WAYS OF CLAUSAL TYPING

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1. Introduction

In this work we intend to describe and analyse both the syntactic and the semantic behaviour of a number of sentential particles (henceforth *SPs*), which can appear in some Veneto dialects in main non declarative clauses.¹

The presence of these particles induces interesting interpretive effects; an investigation of their properties is relevant for the analysis of the left periphery of the clause in general; moreover, a detailed study of these particles turns out to have theoretical relevance for a crosslinguistic theory of clausal typing on the one hand and for a deeper understanding of the syntax-semantics interface on the other. The distribution of *SPs* also involves a number of interpretive and pragmatic distinctions that contribute to highlight the way sentence type is encoded in the syntactic structure.²

While the particles can appear in main interrogatives, exclamatives or imperatives, none of them can occur in declarative clauses or in embedded contexts; furthermore, they always occur in “special” contexts, in the sense that they induce a

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¹ This work has been presented at the XXIX IGG meeting in Urbino (13th-15th February 2003); we thank that audience as well as Paola Benincà, Guglielmo Cinque, Alessandra Giorgi, Hans Obenauer, Paul Portner and Raffaella Zanuttini for helpful comments and suggestions; needless to say, the responsibility for any mistakes rests entirely on us. Although the article is the product of a constant collaboration of the two authors, for the concerns of the Italian academy Nicola Munaro takes responsibility for sections 1-3 and Cecilia Poletto for sections 4-6. This paper develops and elaborates some aspects of Munaro & Poletto (2002), a more descriptive article we wrote on the same topic.

² We will systematically analyze data from two varieties, a Northern Veneto variety (Pagotto) and an Eastern Veneto variety (Venetian), glossed as *Pg* and *Ve* respectively. However, the particles described here occur, with a partially different distribution, in several other dialects of the North-Eastern Italian area.
presupposition in the clause determined either by the linguistic context or by the universe of the discourse.

The particles we consider share the following distributional property: they can occur in sentence final position, a fact that we propose to account for by movement of the whole CP to the specifier position of the head occupied by the particle, as illustrated in (1):

(1) \[ \text{Spec,prt CP}_i [ \text{prt} [t_i]] \]

Beside the sentence final occurrence, some particles can also occur either immediately after the wh-element or with a wh-item in isolation.

This is the outline of the article: in section 2, we provide a description of the syntactic properties shared by all SPs; in section 3 we provide some arguments in favour of the hypothesis that SPs are heads located within the CP layer; in section 4 we analyze in detail the syntactic derivation exploiting clause preposing; in section 5 we examine more closely the interpretive properties and attempt a description of the semantic contribution of each particle; finally, in section 6 we summarize our findings.

2. The common syntactic properties

As mentioned in the introduction, the SPs attested in the two dialects we have considered share the following distributional properties:

(2) a all particles can occur in sentence final position;
    b some particles, occurring immediately after the wh-element, can also cooccur with the wh-item in isolation;
    c particles are sensitive to the clause type and no particle can occur in declarative clauses;
    d particles never occur in embedded contexts.

With respect to the first property, the sentence final position is always available for the particle, independently of the clause type with which it is associated.

As shown by the following examples, the particle *ti occurs exclusively in main wh-questions, and the only possible position is the sentence final one:

(3) a Dove valo, ti ? Ve
    b *Ti, dove valo ?
       [Ti] where goes-he [ti]

(4) a Dove zelo ndà, ti ? Ve
    b *Dove zelo, ti, ndà ?
       Where has-he [ti] gone [ti]
The particle *mo*, which can appear both in imperative and in interrogative clauses, can always appear in sentence final position but never in sentence initial position, as witnessed by the following constrasts:

(5) a Parècia sta minestra, mo !
   b *Mo parècia sta minestra !
   [Mo] prepare this soup [mo]

(6) a Vien qua, mo !
   b *Mo, vien qua !
   [Mo] come here [mo]

(7) a Ali magnà, mo ?
   b *Mo, ali magnà ?
   [Mo] have-they eaten [mo]

(8) a Quando rivelo, mo ?
   b *Mo, quando rivelo ?
   [Mo] when arrives-he [mo]

Also the particles *po* and *lu*, appearing in interrogative and exclamative contexts respectively, appear generally sentence final:

(9) a Quando eli rivadi, po ?
   b Eli partidi, po ?
   [Mo] when have-they arrived po
   [Mo] have-they left po

(10) a Dove zei ndai po ?
    b Zei ndai via, po ?
    [Mo] when have-they gone po
    [Mo] have-they gone away po

(11) a L’à piovest, lu !
     b (*Lu) l’à (*lu) piovest !
     [Lu] it has [lu] rained [lu]

The second property concerns the fact that, among those *SPs* that occur in *wh*-contexts, some can also occur immediately after the *wh*-item and with a *wh*-item in
isolation; this is the case of the particles mo and po in Pagotto, as exemplified in (13)/(14) and (15)/(16), but not of ti, for example:

(12) a  *Dove, ti, zelo ndà ?
      b  *Dove ti
       Where [ti] has-he gone

(13) a  Quando rivaràli, mo ?
      b  Quando, mo, rivaràli ?
       When [mo] arrive-fut-they [mo]

(14) a  Che mo ?
      b  Andé mo ?
       What mo

(15) a  Quando eli rivadi, po ?
      b  Quando, po, eli rivadi ?
       When [po] have-they arrived [po]

(16) a  Andé po ?
      b  Quando po ?
       Where po

The third property concerns sensitivity to clause type: the examples reported above show that SPs always occur in interrogative, exclamative or imperative

3 With respect to the particle po, the wh-element parché displays a special behaviour, as in Pagotto the position after the wh-item is preferred to the sentence final one:

(i) a  Parché po eli `ndadi via ?
      b  ?Parché eli `ndadi via, po ?
      c  ?Po, parché eli `ndadi via ?
       [Po] why [po] have-they gone away [po]

Notice that, as witnessed by (ic), the sentence initial position of po is not excluded in Pagotto; we leave a more detailed investigation of this fact for future research. As discussed in Munaro (1997), Pagotto belongs to the group of Northern Italian dialects in which some classes of wh-items can appear either sentence initially or sentence internally in main wh-questions; however, the position of the wh-item does not seem to interact in a relevant way with the presence of the particle.

In Venetian parché is the only wh-item that can appear in that position, as shown by the contrast between (ii) and (iii):

(ii) *Dove, po, zei ndai ?
     Where po have-they gone

(iii) a  Parché, po, i ze/zeli ndai via ?
       b  Parché po ?
        Why [po] (they-have/have-they gone away)

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clauses and are never found in declarative clauses; in addition, they always convey a presuppositional entailment which we try to depict in greater detail in section 5.

Finally, the occurrence of *SPs* is restricted to main contexts; as shown by the following data, particles are banned from embedded contexts:

(17) a El me ga domandà dove (*ti) che i ze ndai (*ti) ?
    He-me-has asked where [ti] that they-have gone [ti]
    Ve

   b No so dirte quandot(*ti) che i é partidi (*ti)
    I can’t tell you when [ti] that they-have left [ti]
    Pg

(18) a I me a domandà cossa (*mo) che avon fat (*mo)
    They-have asked me what [mo] that we have done [mo]
    Pg

   b No so andé (*mo) che i é ndadi (*mo)
    I don’t know where [mo] that they-have gone [mo]
    Pg

(19) a I me à domandà parché (*po) che l’à parlà (*po)
    They-me-have asked why [po] that he-has spoken [po]
    Pg

   b No so dove (*po) che el ze ndà (*po)
    I don’t know where [po] that he-has gone [po]
    Ve

(20) a L’à dit (*lu) che l’à piovest (*lu), ieri sera (*lu)^4
    He-has said [lu] that it-has rained [lu] yesterday evening [lu]
    Pg

The distributional restriction to main clauses suggests that in the presence of the particle the CP-layer, where the main vs embedded distinction is encoded, is activated; we discuss this issue more thoroughly in the next section.^

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^A subject clause can either precede or follow the particle *lu*, which invariably refers to the main clause:

(i) a L’é meio, lu, che te vegne ale nove
    It is better [lu] that you-come at nine [lu]
    b L’é meio che te vegne ale nove, lu

(ii) a L’é bel, lu, sveiarse tardi ala matina
    It is nice [lu] to wake up late in the morning [lu]
    b L’é bel sveiarse tardi ala matina, lu

^A further common distributional feature concerns the fact that all *SPs* are incompatible with sentential negation, as shown by the Venetian imperative in (i) and the Pagotto interrogatives and exclamatives in (ii) and (iii):

* No sta farlo, mo
  Don’t do it, mo

(ii) a *Andé no i é/éli ndadi, ti ?
    Where not they-have/have-they gone, ti
    b *No i a/ali fat che, mo ?
3. Sentential particles as C° heads

As anticipated in the introduction, we propose to analyze the SPs considered here as heads which can host their CP complement in their specifier.

The head status of the SPs is suggested by the fact that they cannot be modified or focalized:

(21) a  *Cossa ali fat, proprio ti ?!
         What have-they done, just ti
   b  *Quando riveli, proprio mo ?!
         When arrive-they, just mo
   c  *Eli partidi, proprio po ?
         Have-they left, just po
   d  *L’è fret incoi, proprio lu !
         It-is cold today, just lu

(22) a  *Cossa ali fat, TI ?!
         Why have-they done TI
   b  *Quando riveli, MO ?!
         When arrive-they MO
   c  *Eli partidi, PO ?
         Have-they left PO
   d  *L’è fret incoi, LU !
         It-is cold today LU

Not they-have/have-they done what, mo
(iii) a  *No l’à piovest, lu
         Not it-has rained, lu
   b  *No l’è rivà (lu) nisuni, (lu)
         Not it-has arrived (lu) anybody (lu)
The Pagotto examples in (iv) might suggest that the particle mo is indeed compatible with negation in yes/no questions; however, as discussed by several authors, the negative marker in yes/no questions has a presuppositional value, and does not function as real negation:
(iv) a  No i gnen, mo ?
         Not they-come, mo
   b  No te dis gnent, mo ?
         Not you-say anything, mo

Therefore, the observation that all the SPs we considered are incompatible with real sentential negation holds; for the time being, we do not have an explanation for this fact and leave a deeper investigation of this issue for future research.
The ungrammaticality of (21) and (22) would be completely unexpected if \(SPs\) were located in some specifier position.\(^6\)

Also the diachronic evolution of these particles points to their head nature: two of them, namely \(ti\) and \(lu\), were originally tonic pronouns, the second singular and third singular masculine forms respectively; however, they have a different distribution with respect to subject pronouns.

The particle \(ti\) is compatible with third person subjects and can cooccur with the omophonous tonic pronominal subject \(ti\):

\begin{align*}
(23) & a \quad \text{Dove zelo ndà, ti ?} \quad \text{Ve} \\
& b \quad \text{Ti, dove ti ze 'ndà, ti ?} \quad \text{You, where you-have gone, ti}
\end{align*}

The particle \(lu\) is compatible with a singular or plural third person subject (though not with first and second person subjects):\(^7\)

\begin{align*}
(24) & a \quad \text{L’è rivà al to amigo, lu} \quad \text{Pg} \\
& b \quad \text{L’è riva i to amighi, lu} \quad \text{It has arrived your friends, lu}
\end{align*}

\(^6\) Another possible analysis is that \(SPs\) are merged in a low specifier position of the IP field and are then raised to some specifier of the CP layer; notice however that the impossibility for the \(SPs\) to undergo modification eliminates also this option.

\(^7\) Notice however that a preverbal subject is compatible with \(lu\) only if it is 3\(^{rd}\) person singular:

\begin{align*}
(i) & a \quad \text{Al to amigo l’è rivà, lu} \\
& \quad \text{Your friend he-has arrived, lu} \\
& b \quad \text{I to amighi i é rivadi, lori/*lu} \\
& \quad \text{Your friends they-have arrived, they/lu}
\end{align*}

Furthermore, \(lu\) is generally compatible with postverbal subjects and induces a contrastive focalization of the subject, both with transitive, intransitive and unaccusative verbs:

\begin{align*}
(ii) & a \quad \text{L’à magnà tut al tozatel, lu} \\
& \quad \text{He-has eaten everything the child, lu} \\
& b \quad \text{L’à laorà to fradel, lu, incoi} \\
& \quad \text{He-has worked your brother, lu, today}
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
(iii) & \quad \text{L’è rivà (anca/proprò) to fradel, lu} \\
& \quad \text{He-has arrived (also/just) your brother, lu}
\end{align*}

The non-contrastive interpretation is possible only when the subject is right dislocated:

\begin{align*}
(iv) & \quad \text{L’è rivà, lu, to fradel (atu vist?)} \quad \text{He-has arrived, lu, your brother (have you seen?)}
\end{align*}
Moreover, while the particle *lu is restricted to third person subject clauses in Pagotto, this restriction does not exist in Paduan, where, as discussed in Benincà (1996), *lu may appear in exclamatives and is compatible with first, second and third person subjects:

(25) a *Son vegnest anca mì, lu Have come also I, lu
     Pg
b *Te sé rivà anca ti, lu You-have arrived also you, lu
c *Sìon partidi anca noi, lu Have left also we, lu

Moreover, *lu is compatible with adjectival predicates with a feminine ending:

(i) L’è vera, (lu), che i è tornàdi, (lu)
   It-is true (lu) that they-have come back (lu)
The idea that SPs are located very high in the structure and that the CP must move to their left might seem at first sight a rather ad hoc solution. We therefore compare this analysis with the null hypothesis, namely with the view that SPs are located in the low position inside the IP field, showing that the null hypothesis encounters a number of problems; in addition, there are empirical arguments suggesting that these particles belong to the CP-layer.

Firstly, we have to exclude that SPs are merged inside the VP, as they have no argumental status. The assumption that SPs are located very low in the IP field would force us to the problematic conclusion that, given their sentence final positioning, all arguments must have vacated the VP; if this analysis might in principle be conceivable for object DPs (which move out of the VP in order to get case in some SpecAgrO position), it looks much less plausible for PPs, which, not being in need of structural case, have no trigger for scrambling out of the VP.\(^9\)

Secondly, given that low functional projections have in general aspectual value, we would expect that these particles also do. As we will see below, this is not the case; on the contrary, the interpretation triggered by the presence of SPs concerns semantic and pragmatic aspects such as presupposition, point of view, and presentation of the event, which are usually encoded in the left periphery of the clause.

Thirdly, the very syntactic behaviour of SPs shows that they belong to the highest functional domain: as shown above, they are not found in embedded contexts: this asymmetry is a typical property of phenomena involving the CP field (like for example V2, do-support, subject clitic inversion, etc.); to the best of our knowledge, no elements of the low IP area are sensitive to the main versus embedded status of the clause in which they occur.

4. The analysis: clause preposing to [Spec,Prf]

Given our claim that SPs are located in a head position of the CP layer and that their sentence final occurrence is derived via remnant movement of their clausal complement, the whole CP, to their specifier, we intend to show now that the relation between SPs and the preceding CP does indeed display the properties of the structural spec-head relation.

As is well known, parentheticals cannot intervene between a head and its specifier, while they can intervene between two maximal projections. Therefore, we

\(^9\) Moreover, the position of the particle would have to be the lowest specifier above VP: it cannot be head because it would block verb movement and it must be the lowest functional specifier because otherwise we would expect it to be followed by low adverbs.
can use parentheticals as a diagnostic test for spec-head relations; the following examples show that it is not possible to insert a parenthetical expression between the CP and any SP:

(28)  

a  *L’è piovest, son sicur, lu, ieri sera  
It has rained, I’m sure, lu, last night  

b  *Cossa falo, diseme, ti ?  
What does-he, tell me, ti  

c  *Vien, sa, mo !  
Come, you know, mo

If our analysis is on the right track, the natural question arises as to whether all the particles we consider are located in the same head or whether each particle occupies a different C° position. As we will discuss in the next section, there are reasons to believe that each particle marks a different semantic value. There is, however, a more straightforward syntactic argument for the hypothesis that SPs occupy different head positions inside the CP layer. Interestingly, the particles ti and po can cooccur, in a rigid order in which po precedes ti:

(29) Quando eli rivadi, po, ti?  
If the two particles cooccur, it is obvious that they cannot be located in the same head. According to our account there are two possible analyses of the sequence in (29), which can be derived either as in (30) or in (31):

(30)  

a  [[ti] [po] [CP quando eli rivadi]]  
[[ti] [[CP quando eli rivadi], [po]] tₙ]  

b  [[ti] [CP quando eli rivadi], [ti]] tₙ  
[[[[CP quando eli rivadi], [po]] tₙ] [ti]] tₙ)

c  [[ [[CP quando eli rivadi], [po]] tₙ] [ti]] tₙ  
[[[CP quando eli rivadi], [ti]] tₙ] tₙ)

(31)  

a  [[po] [ti] [CP quando eli rivadi]]  
[[po] [CP quando eli rivadi], [ti]] tₙ  

b  [[po] [[[CP quando eli rivadi], [ti]] tₙ]  
[[[po] [CP quando eli rivadi], [ti]] tₙ] tₙ]

c  [[[po] [CP quando eli rivadi], [ti]] tₙ] tₙ  
[[[po] [[[CP quando eli rivadi], [ti]] tₙ] tₙ]

As illustrated, we can hypothesize two different initial sequences, depending on the relative linear order of the two particles. If ti is higher than po, like in (30a), we have movement of the interrogative clause into the specifier of po, like in (30b), and the final word order in (30c) is obtained by raising the whole constituent formed by the CP and the particle po into the specifier of ti. In the second derivation, with po higher than ti, like in (31a), the interrogative CP raises, through the specifier of ti, up to the specifier of po. Beside the different initial order, the difference between the two alternatives lies in the second step of the derivation: only in the former case does the moved constituent include the lower particle.¹⁰

¹⁰ Notice that under either analysis it is possible to account for the ungrammaticality of the following sequences:
We have seen that some SPs can either be preceded by the whole interrogative clause, like in (32), or intervene between the sentence initial wh-item and the rest of the clause, like in (33):

(32)  
- a. Parché gnenlo, mo ?  
  Why comes-he, mo
- b. Quando eli rivadi, po ?  
  When have-they arrived, po

(33)  
- a. Parché, mo, gnenlo ?  
  Why, mo, comes-he
- b. Quando, po, eli rivadi ?  
  When, po, have-they arrived

The examples in (32) show that the particle can be located in the left periphery, as it precedes the inflected verb which has undergone subject clitic inversion\(^\text{11}\); if we took (32) as the basic sequence, in view of (33) we would have to posit that the particle can either be merged in two different positions, belonging to very different sentence domains, or be merged very low in the structure and then moved to the CP area for some mysterious reason. In our account the position of the particle remains the same, the difference between (32) and (33) depending on whether the particle attracts to its specifier the whole clause or only the wh-item, stranding the clause; hence, cases like (33) are expected if we assume the analysis in (27) and have a structure like the following, where the element checking the strong feature in the specifier of the SP is not the entire CP but the wh-item:

(i)  
- a. *Quando eli rivadi, ti, po?
- b. ?? Po, quando eli rivadi, ti?
- c. ?? Quando po eli rivadi ti?

Under the first analysis the ungrammaticality of (ia) may be traced back to the fact that ti requires its specifier position to be filled by the whole complement (including the particle po); on the other hand, the deviance of (ib/c) suggests that the raising of the whole clause to the specifier of ti requires previous movement of the clause (and not only of the wh-item) to the specifier of po, a condition which is virtually identical to the well known general restriction on successive cyclic movement according to which intermediate positions of the same type cannot be crossed over. On the other hand, the second analysis correctly predicts the ungrammaticality of (ia), where the particles are in the reverse order, as well as the deviance of (ib), where the specifier of po remains empty, and of (ic), where the wh-item has been extracted from a left branch.

\(^{11}\) We take subject clitic inversion to witness that (some type of) verb movement to the CP layer has applied.
As shown above, some particles admit for this possibility, while others do not; we propose that this difference must be linked to the semantic feature the particle marks, as discussed below in detail.12

5. On the semantic import of the particles

In this section we describe more thoroughly the contexts in which SPs are attested, thereby sketching an account of the semantic contribution of each particle to the interpretation of the clause.

To begin with, it should be pointed out that the SPs considered here behave differently from other particles attested in the Veneto dialects, which are characterized by two properties not shared by the particles we have examined: they occur in initial position and have no presuppositional import. This is the case of the particle e in the Southern Veneto dialect of Taglio di Po, which marks the exclamative illocutionary force of the utterance in which it occurs; as shown in (35) and (36), the full grammaticality of an exclamative clause depends on the presence of e and on its occurrence in sentence initial position:

(35) a  E c bel libro c l’à scrito! Taglio di Po
       b  *C(he) bel libro c l’à scritto e !
          [E] what a nice book that he-has written [e]
(36) a  *Che bel libro c l’à scritto ! Taglio di Po
       b  *Co beo !
         What a nice book that he-has written
         How nice

Hence, we suggest that particles like e have a purely typing function and, as expected, are obligatory in the clause type they mark. This is not the case for our SPs, which seem at first sight optional, although, as we claim, they contribute to convey a special meaning.

5.1. The particle ti

As mentioned above, ti only appears in interrogatives; it is only compatible with wh-questions and not with yes/no questions:

12 A further argument in favour of our analysis is provided by the empirical generalization formulated in section 2: those particles that can intervene between the wh-item and the rest of the clause may also occur with the wh-item in isolation; this fact follows straightforwardly from the analysis proposed here, while it would remain unaccounted for if we admitted that SPs are located in the low IP area.
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(37) a Quando sarali rivadi, ti ?
     Sarali rivadi quando, ti ?

b [When] be-fut-they arrived [when], ti

(38) a  *Saràli rivadi, ti ?
     Be-fut-they arrived, ti
b  *I ze partii, ti ?
     They-have left, ti

Ti questions can have two interpretations. The first interpretation can be identified with the one defined as “can’t find the value” (henceforth cfv) by Obenauer (1994); under this reading the speaker has already unsuccessfully tried to identify a value for the variable; moreover, this type of questions can only be self-addressed questions.13 The second interpretation is a surprise/reproach (henceforth sr) interpretation (see Poletto (2000:67 ff.), Munaro & Obenauer (2002)); in this case the speaker already knows the value of the variable, so his question does not really bear on the value of the variable bound by the wh-operator but rather expresses a feeling ranging from mild surprise up to reproach towards the event referred to.

The choice between the two interpretations seems to be connected to the verbal features: present and past trigger the sr interpretation more easily, while future favours the cfv one:14

(39) a Dove le gavarò messe, ti ?
     Where cl have-fut-I put, ti
b Cossa avarali magnà, ti ?
     What have-fut-they eaten, ti

13 Interestingly in Venetian epistemic questions, which are marked by a subjunctive mood preceded by a complementizer, are incompatible with ti:

(i) a  Cossa che el gabia fato?
     What that he-have-subj done (ti)
     b  ??Cossa che el gabia fato, ti ?

Questions of the type exemplified in (i) are also self-addressed questions, which might be taken to show that self-addressing in questions cuts across questions types.

14 Notice that cfv questions with ti are incompatible with second person subjects, most likely because the speaker excludes every possibility of getting an answer from the addressee:

(i) a  *Andé sareo ndadi, ti ?
     Where be-fut-you gone, ti
b  *Dove sari ndai, ti ?
Let us see what semantic property these two interpretations share: in the cfv interpretation all the possible values of the variable have already been tried and excluded by the speaker, while in the sr interpretation the value of the variable is already identified but it is outside the set of plausible values defined by the context (cf. Obenauer (1994)). Hence, what the two interpretations have in common is the fact that the answer drawn from the set specified by the wh-item is not sufficient and/or relevant; we propose that this is precisely the feature marked by ti.

The choice between the two interpretations is performed via different mood marking: both in the case of cfv questions and in the case of sr questions the activation of a modal feature may be involved, most likely an epistemic modality in the former case and an evaluative modality in the latter (cf. Munaro & Obenauer (2002) for a specific proposal on the second type of questions).

The fact that modality is relevant to the interpretation of the question could provide us with the explanation for why ti, unlike other particles, always requires the whole CP, and not simply the wh-item, in its specifier. Suppose that the modal feature has to be in a local structural relation with the particle; there are a priori two possible ways to satisfy this requirement: since ti has no affixal properties, left-adjunction of the finite verb to the particle via head movement is excluded, so we are left with the option of pied-piping the whole CP up to the specifier of the particle.  

5.2. The particle mo

As illustrated in section 2, the particle mo has a different distribution in Venetian and Pagotto, as only in the latter dialect it can occur both in interrogatives as well as in imperatives.

We propose that mo can have the following values in the structures examined: it introduces a presupposition and/or it expresses what has been defined in the literature as a point of view. From these two properties we derive its interpretive import in the two dialects under investigation; in Pagotto mo introduces "point of view", because it expresses a reference to the person to whose benefit the action has to be performed (either the speaker or the hearer): imperatives with mo are uttered to

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15 As for the fact that ti occurs only in wh-interrogatives and not in yes/no questions, this may depend on the fact that in the latter the variable can have either a positive or a negative value; since these two values exhaust the set, there is no third value to be placed outside the set.
the benefit of a class of persons which includes the hearer (a similar information is conveyed by the particles *mo*/*ma* in the Raethoromance variety of Badiotto, as discussed by Poletto & Zanuttini (2003)):

(41) a  Magna, mo (che te deventa grant) !  
      Pg  
      Eat, mo, (so that you grow up)  

   b  Ledelo, mo (che te capisarà tut) !  
      Read it, mo, (so that you’ll understand everything)  

(42) a  Nèteme le scarpe, mo (che sion in ritardo) !  
      Pg  
      Clean my shoes, mo, (that we are late)  

   b  Parèceme da magnar, mo (che dopo avon da ‘ndar via) !  
      Cook for me, mo, (that later we have to go)  

Sentences like the ones illustrated in (41) are clearly uttered to the advantage of the hearer, while those in (42) are felicituos only if they are uttered in a context in which both the speaker and the hearer will benefit from the action performed.  
As for the role of *mo* in imperatives in Venetian, it can be informally characterized as expressing the confirmation of an order already given requiring that the action be performed immediately; as such it is not compatible with adverbs expressing future tense:

(43) a  Ciamime (*tra un’ora), mo !  
      Ve  
      Call me (in an hour), mo  

   b  Lezilo (*doman), mo !  
      Read it (tomorrow), mo  

*Mo* in Venetian imperatives seems to be sensitive to the tense of the utterance, as it signals that the utterance time and the performance time must coincide. In addition to this, *mo* signals the presence of a presupposition: in all these examples the speaker already knows that the hearer does not intend to obey the order. The combination of these two components, that is, the coincidence between utterance and performance time and presupposition, yields a semantic effect that Venetian informants translate as “reinforcement of the order”.

Thus, *mo* expresses two distinct values in imperative clauses in Venetian and Pagotto. However, in Pagotto interrogatives *mo* seems to convey a reading partially similar to its Venetian counterpart in imperatives because it introduces a

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16 The distinction concerning point of view found in Pagotto is not relevant in Venetian:

(i) a  Vien mo, che te iuto!  
      Come mo, that I help you  

   b  Vien mo, che ti me porti casa !  
      Come mo, that you take me home
presupposition concerning the addressee’s intentions;\(^{17}\) we surmise that in *mo* interrogatives both a presupposition and a point of view are involved, the interpretation depending on the position of the *SP*:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(44)} & \quad \text{a} \quad \text{Quando rivařa, mo ?} & \text{Pg} \\
& \quad \text{b} \quad \text{Quando, mo, rivařa ?} \\
& \quad \text{When [mo] arrive-fut-they [mo]}
\end{align*}
\]

If the whole clause raises, like in (44a), the speaker expresses the fact that the present situation does not conform to his expectations, a fact which, due to the presence of the point of view, might have negative consequences; if *Point of view* is encoded by a modal projection in IP (cf. Poletto & Zanuttini (2003)), then IP raising is necessary for the interpretation to obtain, similarly to what happens in the case of *ti*. When the particle occurs immediately after the *wh*-item, like in (45b) (or with the *wh*-item used in isolation) *mo* introduces the speaker’s opinion that the addressee does not intend to answer, so that he is forced to repeat his question again, with insistence. Hence, what is expressed in this case is not a point of view, but just a presupposition; given the absence of point of view, the clause need not raise as a whole and the *wh*-item can, and must, raise alone.

We can conclude that both in Venetian imperatives and in Pagotto interrogatives with the particle following the *wh*-item the effect of reinforcement perceived by the informants is due to some presupposition concerning the addressee’s attitude.

### 5.3. The particle *po*

Also in the case of *po* the interpretation of the sentence depends on the position of the particle, which, as anticipated above, can appear either sentence final or immediately after the *wh*-item:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(45)} & \quad \text{a} \quad \text{Quando eli rivadi, po ?} & \text{Pg} \\
& \quad \text{b} \quad \text{Quando, po, eli rivadi ?} \\
& \quad \text{When [po] have-they arrived [po]}
\end{align*}
\]

We claim that the contribution of *po* to the interpretation of the clause consists of two components: the fact that the set of the answers specified by the *wh*-item is ordered according to a probability scale (along the lines of Portner & Zanuttini (1998)’s analysis of exclamative clauses) and that the most probable values have already been tried and excluded.

When *po* immediately follows the *wh*-item, like in (45b), the speaker knows that the event was to take place and asks for a confirmation;\(^{18}\) this position triggers an

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\(^{17}\) Recall that in Venetian *mo* does not appear in interrogatives.

\(^{18}\) This position requires the clause to raise as a whole due to the presence of the point of view.
interpretation in which the possible values for the variable have been ordered with the exclusion of the most probable ones.

With sentence final po, in (45a), in addition to the ordering of the possible values and the exclusion of the most probable ones, the speaker refers back to a communicative situation that has been left suspended and is taken up again at the time of the question; we suggest that the speaker’s reference to a previous situation might be connected to the activation of the Tense projection, which, being relevant for this interpretation, must move to the specifier of the particle pied piping the whole clause (as in the cases of ti and mo). 19

5.4. The particle lu

The occurrence of the particle lu is limited to non-constituent exclamatives focussing on the whole propositional content; it is not compatible with constituent exclamatives in which a wh-phrase is fronted to the sentence initial position, as shown by the following examples:

(46) a  L’ë frét, lu  Pğ
     It-is cold [lu]
 b  L’ë rivà al to amigo, lu  Pğ
     It-has arrived your friend, lu

(47) a  Che frét (*lu) che l’ë incoi (*lu)  Pğ
     How cold [lu] that it-is today [lu]
 b  Quant (*lu) che à pirovèst ieri sera (*lu)
     How much [lu] that it has rained last night [lu]

We suggest that lu introduces a presupposition; in this case the event described by the clause corresponds to either of the two possible truth values (the positive and the negative one); the content expressed is contrary to the speaker’s expectations, so

18 As discussed above for mo, this interpretation seems to convey a presupposition concerning the whole event; as a consequence, the question does not really bear on the wh-item itself.

19 Indeed, in Venetian this additional interpretation is excluded with future tense:

(i) % Quando sarali rivai, po
    When be-fut-they arrived, po
As mentioned in footnote 3, in Pagotto po is also attested in sentence initial position, in which case it expresses the speaker’s surprise about the fact that the event has taken place; hence the event is presented as unexpected given the context, and the value of the variable is not relevant.
the function of lu may simply be that of choosing the contextually less probable value between the two a priori conceivable ones.\textsuperscript{20}

6. Conclusion

In this article we have taken into account the syntactic and semantic behaviour of some sentential particles in two Veneto dialects. All particles share interesting syntactic and semantic properties: they are all sensitive to clause type and can only appear in matrix clauses, they can all occur in sentence final position and have the typical properties of X°-elements. We claim that the correct syntactic analysis is the one exploiting movement of the wh-item or of the whole clausal complement to the specifier of the CP projection whose head is occupied by the particle.

The possibility of combining two particles suggests that each particle occupies a different head position in the CP layer; however, it remains to be seen what their precise ordering is and exactly which projection they mark.

The interpretation changes depending on whether the constituent which raises to the specifier of the SP is the wh-item or the whole clause. We have proposed that raising of the whole CP-complement is induced by the necessity for some IP projections (either Tense or Mood) to enter a local relation with the particle.

When this obtains Tense or Mood also contribute to the interpretation of the clause, which becomes a function of the meaning of the particle combined with the feature added by Tense/Mood. Each particle is sensitive to tense and modality in a different way, a subject which still remains to be explored.

References


\textsuperscript{20} In this respect the interpretive contribution of lu in reversing the presupposition resembles the one of mica in standard Italian (cf. Cinque (1976)).
Ways of clausal typing


