counterarguments found in the literature will be answered.

¹ In Spanish, an inverted question mark is used to begin interrogative sentences:

i. ¿Qué ocurre?
'What's going on?'

Throughout this work, I do not include such initial question marks to avoid that readers unfamiliar with this practice may get confused.

3. Analysis

A number of researchers working on a variety of frameworks have argued that the existence of such diverse interpretations as new information and contrastive focus does not imply that there are distinct focalization processes in Spanish or in any language (e.g., Brunetti 2003, Casielles-Suárez 2004 and Herburger 2000).²

In the words of Casielles-Suárez (2004: 142), “focus in general has been claimed to make a set of alternatives salient (Rooth’s 1985 p-set) in all cases. From this point of view, the fact that some of these alternatives may be in some cases more obvious or even totally spelled-out does not change the nature of focus”. Given this, the left-periphery or rightmost position of the focused phrase cannot follow from semantic differences of the focused phrase or the kind of focus involved. In what follows, I adopt this view and I use the labels new information and contrastive focus only for the sake of exposition without any theoretical import.

It is argued that R&U’s independently motivated framework of context-anchoring provides a way to account for this variation in the word order of sentences containing focused-phrases, when combined with uniform movement to Foc,P in the case of *both* leftmost and rightmost focus. More specifically, I argue that i. both new information focus and left-periphery contrastive focus are the result of movement as suggested by a number of pieces of evidence, e.g., the licensing of parasitic gaps and WCO effects; ii. the rightmost / leftmost position of the focused XP follows from different context anchoring.

3.1. Raposo and Uriagereka (1995)

For R&U, contexts are set within other contexts, much as quantifiers have scope inside one another. Under the assumption that X is the context of the subject S and Y is the context of the predicate P, a sequence of contexts <X,Y> is interpreted differently from a sequence of contexts <Y,X>. ‘The first of these sequences would introduce a context Y for predicate P within the context X for subject S. Conversely, the second sequence would introduce a context X of the subject within the context of the predicate’ (R&U: 191). This means, for instance, that in the SV order, the subject will anchor the predicate, whereas in the VS order the predicate will anchor the subject. Arguably, this underlies the categorial/thetic interpretation of the sentence as determined by the position of the subject

Within R&U’s framework, context-anchoring is linked to a particular LF site. This particular aspect is not adopted in this research. There is a growing consensus in the literature that Internal Merge (IM) or syntactic movement adds expressive power to language (e.g., see Chomsky 2001 and subsequent work). Chomsky argues that the mapping between the Duality of Semantics and the Duality of Merge is systematic. In the words of Chomsky (2005: 7): ‘To a large extent, EM yields generalized argument structure (theta roles, the “cartographic” hierarchies,³ and similar properties); and IM yields discourse-related properties such as old information and specificity, along with scopal effects’. Uriagereka (2008) provides a rationale for this kind of view arguing for the idea that *mapping a more or less entangled syntax specifically to a semantics of comparable complexity* is realistic, both from a developmental (learnability) and, ultimately, an evolutionary (minimalistic) perspective. Thus one can maintain the insights of R&U’s context-anchoring mechanism, without the need to resort to specialized projections.

Below it is shown how R&U’s framework and the mapping of complex syntax onto complex semantics (Chomsky 2005 and Uriagereka 2008) provide a rationale for the word order variations caused by focalization processes in Spanish.

3.2. Word order variation, focus and remnant movement

In this section, I apply R&U’s context-anchoring mechanism to the syntax of focus. In particular, I argue in favor of capturing the left-periphrastic and right-periphrastic position of focus phrases in Spanish in terms of uniform movement of the focused XP to the left periphery –resulting in the leftmost

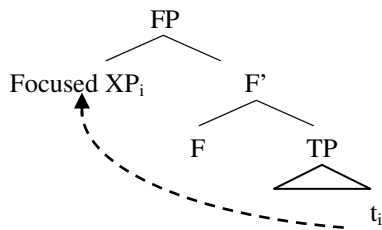
² E.g., according to Herburger (2000: 52-58), for instance, contrastiveness and exhaustiveness are not intrinsic properties of focus. This researcher considers these ‘effects’ in English, for instance, result from the pragmatics of intonation contours and, again, not from the properties of focus.

³ See Cinque (1999); Cinque, ed. (2002); Belletti, ed. (2004); Rizzi, ed. (2004).

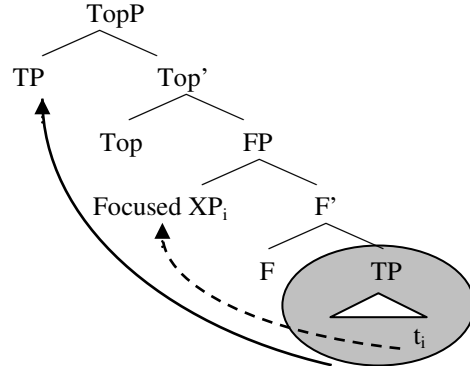
position of certain focused XPs-, followed by remnant movement of IP in a number of cases –resulting in the rightmost order of certain focused XPs (Ordóñez 2000 and Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria 2008).

The present perspective entails that the syntax of new information and contrastive focus in Spanish are fairly similar, in keeping with the view that there is only one kind of focus (e.g., Brunetti 2003, Casilless-Suárez 2004 and Herburger 2000). Both left-periphery and rightmost focus show uniform movement of the focused XP to FP, but the topicalization of TP takes place covertly in the former case and overtly in the latter. This view is illustrated below, where I leave out irrelevant details:

(2) *Left-periphery focus*



(3) *Rightmost focus*



Under current assumptions that EPP features responsible for syntactic movement, in general, are optionally assigned to yield a new outcome, the left periphery of the clause includes an EPP feature in FP (Focus Phrase) and, optionally, it may include an EPP feature in TopP. Depending on the presence or absence of an EPP feature in TopP, the presupposed information will or will not surface there, thus deriving rightmost and left-periphery focus, respectively.^{4, 5}

3.2.1. On the leftmost/rightmost position of focalized elements

A number of scholars working on Italian have shown that the background material preceding focalized elements and the background material following these have rather different properties. In the words of Brunetti (2003: 158), ‘prefocal material has a “richer” set of functions’. In particular, Frascarelli (2000 and 2003; see also references therein) observes that a post-focal topic cannot be ‘contrastive’ as opposed to a preverbal topic. Under the view that IM adds expressive power to the system, that is to say, that complex syntax correlates with complex semantics/pragmatics, it is consistent to argue that these (richer) set of functions underlie the movement of presupposed material to the prefocal slot, thus determining the leftmost or rightmost position of the focused phrase. Further effects of this movement on interpretation would follow from R&U’s context-anchoring mechanism: prefocal topics set the context in which the focal XP is interpreted, whereas postfocal topics are interpreted within the context of the focused XP. Within this proposal, the topicalization of TP is not stipulated, but rather is driven by the way the speakers conceptualize events, their participants, corresponding predications and their contexts.⁶

⁴ The existence of specialized projections to host presupposed or focused XPs is not crucial. These are used for the sake of exposition. Similarly, this approach could be restated in phase-theoretic terms, assuming the optional assignment of EPP features in the C-domain.

⁵ This accords well with Herburger’s (2000) Neo-Davidsonian approach to focus. According to Herburger (2000), focus affects quantificational structure. In particular, focus reshapes the quantificational structure of the tacit Neo-Davidsonian event quantifier after quantifier scope is assigned. As a consequence, all the nonfocused material in the scope of the event quantifier Q also restricts Q. Uriagereka (2005 and 2008) and Hornstein, Lasnik and Uriagereka (2007) suggest that a possible syntactic configuration to express these semantics can be attained by remnant movement, which has the effect of reprojection (Hornstein and Uriagereka 1999). Reprojection is a process whereby a phrase marker’s label changes in the course of the derivation. This process allows binary quantifiers to take scope (at LF). See Hornstein and Uriagereka (1999) for details. If right, this provides a rationale for the derivations I argue for. See also Irurtzun (2005) for a related proposal concerning the syntax of focus and reprojection.

⁶ Naturally, presupposed information will anchor new information (see Erteschik-Shir 1997 and Kiss 2002) and, consequently, the new information will come to be last. If anything, these pragmatic requirements are soft

With regard to new information focus, this view entails a remnant movement approach (Ordóñez 2000 and Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria 2008) where, crucially, all steps are motivated.⁷

Furthermore, the rightmost position of focused XP's which constitute new information focus is consistent with default Sentence Stress Assignment conditions for new information focus in Spanish (cf. Zubizarreta 1998)

3.3. Evidence for the analysis

Evidence in favor of the remnant movement approach to focused elements at the right edge of the clause comes from the syntax of parasitic gaps, Weak Crossover Effects, scope relations between negation and focused XPs, the island-properties of adjuncts and the syntax of overt subjects following an infinitive.

3.3.1 Parasitic gaps

Parasitic gaps are known to be licensed under A-bar movement (see (4) and (5) for wh-movement and focus-movement, respectively), but not under A-movement (see (6)):

- (4) Qué (libros) tiraste sin haber leído ____? *Wh-movement*
What (books) threw-you without have read ____?
'What / Which books did you throw away without reading?'
- (5) (Hasta) DON QUIJOTE Y LA COLMENA tiré sin haber leído _____. *Left-periphery*
(Even) DON QUIJOTE AND LA COLMENA threw-I without have read ____ *focus*
- (6) *Tiré Don Quijote y La Colmena sin haber leído ____.
Threw-I Don Quijote and La Colmena without have read ____
'I threw away Don Quixote and La colmena without reading them.'

If an object at the right edge of the clause constitutes new information focus, the remnant movement approach predicts that the parasitic gap should be licensed, as by hypothesis the (sentence final) object would be the result of movement, going through an intermediate stage analogous to (5). This prediction is fulfilled, as B's utterance in (7) shows (compared to (6)).

- (7) A: Qué (libros) tiraste sin haber leído ____?
What (books) threw-you without have read ____?
'What / Which books did you throw away without reading?'
- B: Tiré sin haber leído DON QUIJOTE Y LA COLMENA. *New information focus*
threw-I without have read DON QUIJOTE AND LA COLMENA
'I threw away Don Quixote and La colmena without reading them.'

Since subjects do not license c-commanded parasitic gaps, one cannot test whether they do so when relevantly focused. Still, the properties of objects directly support the view that elements which constitute new information focus have moved to the A-bar layer. Inasmuch as new information focus, with its rightmost requirement, is not restricted to objects but extends to subjects as well, it seems coherent to conclude that (at least a subset of) postverbal subjects are also the result of A-bar movement, and, concretely, remnant movement as discussed above.

3.3.2 Weak Crossover Effects

The same argument can be made with regard to WCO effects in that A-bar moved elements (see (8)a and (8)b for wh-movement and focus-movement, respectively) pattern together with rightmost focused elements (8)c:

- (8) a. *A quiéni_i han visto sus_i progenitores? *Wh-movement*
to whom_i have seen his_i parents?

constraints, in keeping with a certain degree of variability found in the judgments of the leftmost / rightmost position that focused XP's take.

⁷ There is no claim that this is the only way of deriving focused postverbal subjects, but rather that remnant movement derivations to focused subjects do exist. See Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria (2008) for evidence that *on top of the remnant movement approach* to focused postverbal subject other mechanisms are also available. These researchers claim that the VOS order may also result from the movement of the subject to an IP-internal focus projection followed by scrambling of the object past this focus projection. See Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria (2008) for details. Note that if both CP and vP constitute strong phases and thus correlate with surface semantic effects, as claimed in Chomsky's (2005) work, the existence of two alternative Focus phrases seems natural.

- b. *A LUIGI_i han visto sus_i progenitores, no a Juan. *Left-periphery focus*
to LUIGI_i have seen his_i parents, not to Juan
- c. A: Who did his parents see?
B: *Sus_i progenitores han visto a LUIGI_i. *New information focus*
his_i parents have seen to LUIGI_i

3.3.3 Scope relations between focused XPs and negation

Ortiz de Urbina (2002), when discussing a similar analysis of Basque rightmost focus, shows that both leftmost and rightmost focused items take scope over negation, in spite of the fact that the latter linearly follows negation. This indicates that the focused XP in the rightmost position is higher than the linear order suggests, in keeping with the remnant movement analysis. The argument is straightforwardly applicable to Spanish, in that the focused element has scope over negation irrespective of the leftmost or rightmost position it occupies (9)a/b, in clear contrast to non-focused XPs linearly following negation (9)c:

- (9) a. A ANDONI no le traje el vino
to Andoni not him bring the wine
‘I did not bring the wine to Andoni.’ (=It is to Andoni that I did not bring the wine)
- b. ¿A quién no le trajiste el vino?
to whom not him-bring the wine?
‘To whom didn’t you bring any wine?’
No le traje el vino a ANDONI.
not him-brought the wine to Andoni
‘I did not bring the wine to Andoni.’ (=It is to Andoni that I did not bring the wine)
- c. No le traje el vino a Andoni
not him bring the wine to Andoni
‘I did not bring wine to Andoni.’ (=It is not the case that I brought wine to him)

These scope facts can be explained if topicalized material is reconstructed in its original position (Ortiz de Urbina 2002). This reconstruction is independently attested (Suñer 2003):

- (10) *La primera obra de un escritor_i, pro_i siempre la escribe con placer.
The first work of a writer_i, pro_i always it writes with pleasure

In this example the ungrammaticality is due to a Principle C violation. Crucially, this entails that the dislocated object reconstruct into its base position. A unified analysis of leftmost and rightmost focus in terms of movement to the left-periphery of the clause, (followed by movement of the remnant IP past the focused XP in the case of rightmost focus), captures this interpretation facts.

3.3.4 Adjuncts

Note that the subject of a main clause may follow an embedded clause when focused as predicted by the remnant movement account:

- (11) A: Quién dijo que hacía calor?
who said that it-was hot?
‘Who said that it was hot?’
B: Dijo que hacía calor PEDRO.
said that it-was hot PEDRO
‘PEDRO said that it was hot.’

In contrast, if the originating clause of the focused XP at the right edge of the clause is an island, e.g., an adjunct, that is to say, an island, the result is ungrammatical (see Ortiz de Urbina 2002 for Basque), a fact that can be interpreted as evidence that rightmost focalization involves movement:

- (12) Cuando Pedro compró ese libro, nos fuimos.
when Pedro bought that book, we-reflexive left.
‘Once Pedro bought that book, we left.’
- (13) *Cuando compró ese libro, nos fuimos PEDRO.
when bought that book, we-reflexive left PEDRO.

3.3.5 On Postverbal subjects and infinitives in Spanish

Further evidence for the remnant movement approach to postverbal subjects in Spanish comes from the distribution of postverbal subjects following governed infinitivals. Subsection 1 discusses the

licensing of overt subjects following governed infinitivals. It is argued that those subjects are arguments of the main verb in spite of what linear order may seem to suggest at first. Subsection 2 discusses further properties of these kinds of subjects, in particular c-command relationships between the subject and the object of the infinitive (Ordóñez 2000), showing that these relationships provide evidence in favor of the remnant movement approach.

3.3.5.1. Overt subjects following governed infinitivals

In Spanish, infinitives show no tense and agreement and are predicted not to license overt subjects. Governed infinitives have been claimed to be well-behaved in this respect, (14), in contrast to ungoverned infinitives, (15), which license overt subjects (see Ortega-Santos 2002 for a reinterpretation of this asymmetry in terms of L-marking). A number of approaches have been developed accordingly (Fernández Lagunilla 1987, Rigau 1995 and Torrego 1998, a.o.).

- (14) a. Pedro lamentó no haber ido.
Pedro regretted not to-have gone
'Peter regretted that he did not go'
- b. (Ayer) lamentó no haber (*Pedro) ido (*Pedro).⁸
(yesterday) regretted not to-have (*Pedro) gone (*Pedro)
- (15) a. Al entrar Juan, todos salieron.
at to-enter Juan, everybody left.
'When Juan entered, everybody left'
- b. ¿Regalarles yo mi coche?
to-give-them I my car?
'I would never give them my car'

Still, Spanish allows for sentences like (16), where a governed infinitive is followed by a focused subject:

- (16) (Ayer) lamentó no haber ido PEDRO.
(yesterday) regretted not to-have gone PEDRO.

It is argued that the overt subject in (3) is the subject of the main clause. The discussion is exemplified with *lamentar* 'lament', because its incompatibility with clitic climbing shows that we have a biclausal structure (see Gómez Torrego 1999), a factor we need to control for.

The evidence is the following: under extraposition of the infinitival clause, the subject cannot be included in the extraposed clause, but rather it has to remain in the main clause. If the overt subject was part of the infinitival clause, this behavior would remain unexplained:

- (17) No haber (*PEDRO/*Pedro) ido (*PEDRO/*Pedro) es lo que
not to-have (*PEDRO/Pedro) went (*PEDRO/Pedro) is the what
(PEDRO/Pedro) lamentó (PEDRO/Pedro) con amargura (PEDRO).
(PEDRO/Pedro) regretted (PEDRO/Pedro) with bitterness (PEDRO).
'The fact that Peter did not go is what he regretted bitterly'

Furthermore, focus fronting is available in embedded clauses, (18)a. If the overt subject is part of the infinitival clause in these structures, it should be able to front to the beginning of the embedded clause when focused, contrary to the fact, (18)b.

- (18) a. Lamenté con amargura que PEDRO no hubiera ido.
Regretted-I with bitterness that PEDRO not had gone
'I regretted bitterly that PEDRO did not go.'
- b. Lamentó con amargura (*PEDRO) no haber ido.⁹
regretted with bitterness (*PEDRO) not to-have gone

This constitutes evidence that the overt subject is an argument of the main verb. This result provides support for the traditional distinction between governed and ungoverned infinitives with respect to subject licensing in Spanish. Next, I show how this result provides an argument for the remnant movement approach.

⁸ This judgment corresponds to the interpretation where 'Pedro' is not focused.

⁹ The presence of the adverb shows that there is no adjacency requirement between the main verb and the infinitive.

3.3.5.2. On overt subject of infinitives and remnant movement

Evidence in favor of the remnant movement approach can be found in the c-command relationships between the object and the subject in the VOS order. In particular, Ordóñez (2000) argues that in the VOS order the object c-commands the subject, as shown by Principle C effects:

- (19) a. El libro, los hermanos de Eva_i se lo compraron a ella_i. *SVO order*
the book, the brothers of Eva_i bought to her_i *VOS order*
'As for the book, Eva's brothers bought it for her.'
b. *El libro, se lo compraron a ella_i los hermanos de Eva_i.
the book bought to her_i the brothers of Eva_i

Crucially, Principle C asymmetries are also found in the case of overt subjects following a governed infinitival:

- (20) a. El libro, los hermanos de Eva_i lamentaron habérselo comprado a ella_i. *SVO order*
the book, the brothers of Eva regretted having bought to her
'As for the book, Eva's brothers regretted having bought it for her.'
b. *El libro, lamentaron habérselo comprado a ella_i los hermanos de Eva_i. *VOS order*

If the overt subject is the main clause subject as I argued before, it is not clear how the object of the infinitival comes to c-command it while following the infinitive in linear order, particularly so, because we are dealing with a biclausal structure. These c-command relationships together with the claim that the overt subject originates as an argument of the main verb can be reconciled in a remnant movement account: First the focused subject moves to FocP, then the object moves to the left periphery where it c-commands the subject and, finally, the whole TP moves past these two elements. As baroque as this derivation sounds, it has been proposed for Romance simple clauses already (Ordóñez 2000) and this research provides further support for this view. Note that, a priori, it is not clear how other approaches to postverbal subjects mentioned in section 2 could deal with these facts. If this view is on the right track, it provides support for a remnant movement approach to (at least a subset of) postverbal subjects bearing focus in Romance.

To sum up, a number of arguments in favor of the remnant movement approach to new information focus have been presented. Parasitic gaps, WCO effects, scope relations between negation and focused XPs, the island-properties of adjuncts and the syntax of overt subjects following an infinitive provide support for this analysis.¹⁰

3.4. On some possible counterarguments against the remnant movement approach

The purpose of this section is to address some potential counterarguments to the remnant movement approach. The issues to be discussed are the following: (a) whether TP/VP can be targeted by movement operations, (b) the distribution of floating quantifiers, (c) the interaction between wh-movement and postverbal subjects, (d) the distribution of negative polarity items, and (e) the distribution of objects.

3.4.1 TP/VP as a target of movement

A remnant movement analysis takes for granted that TP/VP can be targeted by movement operations. Whereas there seems to be some evidence of such movement in the case of Portuguese simple verb forms, in the case of complex verb forms (e.g., verb forms involving auxiliaries) the evidence is not so compelling (Costa 2002: 72-73).¹¹ The behavior of Spanish, in any case, shows that TP/VP can be targeted syntactic operations, such as deletion processes, (21) (see Merchant 2004) or movement operations, (22) (cf. Etxepare 2000 for related claims):

¹⁰ See also Uribe-Etxebarria (2002) for arguments in favor of a remnant movement approach to wh-elements at the right edge of the clause in Spanish. In particular, she claims that pied-piping and right-dislocation facts when related to the syntax of wh-elements at the right edge of the clause provide evidence in favor of remnant movement. As far as I can tell, her arguments can be straightforwardly applied to focused elements on the right edge of the clause.

¹¹ It is beyond the scope of this research to explain this particular behavior of Portuguese, though a priori the fact that in this language the subject can constitute new information in the VSO order (Ambar 1992: 55), in clear opposition to Spanish, suggest that each language may use different focalization mechanism.

- (21) A: Que ha leído Juan?
 what has read Juan?
 ‘What has Juan read’
 B: Un libro [TP ~~Juan ha leído~~].
 a book [TP ~~Juan has read~~]
 ‘A book.’
- (22) Haber leído, claro que ha leído.
 have read, of course that has read¹²
 ‘Of course he has read whatever he was supposed to read.’

3.4.2 On the distribution of floating quantifiers

With regard to the syntax of floating quantifiers, Costa (2002) argues that under the assumption that these may appear in the positions where a trace/copy of the subject is found (Koopman and Sportiche 1991), the remnant movement analysis predicts that the IP moved past the subject may contain a floating quantifier. This is indeed the case as Valmala (2008) and Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria (2008), following Valmala’s analysis, argue, in spite of Costa’s claim to the contrary:

- (23) Han conseguido todos beca los estudiantes de física.
 Have got all scholarship the students of physics
 ‘The students of physics are the ones who have all got scholarships.’

The distribution of floating quantifiers, therefore, provides further evidence in favor of the remnant movement account.

3.4.3 The interaction between wh-movement and preverbal subjects

Still another point that Costa makes comes from the interaction between wh-movement and postverbal subjects. If postverbal subjects are necessarily focused, it is predicted that they should be in complementary distribution with wh-elements (e.g., both kinds of elements compete for the same position, see Rizzi 1997), contrary to the fact:

- (24) Qué le regaló a María Pedro?
 What her-give to María Pedro?
 ‘What did Pedro give to María?’

However, it is not clear that the subject *Pedro* is focused in such cases. As a consequence, there is nothing in the remnant movement account to focus to predict that the postverbal subject should move out of VP and/or compete with the wh-element and the issue that Costa points out does not arise. Furthermore, it is well-known that under multiple wh-questions only one of the wh-elements moves and the rest remain in situ – just like a focused postverbal subject would in such context. The question though, is how the subject comes to surface at the right edge. If object scrambling exists in the system on top of the remnant movement derivations (see Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria 2008), the rightmost position of the subject in such data would not be problematic.

3.4.4 The distribution of so-called n-words

Postverbal n-words are assumed to be licensed by negation under c-command, whereas preverbal n-words do not have this requirement. Under the remnant movement approach, it is predicted that a focused subject at the right edge of the sentence patterns with preverbal n-words, contrary to the fact (Belletti 1999):

- (25) a. A: Quién viene?
 Who comes?
 ‘Who is coming?’
 B: No viene nadie.
 no comes n-body
 ‘Nobody is coming.’

¹² See Vicente (2007) for evidence that these topicalisation structures involve movement.

- b. Nadie viene.
n-body comes
'Nobody is coming.'

Herburger (2000: 24-25), following Zanuttini (1991) and Herburger (1998) shows that under certain circumstances it is possible to find postverbal n-words that are not c-commanded by any negative element. This is possible when the n-word is interpreted as a negative quantifier that takes narrow scope with respect to the event described by the verb:

- (26) María se fue con nada.
María left with nothing
'María left without taking anything with her.'

Related facts are found with postverbal n-words functioning as subjects (J. Uriagereka, p.c.):

- (27) Sabes quién ganó el Tour? Pues mira, después de que descalificaran a todo dios,
Do-you-know who won the Tour? Look, after of that they-disqualified to all god,
¡lo ganó NADIE!
it won NOBODY!
'Do you know who won the Tour? Look, after the y disqualified everybody, NOBODY won!'

Even though further research on the syntax of n-words and its relation to the remnant movement approach is needed, such data show that a remnant movement approach may apply even in this context.¹³

3.4.5 The distribution of objects

Last but not least, Costa notes that the properties of the object play a role in Germanic scrambling languages: Only definite objects can scramble past the subject (de Hoop 1991). A similar effect is found in Portuguese, a fact that argues in favor of an object scrambling analysis in contrast to the remnant movement analysis, which does not predict that kind of interaction:

- (28) a. ?Viu um gato o Paulo.
saw a cat the Paulo
b. ??Leu algo o Paulo.
Read something the Paulo

Inasmuch as this effect is absent in Spanish, this supports a remnant movement analysis:

- (29) a. A: Quién vio un gato?
who saw a cat?
'Who saw a cat?'
B: Vio un gato Pedro.
saw a cat Pedro
'PEDRO saw a cat.'
b. A: Quién leyó algo?
who read something?
B: Leyó algo Pedro.¹⁴

¹³ As discussed in the introduction to section 3, I follow Brunetti (2003), Casielles-Suárez (2004) and Herburger (2000) in their claims that there is only one kind of focus in Spanish. Therefore, the contrastive nature of the example does not undermine the relevance of the evidence for the current approach to rightmost focus.

¹⁴ Costa (2002) provides other pieces of evidence against a remnant movement analysis in Portuguese i. based on the unjustified assumption that in the remnant movement treatment of postverbal subjects the subject is topicalized and not focused, ii. based on adverb placement facts, iii. language particular properties of Portuguese. I abstract away from the discussion around (i.). With regard to the adverb placement facts, Costa points out that certain adverbs may precede or follow the object in transitive clauses. In the latter case, the adverb is focused. In the VOS order, the same adverb placement facts obtain, the adverb may immediately precede or immediately follow the object – without being focalized. According to Costa, the possibility for the adverb to follow the object without being focused calls for an explanation. Note that not only focus may rearrange constituents, but in the spirit of R&U, an adverb may anchor the object or the other way round. As far as (iii) is concerned, Costa uses the interaction between clitic placement and the elements hosted in the C-domain to test whether subjects at the right edge of the sentence actually are hosted in the left periphery. It is beyond the scope of this paper to account for the clitic placement facts in Portuguese, though Costa's n. 5 mentions a plausible explanation in terms of prosodic properties as opposed to syntactic properties (Barbosa, to appear). That kind of treatment would be compatible with the remnant movement account. See also n. 11 above.

read something Pedro
'PEDRO read something.'

To summarize, a number of counterarguments to the remnant movement account have been answered. In particular, the following issues have been shown not to pose a serious threat for the remnant movement approach: (a) whether TP/VP can be targeted by movement operations, (b) the distribution of floating quantifiers, (c) the interaction between wh-movement and postverbal subjects, (d) the distribution of negative polarity items, and (d) the distribution of objects. Inasmuch as all these areas of the syntax of Spanish are shown to be compatible with the present analysis, this account gains further strength.

4. Conclusion

Following Herburger (2000), it has been claimed that there is no such division of focus into contrastive and new information focus. This view argues for a unified syntactic approach to left-periphery and rightmost focus in Spanish, (cf. also Ordóñez 2000 and Etxepare and Uribe-Etxebarria 2008), where word order differences (e.g., the left-periphrastic or rightmost position) follow from differential context-anchoring within the framework of Raposo and Uriagereka (1995). Evidence is provided by the syntax of parasitic gaps and WCO effects, scope relations between the focused XP and negation and the island-behavior of adjuncts, ao. In turn, possible counterarguments to the remnant movement approach have been shown not to constitute a serious threat.

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