

# Clitics

LING 481/581

Winter 2011

# Clitics

- Bound forms, like affixes
- Clitics attach to a host
  - host+clitic = clitic group (phonological domain)
- Different types of clitics
  - Syntactic positioning
    - simple clitics
    - special clitics
      - second position clitics
      - verbal clitics
  - Position of attachment, to left or right of host
    - host=*enclitic*
    - *proclitic*=host

# Simple clitics

- “can appear in the same syntactic position as a corresponding free form” HS 200
- “occupy the normal syntactic position for a word of their category” Halpern 33

# English auxiliary verbs

- Many have full and contracted forms
  - *is, 's*
  - *are, 're*
  - *am, 'm*
  - *has, 's*
  - *have, 've*
  - *had, 'd*
  - *would, 'd*
  - *will, 'll*
- Some have only full form
  - *may*
  - *might*
- Some have full and “reduced” forms
  - *could* [ʊ], *could* [ə]
  - *should* [ʊ], *should* [ə]
  - *can* [æ], *can* [ə]
  - *must* [ʌ], *must* [ə]

# English main vs. auxiliary verbs

- Some forms of main verb *be* have contracted forms
  - *He is tall. He's tall.*
  - *I am tall. I'm tall.*
  - *You are tall. You're tall.*
  - *My friends are tall. My friends're tall.*
- No contracted form
  - *...required that he be tall.*
  - *They were tall. \*They're tall.*
- Main verb *have* lacks contracted form, only reduced form [həs], [həv]
  - *He has two sisters. \*He's two sisters. ([iəz])*
  - *I have two sisters. \*I've two sisters. ([ajəv])*

# English auxiliary and clitics

- Contracted and full forms occur in same syntactic position
  - I've never gone. (I have never gone.)
  - Tamara's going. (Tamara is going.)
  - Even the Queen of England's going. (Even the Queen of England is going.)
  - I'd've known it when I'd seen it. (I would have known it when I had seen it.)
- Contracted forms considered simple clitics (syntactic entities, but bound forms)

# Special clitics

- “syntactic distribution differs from that of free forms [if any] and must be described in its own right” HS 200
- “occupy positions which we would not expect based on the distribution of other words or phrases with similar function” Halpern:33

# Second-position clitics

- Wackernagel's Law

Serbo-Croatian:

- (1) a. Čovek =je voleo Mariju.  
man.NOM =AUX loved Mary.ACC  
“The man loved Mary.”
- b. Čovek je Mariju voleo.
- c. Voleo je Mariju čovek.
- d. Voleo je čovek Mariju.
- e. Mariju je čovek voleo.
- f. Mariju je voleo čovek.



# Verbal clitics

- Appear before or after the verb
- Bulgarian enclitics “precede the verb [28a] as long as this does not make them the first element of the clause [28b].” Halpern 27

- (28) a. Tja =mi =go dade.  
She to.me it gave  
“She gave it to me.”
- b. Dade =mi =go.  
gave to.me it  
“(She) gave it to me.”

- Bulgarian verbal clitics not restricted to 2<sup>nd</sup> position

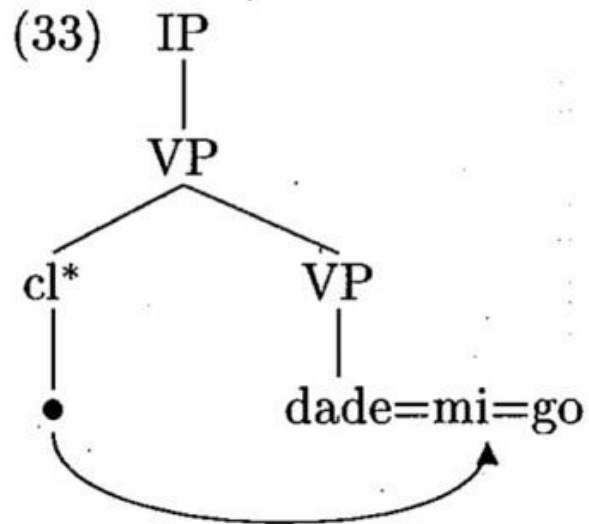
(29) Dnes Ivančo =mi =go pokāza.  
 today Ivancho to.me it showed  
 “It was today that Ivancho showed it to me.”

(30) Včera v gradinata Daniela =mu =gi dade.  
 yesterday in the.garden Daniela to.him them gave  
 “Yesterday in the garden Daniela gave them to him.”  
 (Rudin 1991)

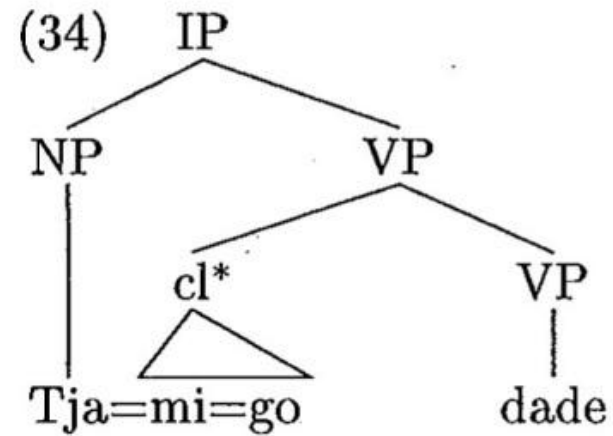
(23) Nova-ta =li riza =ti podari Krasi?  
 new-DEF Q shirt to.you gave Krassi  
 “Did Krassi give you the new shirt?”

=li 2<sup>nd</sup> position clitic; =ti verbal clitic

# Preverbal enclitics



no host for clitics; clitics must move



host available for clitics; clitics don't move

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**Clitics**

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freedom of host selection  
possible freedom of movement  
less prosodically integrated  
may be outside the domain of a  
phonological rule  
do not trigger/undergo  
morphophonological or  
suppletive alternations  
clitic–host combinations...  
do not have idiosyncratic meanings  
do not have arbitrary gaps

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**Affixes**

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no freedom of stem selection  
no freedom of movement  
more prosodically integrated  
within the domain of a  
phonological rule  
may trigger/undergo  
morphophonological or  
suppletive alternations  
affix–base combinations...  
may have idiosyncratic meanings  
may have arbitrary gaps

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**Table 9.3** Clitics versus affixes

# Freedom of host selection

- Auxiliary clitic /z/ (3sg present form of *be*)
  - Host = N: *The cup's in the garbage.*
  - Host = V: *The cup you broke's in the garbage.*
  - Host = Adv: *The cup you broke yesterday's in the garbage.*
  - Host = P: *The cup you drank out of's in the garage.*
- Affix /z/ pl.
  - Host = N: *The cups are in the garage.*
  - Host = V: *\*The cup you brokes are in the garage*
  - Host = Adv: *\*The cup you broke yesterdays are in the garage.*
  - Host = P: *\*The cup you drank out ofs are in the garage.*

# “Freedom of movement”

- “simple clitics have the same freedom of movement as free forms” HS 200
  - *The cup you drank out of is in the garage.*
  - *The cup you drank out of 's in the garage.*

- (Special clitics lack freedom of movement)
- HS 201: Serbian =*ga* does not have same freedom of movement of pronoun *njega*

(9.20) a. *Marija =ga voli.*  
           *Marija =him loves*  
           ‘*Marija loves him.*’

b. *Voli =ga Marija.*

c. \**Marija voli =ga.*

(9.21) a. *Marija njega voli.*  
           *Marija him loves*  
           ‘*Marija loves HIM.*’

b. *Voli njega Marija.*

c. *Marija voli njega.*

# Prosodic integration

- ‘prosody’ = “This is used variously to refer to features of speech that relate to more than a single segment...Traditionally, it refers to the patterns of **stress** and **intonation** that occur in speech. It is also used to refer to the structure of syllables, as well as to features that may accompany a syllable.” Jackson 2007



# Affixes and prosodic integration

- Affixes generally prosodically integrated with their bases
  - affixes may affect stress placement
    - *specificity, constitutionality*
  - but “level 2” affixes

Level	Affixes	(Morpho)phonological rules
level I: (≈ integrated affixes)	<i>-ity, in-, -ical, -ion, -ian, -al, -y1, -ous, -ive</i>	Trisyllabic Shortening Stress Assignment Nasal Assimilation
level II: (≈ neutral affixes)	<i>-ness, un-, -ly, re-, -ize, -able, -ful, -y2, -ism</i>	Flapping

Table 10.4 The two levels of English morpho(phono)logy

# Prosodic integration

- Clitics supposedly less prosodically integrated with host
  - Spanish: antepenultimate stress window
    - clitic sequences may violate: *díga-me-lo*
  - but Latin clitics trigger stress shift
    - vírum ‘the man (acc.)’
    - virúmque ‘and the man (acc.)’
    - vídēs ‘you see’
    - vidésne? ‘do you see?’
    - cum vóbis ‘with you (pl.)’
    - vobíscum ‘with you (pl.)’

# P rule domains

- When the domain for phonological rules = word; clitics may act like they are outside the word
  - Dutch word-final devoicing
    - does not occur before a suffix:*
      - verban[t]; verband-ig
      - bandage, bandage-like*
    - does occur before a (subject) clitic:*
      - ik bran[t], bran[t]=ik
      - I burned, I burned*
  - Italian s-voicing
    - not triggered by clitics
      - lo [s]aluto ‘I greet him’, essendo[s]i salutati ‘having greeted each other’, ci [s]i va insieme ‘we’ll go there together’

# Arbitrary gaps

Affixes may have arbitrary gaps in their distribution; e.g.

- *deer* (pl.) blocks *deers*
- *brought* blocks *bringed* or *brang*

# Clitic-host combinations

- Supposed to be unrestricted
- Contracted auxiliaries
  - attach at the end of any subject NP
  - pronoun specific combinations; but for both full and clitic forms
    - I am/'m
    - {he, she, it} is/'s
    - {you, we, they, y'all} are/'re

# Trigger alternations

Affixes may trigger ‘morphophonological or suppletive’ alternations in base

– *knife, knives*

– *specific, specificity*

– *logic, logician*

• Clitics do not

– *the knife’s not missing*

- HS 199 Finnish example
- unsuffixed stem      suffixed stem

(9.16)	<i>nainen</i>	'woman'	<i>naise-llinen</i>	'woman-like, feminine'
			<i>naise-n</i>	'woman's (GEN.SG)'
			<i>naise-lla</i>	'to the woman (ALL.SG)'
			<i>naise-nsa</i>	'his woman'
				(Kanerva 1987: 506)

- stem before clitic =*ko* (interrogative) is *nainen*
  - “enclitic particle” is rightmost morpheme (affix) in Finnish nominal

# Undergo alternations

- Affixes may undergo idiosyncratic morphophonological alternations
  - Korean subject marker: -i / C\_\_\_, ~-ka/ V\_\_\_
- Clitics aren't supposed to
  - Note expected [s]~[z]~[əz] alternants of 's (*is*)
    - the president of France's ([əz]) going
    - the queen of England's ([z]) going
    - the governor of Connecticut's ([s]) going



# Polish

- HS 199

- 1s suffix  $-(e)m$ ,  $-ę$  allomorphs

- kocha-m ‘I love’, umie-m ‘I’m able’

- ucz-ę ‘I teach’, pij-ę ‘I drink’

- object pronouns “are clitics that attach after their hosts, and they have an invariable shape”

- =go 3s(?): kocham=go ‘I love him’, piję =go ‘I drink it’,  
uczę=go ‘I teach him’

3. What is wrong with the following sentences?

a. Polish

\**Go spotka-ł-em w Krakowie.*

him meet-PST-1SG in Cracow

'I met him in Cracow.'

4. Sometimes the various criteria for distinguishing clitics from affixes contradict each other. For instance, in Spanish the bound pronominals undergo a morphophonological alternation when a third-person dative pronominal co-occurs with an accusative pronominal: *-le* is replaced by *-se* because another *l* follows:

<i>diga-me</i>	'tell me'	
<i>diga-le</i>	'tell him'	
<i>diga-me-lo</i>	'tell me it'	
<i>diga-se-lo</i>	'tell him it'	(* <i>diga-le-lo</i> )

Given what we said in this chapter about Spanish bound pronominals, where is the contradiction?

5. Another case of a contradiction comes from Lithuanian, which forms reflexive verbs by means of an element *s(i)*. (The letter *é* stands for a long [e:].)

	'rock'	'rock oneself'	'not rock oneself'
1SG	<i>supu</i>	<i>supuosi</i>	<i>nesisupu</i>
2SG	<i>supi</i>	<i>supiesi</i>	<i>nesisupi</i>
3	<i>supa</i>	<i>supasi</i>	<i>nesisupa</i>
1PL	<i>supame</i>	<i>supamés</i>	<i>nesisupame</i>
2PL	<i>supate</i>	<i>supatés</i>	<i>nesisupate</i>

In what ways is this element like an affix, and in what way is it like a clitic?

# Idiosyncrasy of meaning

Affix-base combinations may have idiosyncratic meanings

- especially derivation
- *brother, brotherhood*
- *read, reader*
- Clitic groups do not have idiosyncratic meanings
  - *I've never gone = I have never gone.*

2. Provide arguments to show that English *-s*, the suffix of the third person singular of present-tense verbs, is an affix, not a clitic.

English genitive (possessive) <'s>, clitic or “phrasal affix”?

*Tamaras car, the Queen of Englands throne, the guy I was talking tos hat*