

Subject clitic pronouns in Friulian: a case of syntactic microvariation

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In this talk, based on joint work with Vania Masutti, I discuss the syntax of subject clitic pronouns in Friulian, a group of varieties spoken in North-Eastern Italy. I focus mainly on the third person clitic pronoun *a/al*, which displays a high degree of microvariation in Friulian (Benincà 1986, Poletto 2000, Gaglia 2012, Gaglia & Schwarze 2015, Casalicchio & Masutti 2015, forthcoming, a.o.). This pronoun comes in four fashions: *al* (1); *a* (2); *-l* (3); *a X l* (4):

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|-----|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| (1) | Paolo | <i>al</i> | ven | (all Friulian varieties) |
| | Paolo | he.CL | comes | "Paolo comes" |
| (2) | A | plouf / <i>Al</i> | plouf | (Western Friulian vs. Central Friulian) |
| | it.CL | rains / it.CL | rains | "It rains" |
| (3) | No- <i>l</i> | ven | (Central Friulian only) | |
| | not-he.CL | comes | "He doesn't come" | |
| (4) | A | no <i>l</i> | ven | (Western Friulian only) |
| | <i>a.cl</i> | not he.cl | comes | "He doesn't come" |

I propose that these and more fine-grained differences are due to the interplay of two factors: (i) the position of this clitic pronoun differs from one variety to the other (it can be in CP or in different higher projections of the TP, cf. Poletto 2000, Cardinaletti 2004); (ii) the form *al* is a single pronoun in some varieties, while it is the result of a cluster of two separate clitics, *a + l*, in others. The results show that, at a more general level, a fine-grained structure of the clause is indispensable to account for syntactic microvariation.

Literature

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