

Dislocated adjectives in French

The information-structural properties of non-nominal constituents are a relatively under-researched area of recent literature on the information structure. In three experimental studies, we therefore want to examine the interaction between information-structural interpretation and syntactic position on the basis of French adjectives in copula constructions. We distinguish between left-dislocated adjectives (LDA), right-dislocated adjectives (RDA) and integrated adjectives (IA).

- (1) a. LDA: *Fatigué, il ne l'est pas.* 'He is not tired'
b. RDA: *Il ne l'est pas, fatigué.*
c. IA: *Il n'est pas fatigué.*

In the experiments, (i) in which syntactic position adjectives already given in the discourse are preferred, (ii) in which syntactic position contrastively topicalized adjectives are preferred and if parallel structures are preferred and (iii) if the left dislocation of an adjective is always preferred is interpreted in a contrasting manner.

FINAL REPORT:

In two experiments, we tested the preferred syntactic position of (i) discourse given adjectives (experiment 1) and (ii) contrasting adjectives (experiment 2) in French. The first experiment has shown that dislocation is generally dispreferred for adjectives (which contrasts with the literature on nominal constituents). The second experiment, which only tested combinations of dislocations, has shown that among the possible combinations for contrasted adjectives, two left-dislocated adjectives are preferred.