

The position of focus adverbs in Italian and (Brazilian) Portuguese child-directed speech

Martina Gerdts (Universität Hamburg, Germany)
martina.gerdts@ymail.com

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1. Motivation

- Underrepresentation of focus adverbs in research on adverbs (compare Cinque 1999)
- Preparation for questionnaires and work with different corpora with spoken language

1.1 Research question

- What are differences and similarities of the positions of Brazilian Portuguese (BP) *também* and Italian (IT) *anche* in child-directed speech?

1.2 Hypothesis

- BPortuguese *também* is base generated on an higher position (see order of adverbs & negation, compare Franco et al. 2016)

2. Corpora

- CHILDES data (BP & Italian), oral speech
- only speech of adults (-> child-directed speech)

Translations of (1-3) in table

(1) Eu **também não** sei se eu vou poder vir. ‚I don‘t know either if I will be able to come.‘

(2) Mas isso **também não** importa. ‚But this doesn‘t matter either.‘

(3) Perché ancora **non** abbiamo **neanche** cenato. ‚Because we haven‘t even had dinner yet.‘

(1) BP:	Eu	também	não	<i>sei</i>		se eu vou poder vir
(2) BP:	Mas	isso	também	não	<i>importa.</i>	
(3) IT:	Perché ancora		non	<i>abbiamo</i>	neanche	<i>cenato.</i>

(4) BP:						
(Subject)	também(não)	<i>conjugated verb</i>			(complements)	
(5) BP:						
(Subject)		<i>conjugated verb</i>			(complements)	também
(6) IT:						
(Subject)	(non)	<i>conjugated verb</i>	(ne)anche	(Partic./Inf.)	Object	

2.1 Methods

- Factors for analysis:
- Position of adverb in relation to conjugated verbs, DPs and negation
- Different kinds of focus (wide focus, constituent focus, contrastive focus)

2.2 Negation *também não* & *neanche* (1-3)

- *também não* > preverbal, *não* sentence negation
- *neanche* > postverbal, no sentence negation, *negative concord* with sentence negation (see Rizzi 1982)

2.3 *também* & *anche* (4-6)

- **No verb:** (7) eu **também** // (8) **Anch**‘io. ‚me **too**‘ (both)
- **Subject focus:**
- (9) **Também** teu pai *chegou* lá e te botou dentro do avião (BP) ‚**Also** your father *got* there and put you in the plane‘
- (10) **Anche** Camilla *deve* prendere la pasticcine (IT) ‚**Also** Camilla *has* to take the pastry.‘

Before conjugated verb:

- (11) ... eu **também** *gosto* de comer picolé. (BP) ‚I **also** like to eat popsicles‘

After conjugated verb:

- (12) Mas eu quero que tu *escreva* **também** (BP) ‚But I want you to *write* **too**‘
- (13) Dopo *dovremo* **anche** lavarli questi piatti. (IT) ‚We will **also** need to wash these dishes.‘

4. Discussion

- *Anche* takes lower position than *também* with negation; *também* less free with negation than without negation.
- Difference of structure or only difference of lexemes? (> analysis of more focus adverbs); What about verb movement in BP & IT?
- Does differentiation between proposition, situation and event help with focus interpretation? (see Wurmbrand & Lohninger 2019; Haider 2000)

5. Conclusion

- BP *também* does not always take a higher position than *anche*; it seems to be more free in position.
- Data lays basis for future research on adult language & child language (concerning positions of adverbs and on this way also to be able to characterize child directed speech clearer)

6. References

- Cinque, Guglielmo. 1999. *Adverbs and functional heads*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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- Rizzi, Luigi. 1982. *Issues in Italian Syntax*, Dordrecht: Foris.
- Wurmbrand, Susi / Lohninger, Magdalena. 2019. „An implicational universal in complementation: Theoretical insights and empirical progress“. In: Hartmann, Jutta M. & Angelika Wöllstein (eds.) *Propositionale Argumente im Sprachvergleich: Theorie und Empirie. / Propositional Arguments in Cross-Linguistic Research: Theoretical and Empirical Issues*. [Studien zur Deutschen Sprache] Gunter Narr Verlag, Tübingen.

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