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“Stressed Enclitics”

Francisco Ordóñez (SUNY, Stony Brook) and Lori Repetti (SUNY, Stony Brook)

## **I. Introduction**

Clitics are, by definition, *unstressed* elements (for example, Halpern 1998). It is therefore surprising to find languages which consistently *stress* what otherwise looks like a clitic. In this talk we will explore the rather exceptional behavior of some Romance languages that allow stressed enclitics.

We have identified a number of basic Romance patterns in which the presence of enclitic pronouns may affect the stress assignment of the verb. We schematically exemplify some of these patterns in (1) below for the verb ‘narra’ meaning ‘tell’ and the first person singular dative clitic ‘mi’ (patterns are consistent with all first and second person dative enclitics) and the third person singular accusative feminine clitic ‘la’ (patterns seem consistent with all third person accusative enclitics). We also include a partial list of the languages in which the pattern is attested.

(1)	imper.	dat. enclitic	acc. enclitic	two enclitics
I: <i>Stress Stability</i> (Ital, Span, Cat)	nárra	nárra-mi	nárra-la	nárra-mi-la
II: <i>Generalized Penultimate Stress Shift</i> (some Lucanian varieties)	nárra	narrá-mi	narrá-la	narra-mí-la
III: <i>Two-Clitic Penultimate Stress Shift</i> (some S. Ital. varieties, such as the one spoken in Naples)	nárra	nárra-mi	nárra-la	narra-mí-la
IV: <i>Mixed Penultimate Stress Shift</i> (some S. Ital. varieties, such as the one of Calvello)	nárra	nárra-mi narrá-mi	nárra-la narrá-la	narra-mí-la
V: <i>Final Stress Shift</i> (some varieties of Sardinian, Gascon)	nárra	narra-mí	narra-lá	narra-mi-lá

## **II. Previous Analyses**

Phonological analyses of these patterns are abundant in the literature (Kenstowicz 1991, Bafile 1991-92, Loporcaro 2000, Peperkamp 1997, Monachesi 1996) and make reference to different incorporation sites within the prosodic hierarchy or post-lexical re-assignment of stress. These approaches have focused on Stress Stability (pattern I) as

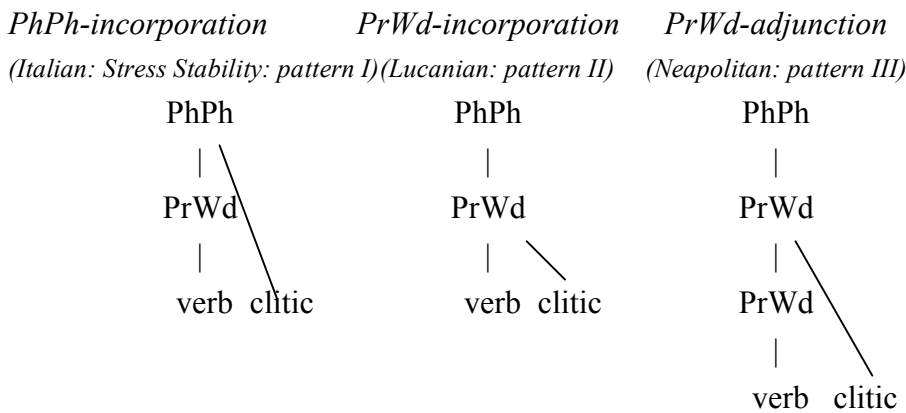
In Montreuil (ed) (2005) *New perspectives on Romance Linguistics*. Benjamins pages 167-183 compared to Generalized Penultimate Stress Shift (pattern II) and Two-Clitic Penultimate Stress Shift (pattern III).

Within a derivational model, Kenstowicz (1991) and Bafile (1991-92) argue that the Neapolitan data (pattern III) can be accounted for by assuming that stress assignment takes place in two stages: first the host is metrified, followed by the metrification of the host plus enclitics, but the precompiled metrical structure of the host is maintained. Stress is shifted only if it violates a certain metrical structure.

Loporcaro (2000) similarly argues that the difference between languages exhibiting Stress Stability (pattern I) and those exhibiting Penultimate Stress Shift (patterns II and III), and specifically Italian vs. Lucanian and Neapolitan, is to be found in the setting of a parameter determining whether or not stress can be reassigned post-lexically. Languages having the former pattern do not allow reassignment of stress, while languages with the latter patterns do.

While Loporcaro (2000) argues that in all Romance varieties clitics adjoin to the Prosodic Word, Peperkamp (1997), following Selkirk (1995), claims that the patterns exhibited in Italian (Stress Stability), Lucanian (Generalized Penultimate Stress Shift), and Neapolitan (Two-Clitic Penultimate Stress Shift) are due to different ways in which a clitic is incorporated into prosodic structure. Peperkamp (1997) claims that clitics may be incorporated into the Phonological Phrase (PhPh) (as in Italian) or the Prosodic Word (PrWd) (as in Lucanian), or they may be adjoined recursively to the Prosodic Word (as in Neapolitan).

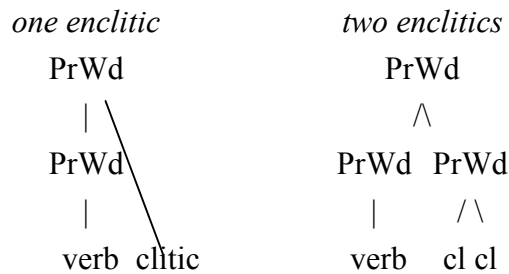
(2) Peperkamp (1997)



Another approach is suggested by Monachesi (1996). In her discussion of Italian and Neapolitan cliticization (pattern I and pattern III), Monachesi (1996) posits different prosodic structures for single clitics vs. clitic clusters: one clitic adjoins to the host to form a single PrWd, while two clitics form a unit (PrWd) separate from the host resulting in a compound structure.

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(3) Monachesi (1996)



There are a number of problems with each these analyses when the full range of data is taken into consideration.

Certain varieties spoken in southern Italy (Calvello, San Leucio del Sannio) allow either stress stability or stress shift with one enclitic, but they require Penultimate Stress Shift with two enclitics (pattern IV). Why would variation be tolerated with one enclitic but not with two?

The mixed behavior of pattern III sometimes seems to be determined by the character of the clitic. For example, in some Lucanian dialects the accusative clitic triggers stress shift, but the dative clitic does not. Why would the ACC clitic but not the DAT clitic affect stress assignment?

(4) [nárra-mi] vs [narrá-la]

Further complications with all of these analyses arise when we consider those languages in which the final clitic consistently attracts stress in languages which do not usually assign final stress. With the Final Stress Shift (pattern V), the final clitic (either single or in clusters) is always stressed. This pattern is attested in languages which do not usually assign final stress (some varieties of Sardinian, Gascon, and Viozene Piedmontese). Why would the prosodic hierarchy force final stress only in these cases?

Finally, the order in which the clitics appear affects whether stress is shifted to the penultimate or final clitic in a cluster. The few Romance languages that allow the ACC-DAT order of clitics and that shift stress with enclitics (S. Gascon, Majorcan, Aragonese), have consistent final stress with two enclitics. Why would the order of clitics play a role in stress assignment?

(5) ACC-DAT order of clitics ~ Final Stress Shift

porto-la-mú	‘give-it(ACC)-me(DAT)’	(Gascon)
du-la-mó	‘give-it(ACC)-me(DAT)’	(Majorcan Catalan)
da-la-mé	‘give-it(ACC)-me(DAT)’	(Cheso Aragonese)

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There is a clear asymmetry in the stress patterns of languages that exhibit the more common DAT-ACC order and those with the rare ACC-DAT order. The former allows Generalize, Two-Clitic, and Mixed Penultimate Stress Shift and Final Stress Shift, while the latter requires Final Stress Shift. This asymmetry suggests that the order of clitics plays a role in stress assignment, a fact that is inconsistent with the phonological analyses suggested above.

### **III. “Weak Pronoun” Analysis**

We suggest that the term “clitic” has been used to refer to two groups of pronouns that are morphologically distinct, and this has led to much of the confusion regarding the unexpected behavior of so-called “clitics.” We propose that the data can be better understood if we divide postverbal pronouns into two morphological categories: true clitics and weak pronouns (Cardinaletti & Starke 1999). Thus, not all pronouns have the same morphological status.

As explained by Cardinaletti & Starke (1999) there is a tripartition among pronouns, illustrated in (6) with data from Italian.

(6) Cardinaletti & Starke (1999)

strong pronoun:	Telefono a <u>loro</u> .	‘I telephone them.’
weak pronoun:	Telefono <u>loro</u> .	“
clitic pronoun:	<u>Gli</u> telefono.	“

We outline below four characteristics of weak pronouns identified by Cardinaletti & Starke (1999) that we believe apply to some of the post-verbal pronouns illustrated above and that allow us to account for the attested patterns as well as the gaps in the data.

#### **III.1. Weak pronouns can be stressed (Cardinaletti & Starke 1999: 172)**

We claim that preverbally we find true clitics and postverbally we find either clitic or weak pronouns. And it is only the postverbal weak pronouns that affect word stress.

Preverbally, the Lucanian *mas. sg. acc.* pronoun is a true clitic, /u/, and it is never stressed (although it can be realized as long in clusters).

(7) preverbal pronoun

Lucanian:	clitic: /u/	nun <u>u</u> fátfə	‘he does not do it’
		<u>lū</u> fáfstəsə vedé	‘I show him it’

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With certain verbs, /u/ can be found in enclitic position as well. Crucially, enclitic /u/ (a true clitic) does not trigger stress shift, while enclitic /ʎllə/ (a weak pronoun) does.

(8) postverbal pronoun

Lucanian:	clitic: /u/	fá-mm̄	‘do (you:sg)-for me-it’
	weak: /ʎllə/	da-mm̄llə	‘give (you:sg)-to me-it’

Another Lucanian dialect with Mixed Penultimate Stress Shift (pattern IV) is the variety spoken in Calvello. Again, we claim the form of the pronoun found in the stress shifted case is weak /ʎllə/, while the form found in the non stress shifted case is a true clitic (/u/).

(9) postverbal pronoun

Calvello:	clitic: /lə/	[vinnə-lə]	‘sell (you:sg) it’
	weak: /ʎllə/	[vənní-llə]	‘sell (you:sg) it’

It is important to note that the geminate /ll/ of the weak pronoun in (8) and (9) is not due to *raddoppiamento sintattico* since these varieties do **not** have a phonological rule of *raddoppiamento* following stressed vowels.

For the languages with consistent stress shift under enclisis we are led to the conclusion that these languages have generalized the weak pronoun option post-verbally. For languages with Two-Clitic Penultimate Stress Shift (Pattern III), we believe that single enclitics are true clitics, while clusters contain a clitic + a weak pronoun.

**III.2. Weak pronouns are morphologically more complex than clitic pronouns (Cardinaletti & Starke 1999: 178)**

In those languages which stress enclitic pronouns, the proclitic form of some pronouns may differ from the enclitic form. And, crucially, it is always the postverbal form which is “fuller” than the proclitic one. This observation is consistent with our analysis: weak pronouns are morphologically more complex than clitic pronouns. For example, in some Lucanian dialects, the mas. sg. acc. pronoun is clitic /u/ preverbally and weak /ʎllə/ postverbally. (See also (7), (8), and (9) above.)

(10) preverbal clitic vs postverbal weak pronouns

Lucanian:	clitic: /u/	[u-píggjə]	‘it-s/he takes’
	weak: /ʎllə/	[piggjá-llə]	‘take (2sg)-it’

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Furthermore, when there are two realizations of the same postverbal pronoun, the pronoun present in the stress shifting context is “fuller” than the pronoun present in the stress stability context. We claim that the former is a weak pronoun and the latter a true clitic pronoun. (See (8) and (9) above.)

This approach also has historical support. Rohlfs (1968:167) claims that those enclitic pronouns which trigger stress shift are closer to the “full Latin form” than the proclitic forms that do not affect stress.

### **III.3. Weak pronouns are syntactically lower than clitic pronouns (Cardinaletti & Starke 1999: 196)**

Under our perspective languages are divided in three groups: (i) languages that use only clitic pronouns (Stress Stability); (ii) those that consistently use postverbal weak pronouns (patterns II and V); (iii) languages that use either weak or clitic pronouns postverbally (patterns III and IV).

This third type of language presents interesting question with respect to the assumptions on the final landing site of clitics and weak pronouns. Here we will follow the basic assumptions of Cardinaletti and Starke (1999) and assume that clitics land in a higher head projection than weak pronouns. For instance Cardinaletti (1991) has shown that the clitic *gli* lands in a higher tense head while the weak pronoun counterpart *loro* lands in a lower Spec Agr position,

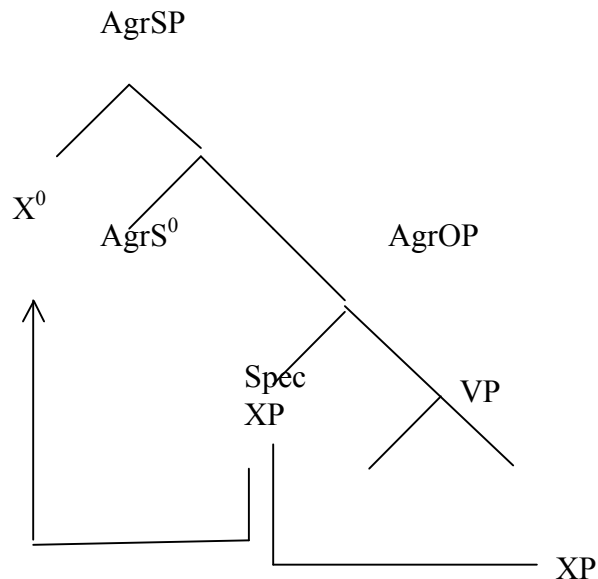
- (11) a. Gli ho dato il libro.  
           DAT have given the book.  
       b. Ho dato loro il libro.  
           Have given them the book

Similar proposal has been given for French under the assumption that there is a *il* clitic and *il* weak pronoun. Cardinaletti and Repetti (forthcoming) claim that interrogative clitic *il* is also higher than its weak pronoun counterpart:

- (12) a. [<sub>AgrSP</sub> **II<sub>k</sub> a [VP t<sub>k</sub> bu ]] (French declarative)  
           ‘he has drunk’  
       b. [YP a<sub>k</sub> -t-**il** [ AgrSP t t [VP t<sub>k</sub> bu ]]] (French interrogative)  
           ‘has-he drunk’**

The idea that XP counterparts (weak pronouns under our proposal) of X<sup>0</sup> (clitics) are found lower in the structure is also implied in the two step movement approach of clitics defended by Belletti (1999). According to her analysis clitics move first as XP, being able to trigger past participle agreement, and then only the head part moves further to adjoin to tense or any higher inflectional projection. Thus, this analysis implies that the XP counterpart of the head, the one responsible for past participle agreement, is in a lower Spec position.

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 (13)



This first claim about the different landing site for clitics and weak pronominals (maximal projections) has interesting consequences when taken in conjunction with assumptions on how the verb-clitic order is determined in the syntax.

Here we will adopt the proposal by Kayne (1991) and (1994) and assume that right adjunctions of clitics are not permitted in the syntax. This restriction permits to obtain the order *verb clitic* order in infinitives or imperatives by movement of the verb to a higher projection beyond the position in which the clitic has landed.

Rivero (1994) has argued convincingly that verbs move higher in imperative sentences than in declarative one. The landing site of the verb in imperatives is in the Comp area. Similarly, Kayne (1991) shows that infinitives in languages like Italian and Spanish have moved further to the left than their finite counterparts. In these proposals verbs either adjoin to the clitic or skip the clitic position(15)<sup>1</sup>:

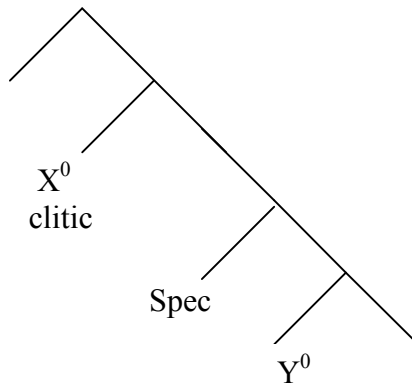
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<sup>1</sup> See Terzi (1999) which shows that clitics might skip some head positions depending on whether the clitic adjoins to a head with features the verb needs to check.

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 Verb-Clitic

(14)

Verb  
Imperative

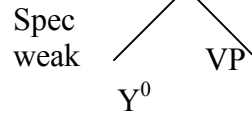


Enclisis should be obtained in a parallel fashion with the verb moving further to the left with a weak pronoun. The difference is that the higher X<sup>0</sup> projection is rendered irrelevant since no clitic is there.

Verb-Weak

(15)

Verb  
Imperative



However, in a mixed language, namely the language that has both weak and clitic pronominals, the base order in which the clitic and the weak pronoun appear should be the one in which the clitic is higher than the weak pronominal:

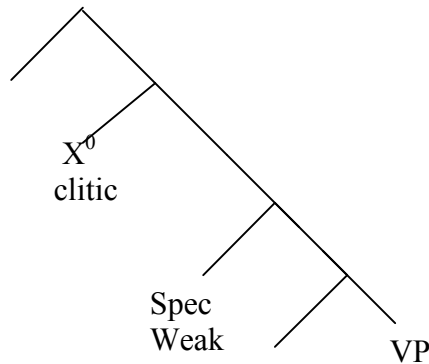


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Verb-Clitic-Weak

(16)

Verb  
Imperative



To yield this order the verb moves head to head resulting in the final verb clitic-weak pronominal order . This is exactly what we find in pattern 2 of *generalized penultimate stress*, which under our proposal, involves a clitic and a weak pronominal element . The order is precisely clitic followed by weak pronoun. Thus, sequences like (17) are instances of adjunction of a clitic of second person /tV/ with a weak pronominal /[]ə[][]ə/:

(17) [vənnə-tíllə] (S.Italian varieties)

sell-you it

(18) [tíllə] < clitic /tV/ + weak /[]ə[][]ə/

This analysis predicts that head to head movement yields the final output *verb-clitic-weak*. This is consistent with the fact that the sequence *verb-clitic-weak* is encountered in Standard French in imperatives as in (19). Under our perspective, this sequence represents a case in which the weak pronominal *moi* follows the clitic *le*, reversing the Dat-Acc order otherwise obtained in purely clitic sequences like “*le me*”.<sup>2</sup>

(19) donne-le-moi

give-it-to me

In addition to the correct output with a clitic preceding weak pronoun, our theory should also explain the asymmetry between one pronominal versus two pronominal sequences in pattern III . In this pattern sequences of one pronominal only admit the clitic possibility.

<sup>2</sup> Many dialects of French also permit the opposite order *donne-moi-le* as well. These dialects show variability between the order in (19) and the order *moi-le*. This additional case can be explained if the verb is capable of pied pipe the weak pronoun in its way to the Comp area.. The interesting prediction of our proposal is that we should not find a language with consistently has the order “*moi-le*” without permitting the opposite. This prediction is fulfilled.

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Such asymmetry can be explained if we appeal to an independent principle proposed by Cardinaletti and Repetti (forthcoming,53) that deals precisely with cases in which a clitic position is required in Donceto (a Northern Italian Dialect) in interrogatives in preference to its weak pronominal counterpart. According to Cardinaletti and Repetti, the clitic *jə* in the  $C^0$  area is made available in this dialect and it should be chosen in preference to its weak pronominal counterpart *pro*:

(20) [ YP be:v<sub>i</sub>-jə<sub>k</sub> [ AGRSP t<sub>k</sub> t<sub>i</sub> [ VP t<sub>k</sub> t<sub>i</sub> ] ]? ‘drink-I’  
drink-I

(21) \*[ YP be:v<sub>i</sub> [ AGRSP pro<sub>k</sub> t<sub>i</sub> [ VP t<sub>k</sub> t<sub>i</sub> ] ]? ‘drink-I’  
drink pro

Thus, Pattern III requires that the clitic head  $X^0$  be realized and check with at least one clitic. With two pronominals however, one pronominal is sufficient to satisfy such requirement leaving open the possibility of having the other pronominal in a lower Spec position as in (17). Observe that this economy principle would be very much in the same spirit of the principle of minimal compliance by Richards (2001). Once the  $X^0$  gets one clitic, other pronominals can remain in situ in a lower Spec.

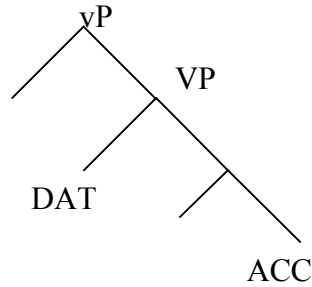
#### **III.4. Weak pronouns land in a Spec position**

As we mentioned at the beginning, languages that have the Acc-Dat with non 3<sup>rd</sup> persons are a very few compared to the more common Dat Acc order. These languages Gascon, Majorcan, Cheso Aragonese show pattern V and obligatorily stress their pronominals in imperatives. When two pronominals are combined, stress is shifted to the final pronoun (final Stress Shift) Why should this be so? Under this proposal the generalization that underlies these languages is that they all have generalized the weak pronoun option in enclisis. On the opposite side of the spectrum, most languages with the Dat-Acc order correspond to languages with true clitics. The difference in morphological status (heads versus XP) might give us an interesting clue as to why the order are mirror image of each other.

Weak pronouns, contrary to clitics, land in a Spec position (Cardinaletti & Starke 1999) while clitics are heads and land in a head position. For the case of double object construction, we will adopt the proposal by Collins and Thrainsson (1996) and claim that the basic structure is the one in which the dative arguments sits above the accusative one:

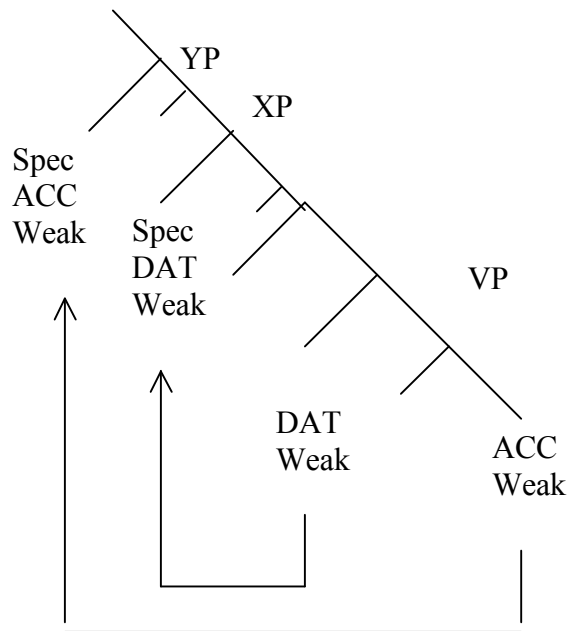
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(22)



From this basic order, two surface opposite orders are obtained: Acc-Dat with two weak pronouns and Dat-Acc with two clitics. Under this proposal this is realized by XP movement proceeding in the opposite direction as  $X^0$  movement. Either movement might nest or cross to yield the two mirror image orders. We will take Richards (2001) position and assume that movement of two XP's nest because they necessarily have to go in search of two different Spec positions to check their different features.

(23)



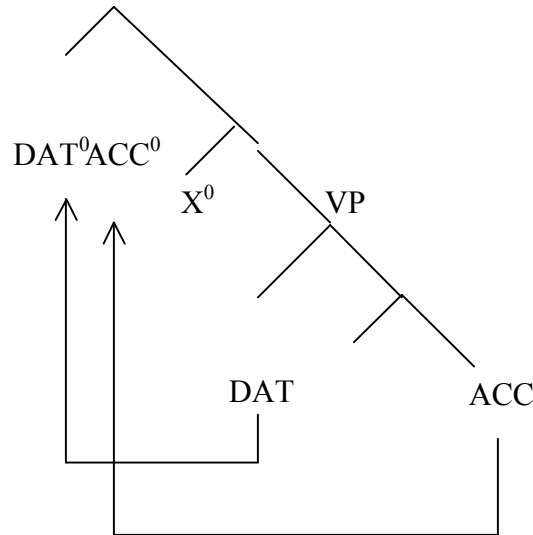
On the opposite side of the spectrum two clitics yield crossing paths. Under our view, crossing paths correspond to the configuration in which both clitics end up checking the

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same inflectional head  $X^0$  (See also Anagnostopoulou 2003). Richards (2001) proposes a principle of “tucking in” that leads precisely to the crossing paths configurations with two heads. By his principle of *attract closest*, the dative moves first to the  $X^0$  head. This first movement is followed by movement of the accusative, which *tucks in* into the Dative yielding the desired order Dat Acc.

Clitics:

(24)



Therefore, various well established assumptions about landing sites of XP's versus  $X^0$ 's and the fact that XP might target two different agreement projections, while two  $X^0$ 's target one head, leads to the opposite ordering configurations Dat Acc with clitics and Acc Dat with weak pronouns. This proposal also leads to the conclusion that clitics must cluster and cannot be scattered in different inflectional projections, contrary to XP weak pronouns, which seem to necessarily appear in different projections in the tree. Finally, this proposal captures the correlation between Dat Acc languages and obligatorily stress shift.

#### IV. Conclusions

In this paper we have argued that once we consider the full range of possible patterns, the prosodic hierarchy is insufficient to account for all the cases in which there is consistent stress shift, and the mixed cases that depend on the character of the clitic. We have assumed that the pronouns that affect stress are weak pronouns, not true clitics. The evidence is found in asymmetries between preverbal vs post-verbal pronouns and between postverbal pronouns that affect stress vs. postverbal pronouns that do not affect stress. In many of the dialects studied, the stress-shifting post-verbal pronominal element has a richer morphological structure. Finally, the obligatory stressing of languages with Acc Dat order can be linked to the fact that it necessarily involves weak pronouns given

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that these pronouns must move to a distinct agreement projection which involves crossing paths. Further research on historical data, especially Old French, Old Italian and Old Catalan that had the unusual Acc Dat order can give further support to our proposal if we assume that the lost of Acc Dat order correlates with the lost of the weak pronouns in favor of its clitic counterpart. Such a process of weakening makes sense from a diachronic point of view.

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