

## LIS - Antisymmetry and split-CP

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*How can the following syntactic phenomena observed in Italian Sign Language (Lingua Italiana dei Segni - LIS) be explained in the light of Antisymmetry (Kayne 1994) and split-CP (Rizzi 1997)?*

- A causal marker appears between the matrix clause and the subordinate clause:

1) I went/have gone to Venice BECAUSE there was an exam/I had an exam  
(I<sub>1</sub>) VENICE<sub>LFT</sub> 1GO<sub>LFT</sub> BECAUSE(reason) EXAM EXIST

- Topicalization

2) Home, I never go (there) *(topicalized object)*

top.expr.  
HOME<sub>LFT</sub> , (I<sub>1</sub>) 1GO<sub>LFT</sub> NEVER

- Conditional and interrogative clauses

3) Se stasera piove, vieni da me?

cond.expr. y/n qst.  
EVENING RAIN 2COME<sub>1</sub> ?

- Correlative clauses (Cecchetto, Zucchi, Geraci 2004)

4) A boy that called left

a) BOY<sub>i</sub> *prorel*<sub>i</sub> CALL (HE<sub>i</sub>) LEAVE DONE

b) BOY<sub>i</sub> CALL *prorel*<sub>i</sub> (HE<sub>i</sub>) LEAVE DONE  
*A boy that called left*

- External-headed restrictive relative clauses (Brunelli, 2006) with the facial expression “half-closed eyes” which also marks adjectives derived from relative clauses (Bertone, 2007).

6) Tomorrow I will read the book which (my) father bought yesterday

top.  
BOOK THAT<sub>LFT</sub> restr.expr. “half-closed eyes” YESTERDAY FATHER<sub>RGT</sub> BUY TOMORROW I<sub>1</sub> READ<sub>LFT</sub>  
*(lett.: the book which (my) father bought yesterday, tomorrow I (will) read)*

- The facial expression on *wh*-interrogative clauses has a “varying extension” on the object or also the verb.

7) Which book did Paolo steal? (Cecchetto, Zucchi Geraci 2004)

PAOLO STEAL wh quest.  
BOOK-WHICH

8) What did Gianni eat? (Cecchetto, Zucchi Geraci 2004)

GIANNI wh quest. EAT WHAT

9) Who said that Paolo arrived later on? (Cecchetto, Zucchi Geraci 2004)

PAOLO ARRIVE AFTER wh quest. SAY WHO

10) What did Gianni eat?

GIANNI EAT wh quest. WHAT

- Focus

In some declarative sentences, the focalized object appears at the end of the sentence, differently from the SOV word/sign order typical of LIS; focalized pronouns can also display a special reduplicated reinforced form:

11) I "spoke" (in LIS) to **him** / to **that**

(I) 1SIGN<sub>LFT</sub> THAT-THAT<sub>LFT</sub> (focalized object)

11a) I spoke (in LIS) to him

(I) HE<sub>LFT</sub> 1SIGN<sub>LFT</sub> (unmarked order)

*Which refinements can be suggested, taken into account also some recent proposals made for both spoken and signed languages still in the light of Antisymmetry and split-CP?*