CHAPTER 4

Prepositional "where" in Southern Italian Dialects

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4.1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter we intend to investigate a curious phenomenon found in some Southern Italian dialects in the area including Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, part of Sicily, and part of Apulia. In these varieties it is possible to use a form identical to the *wh*-item meaning "where" as a preposition, which translates some of the usages of standard Italian *da* "by, at, to." So, for instance a form like "at/to the doctor's" is translated as something like "where the doctor," as shown in (1a):

- (1) a. Pier iè sciut *ndo* u mirc. Rionero in Vulture (Pz)

 Piero has gone where the doctor

 'Peter went to the doctor's'
 - b. Ndo iè u giardin?where is the garden?'
 - c. Lu paes ndo sti iè bellesm
 the village where lives is very.beautiful
 "The village where he lives is very beautiful"

The form of the preposition meaning "to" in (1a) is identical to the *wh*-item "where" used in interrogative (1b) and relative clauses (1c).





This phenomenon might look prima facie like a case of homophony, or at best as a case of grammaticalization of a wh-pronoun into a preposition; however, it can be shown that the only way to capture the distribution of "prepositional where" (from now on P-where) is that the contexts where it can occur can be defined on the basis of the formal features of the noun with which the P element is associated. If P-where were a case of homophony, we would have the additional burden of explaining why the element where does not substitute for the preposition da "by/at/to" in all the possible usages of the preposition; moreover, we could expect other wh-items to have undergone the same path, which is not the case, and we would have to admit that there are two lexical entries for "where" in the lexicon, which is not an elegant solution. Interestingly, the phenomenon of P-where displays a progressive enlargement from a set of core contexts that are found in most dialects of the geographical area mentioned earlier to additional contexts, found in a subset of dialects, while it never targets other usages of the preposition in any of the dialects of the ASIt database. For instance, temporal usages of the preposition da, which in general are parasitic on locative usages in most languages, are never expressed by P-where. This is even more striking if we notice that the element dove ("where" in Italian) can indeed have temporal usages when it introduces an embedded clause with temporal value. We will show that there exists an implicational scale in terms of contexts in which P-where can occur that depends on the properties of the noun with which P-where is associated. This will lead us to propose an internal structure of the lowest portion of locative PPs that partially reformulates Cinque's (2010) and Terzi's (2010) proposals on the internal structure of PPs. We will argue that the predicate position of the small clause containing in its subject position the null PLACE postulated by Terzi is occupied by another small clause containing the actual locative noun and its possessor (and not by a simple DP).

More generally, we believe that our case study can shed light on the nature of the diachronic process of reanalysis. Since the work by Roberts and Roussou (2003), processes of linguistic change like grammaticalization and reanalysis have become central issues in formal diachronic syntax. It is now widely assumed that both grammaticalization and reanalysis are two instances of the same process, according to which an element originally located lower in the structure is reinterpreted as a higher element realizing a higher functional projection, in general as a head. Another type of process related to grammaticalization/reanalysis is the change of a complex element into a head, as discussed

1. We have not undertaken a mathematical investigation of our contexts, but their distribution can probably be captured by a gauss function in a way similar to the one described by Sorace (2004) for the phenomenon of auxiliary selection with unaccusative verbs.

PREPOSITIONAL "WHERE" IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN DIALECTS [115]



at length by van Gelderen (2011). We do not think that the phenomenon we observe in the Southern Italian dialects can be described by assuming either that the *wh*-item moves higher in the structural tree or that a specifier is reanalyzed as a head. The process we observe is of a completely different type, as we will see.

We will show that our case of reanalysis has to be seen as a change in the environment of the reanalyzed element, hence as a purely structural change. In section 4.2 we report previous work of ours on the internal structure of the wh-item where in Italian dialects, which is instrumental in understanding the details of the analysis of P-where. In section 4.3, we provide an overview of the distribution of P-where in various dialects we have investigated. Section 4.4 contains a detailed discussion of our idea: we propose that P-where actually exploits a sort of reduced relative structure in which the null classifier-like element PLACE² located in the internal structure of the wh-item is raised to the top of the structure and enters a small clause structure with the actual lexical noun present. Since, as we will see, most dialects only use P-where in cases of quasi-inalienable locative possession (like "someone's home"), we will adopt the recent proposal by den Dikken (2003, 2013), also adopted by Terzi (2010), that inalienable possession is actually to be interpreted as a small clause whose predicative head functions as the relator between the possessor (located in the specifier position of RelatorP) and the possessee (located in the complement position of RelatorP). Only the further extension found in a small number of dialects to non-quasi inalienable locatives (like "the street") is a real case of change of category in which the wh-item becomes a real preposition. Finally, section 4.5 contains some concluding remarks.

4.2. THE STATE OF THE ART ON THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF "WHERE"

This section contains a summary of the proposal we argued for in Munaro and Poletto (2014), in which we examined the internal formatives of the interrogative and relative *wh*-item "where" in the Northern Italian domain. On this basis we showed that part of the functional projections active inside a locative PP as proposed by Cinque (2010) and Terzi (2010) are also found in its corresponding *wh*-form.³ In that work, we followed the method of

- 2. An anonymous reviewer points out that in Italian the null PLACE can be realized as *parte*, originally meaning "part," and not as *luogo*. Notice, however, that *luogo* in Italian belongs to the highest stylistic register. Furthermore, we think that Terzi's original insight in assuming that there is a null locative classifier-like noun as PLACE is precisely that this is a locative concept, not the real lexical counterpart of "place."
- 3. For a complex internal structure of the *wh*-where and the idea that a null PLACE is present in *where/there*, see also Kayne (2004, 2007). See also Noonan (2017) for an analysis of the internal structure of these elements in French and German.

[116] (Micro)variation in PPs





microcomparative variation discussed in Poletto (2012), according to which the elements that have more lexical variation inside a dialectal area are those that contain in their internal structure more functional projections, and each dialect lexically realizes only a part of them. Functional items that have a poorer internal structure are more stable from the lexical point of view and display the same root in all dialects.

The decomposition of the various formatives of the wh-item "where" has revealed that it is made up by three types of elements: a prepositional formative, which can correspond to the prepositions in "in," di "of ," or da "from," or a combination of them; a vocalic formative o/u; a deictic locative element derived from various sources -nd, -v, or -la. In a form like indula, attested in the variety of Grado, all the formatives are overtly represented.

The internal structure of *wh*-items is generally assumed to at least partially reflect the structure of the corresponding element they question: hence something like "who" or "what" will have a nominal structure underneath the operator layer (as already proposed by Katz and Postal 1964). Given that "where" expresses a locative *wh*-item, this has to be compared with the structure of locative PPs in order to establish which projections the two categories share. We adopt Cinque's (2010) and Terzi's (2010) proposal for the internal structure of locative PPs (but see also a very similar proposal by Svenonius 2010):

(2) [PPDirSource from [PPDirGoal to [PPDirPath across [PPStat AT [DegreeP two miles]

[ModeDir diagonally [AbsViewP north [RelViewP in [DeicticP here [AxPartP under [PP [P] [NPplace the mountain [NP PLACE]]]]]]]]]]

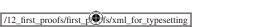
If this general view of wh-items is correct, then the null hypothesis is that the locative wh-item realizes at least some of the syntactic projections internal to a PP, and hence there should be a partial correspondence between (2) and the internal structure of "where."

An independent difference between complex locative PPs and the *wh*-item is the fact that it is possible to sub-extract the internal projections in a PP, but the formatives in the *wh*-item always come in the same order; this amounts to saying that while it is possible to move in the syntax, the morphological component admits no movements of any sort. In other words, the line we take is the same as that usually adopted in the Minimalist Program, where complex morphological forms are not created in the syntax but are already present in the lexicon, and each internal morpheme checks the features of a functional projection. Although the various morphemes correspond each

4. For a table containing all the morphological formatives attested in the Northern Italian dialects, the reader is referred to Munaro and Poletto (2014).

PREPOSITIONAL "WHERE" IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN DIALECTS [117]





to a functional projection, they cannot move independently, because they are not independent words—which amounts to saying that movement of morphemes does not exist in the syntax, as standardly assumed in the minimalist framework.

Therefore, we take the formatives in (3) to be unmovable in the extended projection of the *wh*-item. This means that the order of the functional projections can be directly read off the order of the formatives. This assumption depends on the fact that each formative only expresses one functional feature, which corresponds to a single syntactic projection and therefore cannot be moved through feature-driven movement.

Inserting the formatives of the *wh*-item inside the structure of the PP in (2), we obtain the structure in (3):

(3) [PPDirSource *da* [PPDirGoal *in* [PPDirPath [whP *o/u* [StatP [DegreeP [ModeDirP [AbsViewP [RelViewP [DeicticP <u>là/v/nd</u> [AxPartP [PP [P_] [NPplace *e* [PLACE]]]]]]]]]]

As we argued at length in Munaro and Poletto (2014), to which we refer for further discussion and examples, this structure is the internal composition of the element corresponding to "where" in Italian varieties, and contains a set of lexical formatives: in PPDirSource the preposition da meaning "from"; in PPDirGoal the preposition in meaning "in"; in whP the formative o/u from Latin ubi; in DeicticP various formatives which mean "there." In (3), the element o/u corresponds to the wh-operator feature, as we are led to interpret considering its etymology: the formative -u is one of the two possible realizations of the original Indo-European wh-formative qw, which was then simplified in -u through the loss of the original velar (cf. Pokorny 1930: 1099).

We will adopt here the version of the internal structure of *wh*-items proposed by Poletto and Pollock (2009):

(4) [DisjP [ExistP [RestrictorP]]]

If -u is a wh-formative, we can hypothesize that it corresponds to the DisjunctionP in (4). If we further compare the structure in (3) with the one in (4), we can reinterpret the locative formative as marking the Existential feature in (4), while the Restrictor position is occupied in the wh-item "where" by a null PLACE, as indicated in (3).

This view shares with the nanosyntactic approach the fact that single formatives (and not only complete words) can realize a syntactic head. In Starke (2009) and much subsequent work there is an attempt to see beyond the word level into the internal formatives of syntactic terminals. We will adopt a similar approach, with the addition that we hypothesize that each

[118] (Micro)variation in PPs





morphological formative composing the word "where" lexicalizes just one functional projection, as it expresses an independent formal feature.

The fact that in many languages the form of *wh*-items is identical to existential quantifiers has led several authors (see Cole et al. 2001 and references therein) to conclude that *wh*-items are not operators but bound variables. In languages that display in situ *wh*-forms with question interpretation, this results from these variables being bound by null or overt question operators. Indefinite interpretations result from these same variables being bound by other null or overt indefinite operators, or by existential closure.

Here we do not provide a semantic account but rather concentrate on the morphological component in a wide range of dialects: from what emerges, we can conclude that *wh*-items include an existential/indefinite component (though not in the form of an indefinite article, as originally proposed by Katz and Postal 1964); but this is not the only element present in the internal structure of the *wh*-item. In accordance with Cole et al. (2001), it might be the case that in those languages, like Chinese or Japanese or even German (at least for elements like *was* "what/ something" and *wer* "who/someone"), where the form of the *wh*-item is identical to the existential, the higher projections internal to the *wh*-item are not morphologically realized, though they are present; the choice between the two alternatives in (5a) and (5b) would be the source of the ambiguity between an interrogative and an existential reading of the actual morphological forms:

- (5) a. [DisjP [ExistP was [RestrictorP]]]
 - b. [ExistP was [RestrictorP]]

Our investigation has shown that there are other projections on top of the existential one, and that they can be filled or not depending on the dialect, though they are always projected, as these dialects only use these forms for *wh*-items and not for indefinites. This suggests that, more generally, *wh*-items are not indefinites/existentials per se although they always contain an indefinite component, which is morphologically spelled out in several dialects, but not in all.

Notice furthermore that (5), since it is a structure that is valid for all *wh*-items, does not contain a prepositional XP; however, the data we collected suggest that prepositions are possible formatives for the *wh*-item "where," and in some cases they can also be the only one.

If we integrate the layering of *wh*-items in (4) into structure (3), we obtain a final internal structure of the *wh*-item "where" as follows:

(6) [PPDirSource da/di [PPDirGoal in [PPDirPath d [DisjP o/u [StatP [DegreeP [ModeDirP [AbsViewP [RelViewP [DeicticP/ExistP là/v/nd [AxPartP [PP [P][NPplace/Restrictor e [PLACE]]]]]]]]]]

PREPOSITIONAL "WHERE" IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN DIALECTS [119]





Comparing (6) to the structure of a regular PP (see (2) in the preceding), we see that only four of the potential functional positions are relevant for the wh-item: the two highest PPs expressing Source and Goal, the DisjunctiveP (typical only of wh-items and not of the corresponding PP) and the DeicticP/ ExistentialP, in addition to the lexical projection hosting the restrictor.

As discussed earlier, we assume that the whole extended projection in (6) is activated even when a single lexically realized morpheme is present, irrespective of whether it occupies a high or low position. Capitalizing on the present analysis of the internal structure of the *wh*-item "where," we now turn to the internal structure of "where" when it is used as a preposition. We will propose that the structure of P-where is actually a free relative clause whose null head noun is the element PLACE extracted out of a small clause encoding inalienable possession.

4.3. THE DISTRIBUTION OF "P-WHERE" ACROSS DIALECTS

Rohlfs (1969) already noticed the following cases of a prepositional usage of *dove* in Old Tuscan and modern Southern Italian dialects like Calabrian, Sicilian, Neapolitan, and Apulian. He provides for Old Tuscan the following examples:

- (7) a. non mai tornare dove lui (Benvenuto Cellini, *La vita*, Rohlfs 259) not never return where him 'never to go back to him'
 - b. vieni a dove me (Tuscan Vernacular, Rohlfs 259) ⁵ come to where me 'come to me'

For modern Southern Italian dialects, Rohlfs (1969) provides, among others, the following examples:

- (8) a. vaju duve p\u00e4tremma go where father-my'I go to my father'
 - b. undi a mamma Southern Calabrian where the mother 'at the mother's place'
- 5. This is a particularly interesting example because P-where co-occurs with the preposition a "to," showing that they are not the same. However, we have not found cases of this type in the modern dialects investigated.

[120] (Micro)variation in PPs





Calabrian

c.	vaju unni to soru	Sicilian
	go where your sister	
	'I go to your sister'	

Sicilian d. si nni va nni so mugghieri cl-cl-goes where his wife 'he goes to his wife'

e. è agghiuto addó la sorə Neapolitan is gone where the sister 'he went to his sister'

f. mandó un zitellu duve a surella Corsican sent a boy where the sister 'he sent a boy to the sister'

g. addó nujə Campanian where us 'at our place'

Southern Calabrian h. ndi mia where me 'at my place'

i. dunde nnó Corsican

where us 'at our place'

'we go to the doctor'

j. manghjò duve u prete Corsican ate where the priest 'he ate by the priest'

k. jamu duve u miedicu Calabrian go where the doctor

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The cases exemplified in (8) can be grouped into three categories: Pwhere is attested either with personal pronouns, or with kinship nouns (like "sister," "mother," "wife"), or with nouns indicating a profession (like "priest," "doctor"). They all have in common that the usage is similar to French "chez," as Rohlfs notices, in the sense that the meaning is the one of a location prototypically associated with a person (like his own home or the place associated with his job). Therefore, all these constructions have an implicit locative in their interpretation; the fact that kinship terms are more frequently used with P-where is due to their intrinsically relational nature.

PREPOSITIONAL "WHERE" IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN DIALECTS [121]





Rohlfs provides only one example of a locative that is not associated with a person, and it is the following one:

(9) vaju duve u cummientu go where the monastery 'I go to the monastery' Calabrian

One might wonder whether this is just a coincidence, or whether examples with a locative that is not related to a person are rare for some linguistically interesting reason. Therefore, we have carried out an investigation in the ASIt database, including some additional locations, in order to better understand the distribution of the phenomenon. In our research we have found that a certain degree of variation exists concerning the contexts in which P-where is attested.

The majority of the dialects investigated use P-where only when the referent is human and if a conventional relation exists between the profession and the place where it is performed. So we find cases like "where the doctor" meaning "in the practice of the doctor" or "where the director" meaning "in the office of the director."

(10) a. Andù lu miericu ti portu dumani
Where the doctor you take tomorrow
'To the doctor I will take you tomorrow'

Ariano Irpino (Av)

Adduv'u medicu ti cci portu dumani
 Where the doctor you there take tomorrow
 'To the doctor I will take you tomorrow'

Crotone

Unni udutturi, ti pottu dumani
 Where the doctor, you take tomorrow
 'I will take you to the doctor tomorrow'

Messina

We also found dialects in which the referent does not need to be human, but inalienable possession is still implied,⁷ so in addition to using P-where in cases

- 6. The ASIt project is a database including about 300 Italian dialects, which can be freely consulted at the following website: http://asit.maldura.unipd.it/.
- 7. By inalienable possession we mean all those constructions in which there is an intrinsic relation between the possessum and the possessee. In fact, there are various types of inalienable possession, including body parts, kinship terms, and cases of inalienable possession of a place. We investigate here only the second and the third type, although there might be structural similarities with the case of body parts; nevertheless, we are not aware of any of these phenomena extending productively to body parts.

[122] (Micro)variation in PPs





like (10), they also use it in cases like "in the garden" or "in the orchard" when there is a well-defined owner of the place:

(11) Tin nu martidd ndo la cas? have a hammer where the house 'Do you have a hammer here at home?' Rionero in Vulture (Pz)

AQ: Please v

Calitri (Av)

There are also dialects that, in addition to using P-where in cases like (10), see (12b), also use it for a simple locative that is neither human nor requires inalienable possession, like "in the street" (12a):

- (12) a. N' ng'eia n 'sciun' ndo la strata Not there was no one where the street 'No one was in the street'
 - b. Crai ti port' ndo lu mier'ch
 Tomorrow you.take where the doctor
 'I will take you to the doctor tomorrow morning'

Some other dialects, in addition to using P-where in the contexts exemplified in (10), (see (13b)) also use this construction with human referents where no place is implied (as in (13a)):

- (13) a. Av' raccumandat' a figl'm' *ndò lu pruf'ssor*'

 Trevico (Av)

 have recommended to son.my where the professor

 'I have recommended my son to the professor'
 - b. Ndò lu mier'ch' t' port' cramatina where the doctor you.take tomorrow morning 'I will take you to the doctor tomorrow morning'

However, this usage has not extended to figurative locatives, as the following case attests:

(14) Aggi' raccumannat' figliam' a lu pr'fessor' have recommended daughter.my to the professor 'I have recommended my daughter to the professor'

P-where seems thus to have its core distribution in cases like (10), where the referent is human and there is inalienable possession. All the other cases imply the usage of P-where in (10), but there does not seem to be a reciprocal implicational relation.

PREPOSITIONAL "WHERE" IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN DIALECTS [123]





The following table (15) shows the distribution of P-where in the dialects we have investigated across Campania, Basilicata, Calabria, and Sicily: 8

 $(15)^9$

	Ariano Irpino	Crotone	Messina	Calitri	Palermo	Trevico	Carife	Monte calvo	Scampi tella
Locative posssessor	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Common locative without possessor	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
Locative possessee	-	_	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Dative locative	-	_	_	_	_	+	_	-	-

We can summarize as follows the various types of P-where found in the Southern Italian dialects:

- (a) the first type is the one including the inalienable possession of a location that belongs to a human being, i.e., the place where a person lives or the place where someone practices his or her profession, as in (10);
- (b) the second type is the exact counterpart of the first one, i.e., the case in which it is not the possessor that is realized but the possessee, i.e., cases like 'where the house' or 'where the garden' (see (11) and third row in (15));
- (c) the third type is the one found with no inalienable possession, i.e., where the structure has extended to cover cases where the internal structure of the PP is the regular one with a locative noun and no possessor at all, as in (12a);
- (d) the fourth type is the one in which 'P-where' seems to be equivalent to the preposition 'to' and is used to introduce the indirect object of the predicate, as in (13a).
- 8. In the same contexts, some Sicilian dialects do not use "where," but another element, namely *intu* "inside." We leave this aside and concentrate on P-where, though the two phenomena are clearly related.
- 9. In the following table the 0 corresponds to the cases that are not attested in the sample, while corresponds to the ungrammaticality of the construction.

[124] (Micro)variation in PPs





4.4. ON THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF INALIENABLE POSSESSION

The phenomenon we are dealing with is thus restricted (at least in most dialects) to what we can call inalienable possession of a place. As generally assumed, inalienable possession is different from alienable possession in the sense that the two related elements (possessor and possessee) are defined on the basis of the other element of the pair: for instance, you cannot be a mother if there is no son/daughter. As noticed by several authors who worked on the structural encoding of inalienable possession, the syntax of the phenomenon is partially independent from its semantics, i.e., as Alexiadou (2003) points out, there is a core of intrinsically relational nouns which have special properties (for instance, kinship nouns) and then there are others which in some languages can share the properties of kinship nouns, though they are not (for example, a noun like "friend" behaves in some languages as a kinship noun, while in others it does not). Vergnaud and Zubizarreta (1992) notice furthermore that also relational nouns can be treated as having the typical properties of inalienable but also alienable possession. Hence, inalienable possession is syntactically partially independent from the lexical semantics of noun classes, and can be syntactically defined as a special class of nouns that display a different structural configuration from usual possessor/possessee relations.

Furthermore, it is clear that there are various types of inalienable possession; the most typical one concerning body parts entails a different semantic relation with respect to the one of kinship nouns, and in some languages only one of the two classes has special properties. In the Southern Italian dialects we examine here, for instance, enclitic possessives are only possible with kinship nouns but not with body parts (or alienable possession of the more common type). So, in this geographical area (the phenomenon is widespread in all Southern Italian dialects except in extreme Southern ones like Sicilian, Southern Calabrian, and Salentino) you can say mamməta with the enclitic possessive –ta to mean "your mother," but you cannot say manəta meaning "your hand." The phenomenon of P-where is restricted to locatives that have an intrinsic relation to the possessor, though it might not be inalienable in a proper sense: although you can sell a house or an office, P-where manifests itself with nouns like home meaning the place where a person lives, or like practice meaning the place where a doctor practices his or her profession.

Since the context of inalienable possession between a place and a human referent seems to be the core one in which the phenomenon of P-where is attested, we start by providing a structure for this case. Looking at the internal structure of locatives, we notice that Cinque (2010) does not define precisely the structural relation between the element PLACE and the NP indicating a location that constitutes its associate. Terzi proposes that they

PREPOSITIONAL "WHERE" IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN DIALECTS [125]





are in a possessive relation, a solution which is partly similar to the one we will take, with the difference that we interpret it as an inalienable possession relation (cf. den Dikken 1999; Alexiadou 2003). More recently, Lam (2013) has proposed that the element PLACE is actually a classifier of the NP specifying the location and, as such, it is part of its extended projection. We hypothesize that our cases of inalienable possession are different from the usual locative ones where there is a single locative NP and its classifier PLACE on top, and propose that the relation between the null PLACE and the animate N "the doctor" is actually more complex than meets the eye. Since the element where is a wh-item, we have to assume that the null PLACE is associated with a null variable, as is the case for all wh-items. This null variable occupies precisely the position of the associate of PLACE.

On the other hand, the animate DP *the doctor* is the owner of a locative NP; since this is a case of inalienable possession, we will assume, following den Dikken (2013),¹⁰ that inalienable possession is expressed through a maximal projection where the possessor occupies the specifier position and the possessee the complement position.

Den Dikken (2013) proposes that the structure of inalienable possession can be syntactically represented as a functional projection, more precisely as a small clause whose head is actually an element establishing a predicative relation between the two constituents occupying the specifier and the complement position; we follow him here in assuming that the small clause is actually a RelatorPhrase. The fact that P-where occurs more frequently with kinship nouns is straightforwardly derived from this assumption, since kinship nouns are intrinsically relational. The internal structure associated with the noun "doctor" is then the following:

(16)
$$\left[_{RP}\left[_{SPECRP}\left[_{DP} \text{ the }\left[_{NP} \text{ doctor}\right]\right]\right]_{R^{\circ}}\right]\right]$$

The small clause then enters a relation with *where*, which is the relative pronoun of a free relative clause and null PLACE, which is raised to be the head of the free relative clause. However, since PLACE cannot directly relate to a predicative structure as the small clause as such, because it is a nominal element,

[126] (Micro)variation in PPs





^{10.} Alexiadou (2003) proposes that the structure of inalienable possession is similar to the one of alienable possession, with the difference that in alienable possession relations the Possessor is the Specifier of a PossessorP located in the functional spine of the DP, while in the cases of inalienable possession the possessor is the complement of the possessee heading the nominal expression. We do not have strong arguments against this analysis, but rather adopt den Dikken's approach since it better fits the variation found in the dialects we consider.

^{11.} As for the reason why P-where also occurs with pronouns, we surmise that this has to do with the fact that pronouns are also intrinsically relational with respect to the speaker. We do not pursue this any further here, as it would lead us too far afield.

we propose that in these cases the relation between the null PLACE and the SC is again a predicational relation, i.e. another small clause:

(17)
$$[_{SCP}[_{SpecSCP}[PLACE[_{PPdirsource...}[_{AxPartP}[_{pp}[_{p^*}][[CPrel[Where]]....]PLACE]]]]]]]$$
 $[_{SC^*}[_{SC^*}][_{RP}[_{PP}]][_{PP}][_$

(18) PLACE
$$[_{PPdirsource} \dots [_{AxPartP} [_{pp} [_{p^*}]]_{SCP} [_{SpecSCP} [PLACE]]_{SC^*}$$
 copula $[_{RP} [_{DP}]_{DP}]_{RP}$ aunt's $[_{RP} [_{DP}]_{DP}]_{RP}$ arden $[]]]]]]]]]$

INSERT TREES

The structure in (17) shows that the null PLACE and the associated relative clause is contained in the specifier of a small clause whose complement is another small clause, the RelatorP containing the possessive *lu dutturi* and a null noun indicating the practice where the doctor works. Notice that that the internal layering of the lower small clause in the complement position of the empty copula is the standard structure of inalienable possession according to den Dikken (2013).

AQ: Please clarify. Is there art or in-line figure to be inserted?

Example (18) is the exact counterpart of (17) modulo the lexical realization of the complement of the small clause: in Rionero in Vulture's example (11) *ndo la cas* "where the house," the overtly realized DP is the possessee and not the possessor phrase.

AQ: Please clarify.

At this point, the question as to why a wh-item should be "reanalyzed" as a preposition becomes relevant again. We surmise that this is so because in these structures there is actually a hidden free relative clause so that the expression "at the doctor's" is actually to be read as something like "at the place where the doctor is usually practicing." Hence, the fact that a relative wh-pronoun is used as a preposition is only apparently an instance of reanalysis. It is actually a sort of reduced relative clause where, as generally in reduced relatives, auxiliaries are not spelled out. Empirical evidence supporting our idea is provided by the fact that the copula heading the SC (containing PLACE as its specifier and the RP as its complement) can be spelled out in some Sardinian varieties, where the translation for "at the doctor's" looks like a full-fledged free relative clause meaning "where the doctor is." The difference between (10) and (19) is that in (10) we have a reduced relative where the verb is not lexicalized, while in (19) we have a canonical free relative where the verb is visible:

- (19) a. und è lu dutturi (AIS 916)
 where is the doctor
 'at the doctor's'
 - b. aumbe semu nuois (AIS 938) where are we 'at our place'

PREPOSITIONAL "WHERE" IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN DIALECTS [127]





If free relatives are to be interpreted as canonical restrictive relative clauses with a light head (as proposed by a whole line of research that has been applied to Italian by Benincà 2012), then we can analyze these structures as reduced free relatives headed by the null PLACE. 12 This would explain why a *wh*-item (otherwise used only in relative, interrogative, and exclamative clauses) seems to have taken up the value of a locative preposition, but crucially only in cases of inalienable possession. At this stage, the reanalysis process is only apparent, since "where" preserves the same internal structure that it has in free relative clauses. The point is that here the structure is more complex than meets the eye.

This structural analysis also allows us to capture the extension to cases of inalienable possession like the ones found in Rionero in Vulture, such as (11), where the noun occurring with P-where is not the possessor, but the place the possessor owns: cases like "where the garden" or "where the house" actually entail the realization of the NP that is the complement of the internal small clause RelatorP to which PLACE is associated, as shown in (18).

AQ: Please clarify.

Up to now, we have seen that the structure of P-where is always the same modulo the realization of null or lexical elements, i.e., a double small clause where the highest specifier containing PLACE is actually a free relative clause headed by PLACE and in which "where" is the relative pronoun. The lower small clause is a standard Relator phrase with the possessor in the Spec and the possessee in the complement position. Essentially, what we are saying is that combining Cinque's analysis of PPs with den Dikken's proposal on relational small clauses, we can explain the distribution of P-where without any further assumptions.¹³

The last step of extension of "where" to normal DPs like *street*, exemplified by (12), which do not include any sort of inalienable possession, is mediated through a structure like (20), where there is actually no variable related to PLACE, which is inserted into a SC relation with RP. The difference between (17)/(18) and (20) is that in (17)/(18) we still have a RelP, as in inalienable possession. In (20), there is no RelP small clause any longer, but just a canonical PP structure:

(20)
$$\left[\sum_{SCP} \left[PLACE \right]_{PPdirsource...} \left[\sum_{AxPartP} \left[p_p \right]_{p^*} \right] \left[\left[CPrel \left[Where \right] \right]...\right]$$

$$\left[\sum_{SC^*} copula \right] \left[\sum_{DP} the street \right]$$

Notice that (20) is still a free relative clause headed by PLACE, but in this case, the lowest part of the structure has been simplified from a small clause into the one of a normal DP.

- 12. We adopt the view that free relatives are identical to headed restrictive relative clauses with a null head noun, which in our case is PLACE.
- 13. For a similar proposal on Greek, see Terzi (2010).

[128] (Micro)variation in PPs

If we are correct, then the reason why P-where exists is that some locative PPs actually have a free relative clause structure where the phonetically null light noun heading the relative clause is originally merged inside an inalienable possessive structure (as the Saxon genitive in English clearly shows), which then extends in other varieties from inalienable possession (where either the possessor or the possessee are realized) to normal stative locatives without inalienable possession. Therefore, cases like (12), (13), and (14) are similar in that they do not have a RelP, but they still have the higher small clause with the free relative in its specifier.

4.5. SOME CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this chapter we have analyzed an interesting phenomenon attested in some Southern Italian dialects, namely the prepositional usage of the whitem "where," whereby P-where is used to introduce locative PPs expressing different degrees of inalienable possession. In trying to account for a process that might look at first sight like a lexical re-categorization of a wh-element into a preposition, we have argued for a structural analysis that sheds new light on the way we structurally interpret the process of reanalysis. We do not claim that the process of reanalysis as it has been conceived of in recent generative literature does not exist, but simply point out that some cases that look like reanalysis might actually be neither an instance of a lexical element turning into a functional one, nor an instance of a specifier becoming a head.

We think that the one we have investigated here is structurally a different phenomenon. We have observed that the process that changes the category of a wh-item and turns it into a preposition runs through the association of the element "where" with different lexically realized and null items.

Our analysis concerns only the most embedded structure of a locative PP: while the functional projections contained in any PP are the ones identified by Cinque (2010), we have proposed that the reason why it is possible to use "where" as a preposition can be derived by the structural possibility to realize a small clause whose subject is a relative clause headed by the null PLACE postulated by Terzi (2010), and whose predicate is not a DP, but another small clause containing the relation between the locative noun and its possessor. The only reanalysis consists in the loss of the lower RelatorP, which is turned into a regular nominal expression.

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PREPOSITIONAL "WHERE" IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN DIALECTS [129]





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[130] (Micro)variation in PPs

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