

Ditransitivity and dative clitic doubling in Romance languages

Anna Pineda

In this talk I will examine ditransitive constructions in Romance languages, and their interaction with dative clitic doubling. I will show that the transposition of the so-called English dative alternation, composed by the double object construction and the *to*-dative construction, onto Romance languages fails in a dramatic way if one wants to establish a parallelism between clitic doubled and non clitic doubled Romance ditransitives, as proposed for Spanish by Demonte (1995) and Cuervo (2003). An alternative approach to Romance ditransitives will be proposed, where the absence or presence of clitic doubling boils down to the optional spell out of an Appl head. Finally, the discourse-related role of dative clitic doubling will be further examined by analyzing the *le-for-les* (Spanish) / *li-for-els[i]* (Catalan) phenomenon, namely the generalization of the lack of agreement between the doubling clitic and the IO, as if the clitic was a mere verbal affix.