

## SUMMARY

The dissertation investigates discourse-related clause-initial constructions within the framework of Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG). The following structures are to be scrutinized: English Topicalization (TOP-Eng), Clause-initial adjuncts (CIADJ-Engs) and Left-dislocation (LD-Eng); Hungarian Left-dislocation (LD-Hun) and Operator fronting (OF). The overall goal is to provide an adequate account for these structures especially with regards to their syntactic and information-structural properties.

The dissertation builds on several earlier approaches, expands and improves them in various ways. As for information-structure, it is argued that no satisfactory account for the understanding and representation has been proposed and thus a new framework is put forward. The proposal is an amalgamation and enhancement of earlier feature-based approaches. I argue that the features NEW, DISCOURSE-STRUCTURING and CONTRASTIVE are well-definable and are able to account for the existing information-structural categories. In syntax, I rely on Laczkó's works (2014a, 2014b, 2015) on Hungarian and supplement them in two ways. One, I incorporate my proposals about information-structure into them, and two, I expand them to cover subordinate clauses as well. For this latter part, I investigate the theoretical and empirical landscape and argue extensively that contra the standard view (Kenesei 1992/1994) the pronouns associated with Hungarian subordinate clauses (*az* 'that') are contentful and not expletives.

Once the theoretical background is laid, I discuss the target-constructions in detail. After examining their syntactic and information-structural properties, argue that these structures necessitate analyses where the left-peripheral constituents are integrated into the sentence-structure in various ways and to different degrees. I support my analyses with various evidence and provide a LFG-theoretic formal account for each of the constructions.

In English, TOP-Eng is argued to be a “fronting proper” construction, where the topicalized element is functionally identified with a clause-internal function. At information-structure, TOP is always contrastive. Some CIADJs also follow this pattern, but there also exist CIADJs which are “base-generated” neutral topics, without a link to the inner part of the sentence. Left-dislocated entities in English are even less integrated: they are argued to be “syntactic orphans” which are not related to the host-sentence at the level of syntax.

In Hungarian, three types of Left-dislocation are distinguished: Contrastive topic left-dislocation (CTLD), Noncontrastive left-dislocation (NCLD) and Contrastive focus left-

dislocation (CFLD). While the first two are syntactically integrated structures (involving an anaphoric dependency between the discourse-prominent element and the associate pronoun), CFLD is not and is argued to involve a sentence-external left-peripheral entity, akin to LD-Eng. Operator fronting is also divided into two types. The first one is a proper fronting construction, sharing many properties with TOP-Eng, while the second type is a representative of “prolepsis”, where the fronted element becomes a thematic argument of the main verb and is anaphorically linked to a clause-internal function.

The last part of the dissertation is concerned with the theoretical and cross-linguistic ramifications of the findings and proposals put forward in the dissertation. I show that “fronting”, “left-dislocation” and “proleptic” structures exist in various languages and substantial parallelisms may be observed with regards their properties. I compare and contrast these properties and outline a taxonomy. As prolepsis is a relatively little-studied phenomenon, I put special emphasis on its place in syntactic typology. I argue that it may be regarded as a type of finite control and substantiate this claim with providing an overview of such constructions. I also show the place of prolepsis in the typology of control.

Overall, the dissertation reaches two goals: it offers comprehensive analyses for various clause-initial discourse-related linguistic structures and it also provides wider perspective by investigating the theoretical and cross-linguistic place for the ideas put forward.