

## Dislocation in Finnish: why left and right are not a pair

Dislocation can be defined as a type of “doubling” of sentence constituents, where one and the same argument or adjunct is represented by a pronominal element as well as another constituent outside the clause, either left or right:

- (1) a. L(ef) D(is)location:  $XP_i$  s[... pro<sub>i</sub>...]  
b. R(igh) D(is)location: s[... pro<sub>i</sub>...]  $XP_i$  (Lambrecht 2001)

In spite of schemata such as (1), the linear and time-bound nature of language in its spoken form makes it natural to expect that left and right dislocation are not parallel phenomena, as also discussed by Lambrecht (2001). Finnish displays clear language-specific, syntactic asymmetries between LD and RD. This is reflected in the comprehensive grammar of Finnish from 2004, where LD (“initial dislocation”) and RD (“dislocation forward”) are discussed in separate chapters, and the XP in LD has received a term of its own (Hakulinen & al. 2004, §1018–1019, §1064–1067).

My talk is an overview of Finnish dislocations, based on existing literature (mainly on RD) and work on corpora of dialectal speech and internet discussion forums (korp.csc.fi). LD, a diffuse and variable phenomenon, often comes with the particle *ni(i)(n)* at the boundary of the XP and the clause core (2). It shares this feature with subordinate clauses preposed to their main clauses. RD, on the other hand, is characterized by the great flexibility of the placement of the XP, as illustrated in (3); the XP need not appear outside the clause core as in (1b).

- (2) Mutta kaikkia vikoja ei tarvitse nostaa esille aina , koska - -  
'But there's no need to always take up all the faults, because - -

**kaksi** **ihmistä** **jotka** **löytää** **toisensa** niin **ne** täydentää **toisensa**  
two person who find each.other so 3PL complement each.other

'two people who find each other complement each other.' (suomi24.fi, 2012, discussion on how to think about shortcomings in potential partners)

- (3) a. Kyllä **se** on hyvä mies **tu** **Kekkonen**.  
PARTICLE 3SG is good man DEM NAME  
b. Kyllä **se** on **tu** **Kekkonen** hyvä mies.  
c. Kyllä **se** **tu** **Kekkonen** on hyvä mies. (dialect; modified)

'That Kekkonen sure is a good man.'

My focus is on Finnish dislocations as grammatical constructions and on how to argue for such constructions. Although dislocations are typically considered as topic management devices, I will remain agnostic about the topicality of the XP in the RD, which has been shown to be highly variable (Karhu 1994).

## References

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