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A MAGYAR TUDOMÁNYOS AKADÉMIA NYELVTUDOMÁNYI INTÉZETE INSTITUTUM LINGUISTICUM ACADEMIAE SCIENTIARUM HUNGARICAE



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While Romance personal pronouns belong to two different morphological and syntactic categories: free forms and clitics, Latin had only one morphological type of personal pronouns. I intend to show here 1) that the Latin forms could be tonic (or *strong*) or atonic (or *weak*) and had accordingly a different syntactic behaviour and a different pragmatic use, and 2) that the weak forms are the source of Romance clitics and can explain most of their syntactic properties (e.g. their position). For this purpose, I will first briefly review the principal features of Old Romance sentence structure and the main generalizations about clitic placement (section 1), then propose an analysis of Latin sentence structure and of the position of those pronouns that can be considered *bona fide* weak (section 2); finally, I will trace the main lines of the diachronic evolution from Latin to Romance (section 3).

1. Old Romance

Old Romance languages were V2-languages (Salvi 1991, with extensive bibliography; Battye-Roberts 1995).

1.1. In the main clause, the inflected verb occupied the second position in the sentence and was preceded by one constituent with the pragmatic function of theme (1a) or focus (1b-c). The grammatical function of the constituent in first position was indifferent: it could be the subject (1a), the direct object (1b), a prepositional complement (1c), an adverb (1d). The position preceding the verb could remain empty in particular constructions (yes-no questions, imperative sentences, beginning of narrative passages, etc.—(1e)):

(1) X (cl) V ... / V (cl) ...¹
 a. S (cl) V ...: questa <u>mi</u> sembra più bella e di this-one to-me seems more beautiful and of maggiore valuta (*Nov.* II.33) greater value

b. O (cl) V ...: cotanto <u>vi</u> dico (*Nov.* II.18) so-much to-you I-say

¹ The abbreviations not explained in the text are as follows:								
Adv	adverb	Р	preposition					
С	subordinate clause	PP	prepositional phrase					
cl	clitic	que	complementizer or SpecC [*] -					
de	peripheral element		filling element					
	introduced by de	REFL	reflexive					
Disl	peripheral element	S	subject					
0	direct object	V	verb					
р	weak pronoun	Х	constituent					
	Adv C cl de Disl O	Adv adverb C subordinate clause cl clitic de peripheral element introduced by de Disl peripheral element Q direct object	Adv adverb P C subordinate clause PP cl clitic que de peripheral element introduced by de REFL Disl peripheral element S O direct object V					

c. PP (cl) V ...: di grande scienzia <u>ti</u> credo (*Nov.* II.45) of great learning you I-believe (to be)

d. Adv (cl) V ...: manifestamente <u>l'</u> hoe veduto nelle cose in manifestly it I-have seen in-the things in ch'... (Nov. II.45) which

e. V (cl) ...: fu \underline{li} detto che... (Nov. II.11) it-was to-him said that

(Examples are from Old Italian, but are meant to be representative of all Medieval Romance languages; for the more archaic construction types, not or scarcely attested in Italian, Old Portuguese examples are used. Notice that the common Old Romance syntax we are referring to here was not actually realized in all languages at the same time: so Italian texts generally show a more archaic character than the contemporary French ones, but more modern features than the Spanish or Portuguese ones.)

As far as clitics are concerned, they were placed after the first realized element of the sentence, as the examples in (1) show.

1.2. The core part of the sentence described in the previous section could be preceded by peripheral (left dislocated) constituents, as in (2):

(2)	Disl X (cl) V / Disl V (cl)					
	a. dopo non molti giorni, lo re <u>si</u> pensò di (<i>Nov.</i> II.42) after not many days the king REFL thought of					
	b. $O_i \mid X cl_i V \ldots$: <u>tutti</u> <u>coloro</u> <u>de</u> <u>la</u> <u>terra</u> <u>ch'</u> <u>erano</u> all those of the country who were					
	<u>colpevoli</u> i, il Grande Cane <u>li</u> i fece uccidere (Vanelli 1986: 262) guilty the Great Khan them made kill					
	c. C X (cl) V: se no 'l mi dirai, io <u>ti</u> farò di if not it to-me you-will-say I you will-make of					
villana morte morire (<i>Nov.</i> II.53) infamous death die						
	d. C V (cl): essendo poveramente ad arnese, mise <u>si</u> being miserably equipped he-began-REFL					
ad andare ad Alexandro (Nov. III.6)						

to go to Alexander

The fact that the constituents separated by a vertical bar from the rest of the sentence are external with respect to the latter, appears clearly from example (2b): here, the direct object does not immediately precede the verb and the use of a resumptive clitic is compulsory. We can explain this fact in the following way: as in V2-languages only one constituent can precede the verb, the elements that do not precede it immediately are peripheral; on the assumption that peripheral elements cannot satisfy the

Projection Principle, a resumptive clitic is inserted in the core part of the sentence for this purpose.

Peripheral elements are often represented by subordinate clauses (2c-d). This will be of great importance for our study of Latin sentence structure in section 2: since Latin does not have the construction in (2b), we will mainly use subordinate clauses as clear-cut instances of peripheral elements.

As for clitics, peripheral elements do not influence their position: as the examples in (2) show, clitics appear there where they would appear if no peripheral element were present.

1.3. Subordinate clauses have mostly the same structure and the same word order as main clauses, except for the presence of a complementizer (or a SpecC^{*}-filling element):

(3) que | Disl | X (cl) V ... / que | Disl | V (cl) ... a. que (cl) V ...: ché fatto conto che... (Nov. II.15) m' è because to-me it-is told that b. que S (cl) V ...: che un pane intero li fosse dato that a loaf whole to-him were given per giorno (Nov. II.40) daily c. que PP (cl) V ...: che di tutte le cose ť intendi (Nov. II.27) that in all the things REFL you-are-an-expert d. que Adv (cl) V ...: che allora m' avidi figliuolo cui that then REFL I-realized whose son voi foste (Nov. II.76) you were e. que | Disl | V (cl) ...: (Port.) que nembrando-lhe a that occurring to-him the criaçom que em elles fezera... viinham-lhe as lagrimas education that to them he-had-given came to-him the tears olhos (D. Pedro VI.60) aos

to-the eyes

Clitics occupy the same position as in the corresponding main clauses (3b-e). The only exception is when the verb is the first element after the complementizer in the subordinate clause: in this case clitics always follow the complementizer (3a), which apparently counts here as the first element of the clause domain.

1.4. In Old Romance there existed a rarer and (as we shall see later) more archaic type of sentence, attested mainly in Old Portuguese and Old Spanish. Except for possible peripheral elements, it was opened by a focussed constituent immediately followed by the clitics, while the verb occupied a position farther in the sentence and could be separated from the clitics by one or more elements:

(4) Disl | X cl ... V ...
a. X (cl) S V ...: (Port.) logo <u>lhe</u> el- rrei taxava que at once to-him the king ordained that ouvesse por dia quatro soldos, e mais nom (D. Pedro IV.64) he-had daily four shillings and more not
b. C | X (cl) Adv V ...: (Port.) se nõ, logo <u>vos</u> agora matarei if not at once you now I-will-kill (Crónica CDLXXI.14)

c. X (cl) S Adv V ...: (Port.) tanto vos eu mui máis precei so-much you I much more prized (Joan Airas 120)

The same separation of the clitics from the verb was possible in subordinate clauses, where the clitics could immediately follow the complementizer, while the verb was located farther in the sentence with the interpolation of one or more elements:

(5) que cl ... V ... a. que (cl) S V ...: (Port.) se se essa Stevaya Periz, nossa if REFL that S. Ρ. our (Doc. 138.12)fila. cassar daughter will-marry b. que (cl) Adv V ...: dacché vi pur piace (Renzi 1989: 369n) since to-you yet pleases c. que (cl) S Adv V ...: (Port.) como quer que <u>o</u> el- rrei muito although him the king much amasse (D. Pedro VIII.47) loved

But note that the type exemplified in (4) is found in subordinate clauses, too: in this case clitics followed a focussed element and we have interpolation of one or more elements between the clitics and the verb:

(6) que | Disl | X cl ... V ... a. que X cl S V ...: (Port.) que sempre vos eu amey (Crónica that always you I loved CDLXIX.21)
b. que | Disl | X cl S V ...: (Port.) que todollos filhos dos seus that all-the sons of-the his altos homẽes, depois que (...), logo os elle tomava high-born men after (...) at once them he took (Crónica CDXLVI.2)

(In the absence of peripheral elements, clitics could follow the complementizer, too, as appears from the contrast between (6a) and (7b) below.)

The syntactic type represented by main clauses in (1)-(2) and subordinate clauses in (3) (type I) and the one represented by main clauses in (4) and subordinate clauses in (5)-(6) (type II) show very different properties, e.g.:

a) in type I adverbs are postverbal (7a), in type II they are preverbal (7b);

b) Type II sentences admit free preposing of different elements in preverbal position without the features characteristic of left dislocation: in (7c) the direct object *aquello* does not immediately precede the verb, but there is no resumptive pronoun (contrast with (2b)):

- (7) a. (Port.) A raynha foi <u>logo</u> veer el rey (*Crónica* CCLXXV.7) the queen went at once to-see the king
 - b. (Port.) que lhe <u>logo</u> el- rrei nom mandou cortar a that to-him at once the king not made cut the cabeça (*D. Pedro* IX.33) head
 - c. (Port.) Quando lhe <u>aquello</u> el rey ouvyo dizer (Crónica When to-him that the king heard say CCLXXV.15)
 'When the king heard him say that'

1.5. Table I summarizes the principal types of sentence structure and the possibilities for clitic placement in Old Romance, with a tentative (minimal) structural analysis (I leave the elements in peripheral position out of consideration).

Table I: Old Romance

		sentence structure	clitics after	
I / main /	a.	[_F X V [_S]]	Х	(1a-d)
	,		V	(1)
	b.	[_F V [_S]]	V	(1e)
sub. /	a.	[_C que [_F X V [_S]]]	Х	(3b-d)
	b.	[_C que [_F V [_S]]]	que	(3a)
II / main		[_F X [_S V]]	Х	(4)
sub. /	a.	$\begin{bmatrix} Cque \begin{bmatrix} S \dots & V & \dots \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$	que	(5)
	b.	[cque [_F X [_S V]]]	que/X	(7b)/(6a)

We can interpret the different positions of the adverbs in type I and type II sentences as evidence that in type I sentences the verb moves into a functional position (F), while in type II sentences the verb remains in its base position within the sentence (S). In type I, Verb Movement could be accompanied by preposing (thematization or focalization) of a constituent (I/main/a, I/sub./a); in type II, focalization of a constituent was possible independently from Verb Movement (II/main, II/sub./b).

In type I sentences, clitics were placed after the constituent preposed in the F domain (I/main/a, I/sub./a); in clauses without constituent preposing, clitics were placed after the complementizer (or after the SpecC"-filling constituent), i.e. in the next upper domain of sentence structure (I/sub./b); if no such upper domain existed, clitics appeared after the verb (I/main/b). Type II sentences were possible only in two marked cases: in subordinate clauses and in main clauses with a focussed element; in these sentences, clitics were placed after the focussed element (II/main, II/sub./b) or after the complementizer (II/sub./a-b).

The position of clitics in Old Romance seems to obey some form of Wackernagel's Law (cf. Wackernagel 1892; for Romance cf. Renzi 1987, Salvi 1991).

2. Latin

As noted in the introductory section, while Romance personal pronouns belong to two different morphological and syntactic categories: free forms and clitics, Latin had only one morphological type of personal pronouns. But we may wonder whether, under this morphological uniformity, a difference existed between two uses of the same forms, a difference that could have been the basis for the later evolution that resulted in the formation of the two different series in Old Romance. Such a question is all the more legitimate because other languages with only one morphological type of personal pronouns admit two uses of them (e.g. modern German; cf. Cardinaletti 1992, Lenerz 1992): they may be stressed or unstressed and this prosodic difference goes together with a different syntactic behaviour (e.g. possible positions) and with a different pragmatic use.

The existence of two prosodically different uses of Latin personal pronouns is demonstrated by the very existence of two different Romance outcomes of the same Latin personal pronoun, where the difference in the phonetic evolution can be explained on the basis of the stressed or unstressed nature of the form: so, e.g., from Latin me we have in Old French free mei/moi and clitic me, with the normal evolution of (Vulgar) Latin stressed e to the diphthong ei/oi and of unstressed e to [ə] (Schwan-Behrens 1932: 13). (Evidence from versification procedures is difficult to evaluate due to the quantitative nature of Latin verse.)

Latin pronouns could serve for different *pragmatic* uses: they could have the textual function of focus, of contrastive topic, of new topic and they could be simply anaphoric. These differences in pragmatic function could well be associated to the prosodic difference just noted, as in modern Romance languages free pronouns and clitics have different pragmatic functions (or semantics, as in Calabrese (1980)'s analysis, where clitics have expected referents and free pronouns have unexpected referents). It is interesting to note that in modern Romance translations of Latin texts, Latin personal pronouns can be rendered with free pronouns as well as with clitics,



indirectly reflecting in this way the different pragmatic functions they have in the discourse.

As for the different syntactic uses of Latin personal pronouns, I will assume that differences in stress, in meaning and pragmatic function and in syntactic behaviour go together and distinguish two principal uses of Latin personal pronouns: strong (use of) pronouns and weak (use of) pronouns. Strong pronouns were stressed and had the function of focus, contrastive topic or new topic (unexpected referent); weak pronouns were unstressed and had a purely anaphoric function (expected referent). Syntactically, strong pronouns could occupy the same positions as nominal NPs, but weak pronouns, I will argue, were limited to a number of well definable positions (as in Old Romance, those described by a form of Wackernagel's Law).

Strong pronouns appeared in all possible positions: e.g., in absolute initial position, as focus (8a) or as contrastive topic (8b):

- (8) a. <u>Mihi</u> crede (Fam. IX.16.8) 'Believe me'
 - b. <u>Tibi</u> autem idem consili do quod mihimet ipsi (*Fam.* IX.2.2) 'To you, I give the very same advice I give myself'

To determine which were the possible positions for weak pronouns is the task of the following sections.

For this purpose I examined a little *corpus* taken from Cicero's letters (numbers CCCCLXXVIII-DVI of Beaujeu's edition), a text chosen as a good representative of colloquial Latin. For lack of direct prosodic evidence, the only basis for the identification of weak pronouns is their semantic/pragmatic function: indeed a dangerous ground to go on, because we can never be absolutely sure that we have grasped the author's intention about the informative value of a form. Nevertheless, even if we adopt a very conservative approach and leave out of consideration only those examples in which the context makes us sure that the pronoun is focussed or contrasted, the result is very encouraging: the overwhelming majority of the remaining forms takes an absolutely regular position within the sentence and, what is more, this regularity is easily comparable to the one observed in Old Romance.

We will consider first only the non-nominative, non-prepositional (mainly accusative and dative) forms of I and II person pronouns, of reflexives and of the anaphoric *is* (although the ancestor of Romance III person pronouns is Lat. *ille*, it was *is* that had the anaphoric function typical of weak pronouns in Classical Latin de Jong 1993); nominative and prepositional forms will be discussed in sections 2.7.1 and 2.7.2, respectively. Only pronouns depending on tensed verbs will be considered (for pronouns depending on non-finite forms cf. Salvi 1993: 5.4).

Results partially similar to my own were independently reached by Adams (1994a,b) and Janse (1994); cf. also Kiparsky (1995) on Germanic.

2.1. In the Latin sentence, the verb normally occupied the final position. As a matter of fact, some constituents could appear after the verb: this was the normal case when the constituent was a clause, or with rhematic elements (Panhuis 1982; Pinkster 1988: ch. 9), but I will not dwell on this subject, since it does not affect the problem of weak pronouns' placement.

In main clauses, the first position could be held by a constituent with the pragmatic function of theme (9) or of focus (10), independently of its grammatical function; under particular conditions (e.g. emphasis), also the verb could come first (11):

- (9) X_{theme} (p) ... V
 a. S (p) ... V: Caninius noster <u>me</u> tuis uerbis admonuit ut (...) (*Fam.* IX.6.1)
 'Our friend Caninius gave me your message, reminding me to (...)'
 - b. O (p) ... V: Haec <u>tibi</u> antea non rescripsi, non quo (...) (*Fam.* IX.17.3) 'If I did not send you this reply before, it is not that (...)'
 - c. PP (p) ... V: Ex Syria <u>nobis</u> tumultuosiora quaedam nuntiata sunt (*Fam.* XII.17.1)
 'We have reports from Syria of some rather serious disturbances there'
 - d. Adv (p) ... V: ante <u>te</u> certiorem faciam (*Fam.* IX.5.3)
 '(I shall) give you notice beforehand'

(10) $X_{focus}(p) \dots V$

- a. S (p) ... V: nihil <u>te</u> omnino fefellit (*Fam.* IX.2.2) 'nothing whatever escaped your notice'
- b. PP (p) ... V: in Epicuri nos, aduersarii nostri, castra coiecimus (Fam. IX.20.1)
 'I have thrown myself into the camp of my former adversary Epicurus'
- c. Adv (p) ... V: ita se cum multis conligauit (Fam. IX.17.2)
 'so inextricably has he tied himself up with his multitude of counsellors'
- (11) V (p) ...

Delectarunt <u>me</u> tuae litterae (*Fam.* IX.16.1) 'I was delighted with your letter'

As it is clear from the above examples, weak pronouns are placed after the first constituent of the sentence or after the first (independent) word of the first constituent (10b) (we will not treat this peculiarity of Latin word order here; about the non-independent word status of prepositions, see below section 2.7.2).

2.2. As in Old Romance, the core sentence could be preceded by peripheral elements: constituents introduced by de 'as for' (12a), embedded clauses (12b-c), etc.:

- (12) Disl | X (p) ... V / Disl | V (p) ...
 a. de | X (p) ... V: De Aufidiano nomine nihil <u>te</u> hortor (*Fam.* XVI.19) 'In the matter of Aufidius's debt, I put no pressure upon you'
 b. C | X (p) ... V: si proficiscerer ad bellum, periculum <u>te</u> meum
 - commouebat (*Fam.* VII.3.1)
 'if I set out for the scene of war, you were appalled at the thought of my danger'

- 2. Latin
- c. C | V (p) ...: cum enim salutationi nos dedimus amicorum (...), abdo <u>me</u> in bibliothecam (*Fam.* VII.28.2)
 'after devoting myself to the reception of my friends (...), I hide myself away in my library'

As the examples show, weak pronouns occupy the same position they would if peripheral constituents were not there.

2.3. Latin possessed a weak verb form, too: the copula *esse* 'to be' (or at least some of its forms; cf. Adams 1994b). Besides the normal clause final position (13), *esse* could also follow the first element of the clause, especially if that was focussed (14): the copula position is then the same as for weak pronouns.

- (13) hoc etiam $\kappa \alpha \tau \dot{\alpha} X \rho \dot{\upsilon} \sigma \iota \pi \pi \sigma \nu \delta \upsilon \nu \alpha \tau \dot{\sigma} \nu$ est (Fam. IX.4) 'for this also is possible according to Chrysippus'
- (14) $X_{focus} V_{weak} \cdots$
 - a. Quis est tam Lynceus qui (...)? (Fam. IX.2.2) 'who [...] is such an absolute Lynceus as (...)'
 - b. Itaque nullum est $\delta \pi \sigma \pi \rho \sigma \eta \gamma \mu \epsilon \nu \sigma \nu$ quod non verear (Fam. IX.7.2) 'so there is every possible "objectionable" factor for me to fear'
 - c. ita <u>est</u> a me consulatus peractus ut (...) (Adams 1994b: 38)
 'Indeed my consulship was so conducted from its beginning to its end, that (...)'

2.4. In subordinate clauses, weak pronouns appear after the complementizer (or the SpecC^{*}-filling constituent) (15) or, as in main clauses, after the first constituent of the clause, especially if that constituent is focussed (16). In this case, as in main clauses, the presence of a peripheral element between the complementizer and the core part of the subordinate clause does not affect the position of weak pronouns (17):

(15) que (p) ... V

- a. quamquam me non ratio solum consolatur (...), sed etiam (...) (Fam. VII.28.3)
 'although I am comforted not only by rational reflection (...), but also (...)'
- b. quo <u>me</u> coniectura ducat (*Fam.* IX.2.4) 'where my conjectures lead me'
- c. qui <u>se</u> domo non commouerunt (*Fam.* IX.5.2) 'who never stirred from home'

- (16) que X (p) ... V / que V (p) ...
 - a. que O (p) ... V: qui nulla <u>sibi</u> subsidia ad omnis uitae status parauerunt (*Fam.* IX.6.4)
 'who have provided themselves with no resources against any vicissitudes of existence'
 - b. que Adv (p) ... V: quod non ultro <u>mihi</u> Caesar detulerit (*Fam.* IV.13.2) 'which Caesar has not spontaneously bestowed upon me'
 - c. que V (p) ...: Etsi enim et audio <u>te</u> et uideo lubenter (*Fam.* XVI.22.1) 'though it is a pleasure to me to hear and see you'
- (17) que | Disl | X (p) ... V / que | Disl | V (p) ...
 a. que | C | Adv (p) ... V: quae, quia tibi sunt propiora quam nobis, tua me causa magis mouent quam mea (Fam. XII.17.1)
 'and [lit.: which] as they touch you more nearly than they do me, they cause me more agitation on your account than my own'
 - b. que | C | V (p) ...: ut, quomodo in tali re atque tempore, aut liberarem <u>te</u> ista cura aut certe leuarem (*Fam.* IX.16.1)
 'that I might, seeing how the matter stands, considering the circumstances and the time, free you from your anxiety, or at any rate alleviate it'

Notice that, if there was a focussed constituent in the subordinate clause, it was possible for weak pronouns to follow it (16) or to follow the complementizer, too (15a) (where *non ratio solum* is contrastive focus).

The weak forms of the copula *esse* have the same possibilities of placement in subordinate clauses as the weak pronouns do: after the complementizer (18a) or after the first constituent, especially if focussed (18b), the presence of peripheral elements between the complementizer and the core part of the clause being irrelevant (18c) (cf. Adams 1994b):

- (18) que V_{weak} ... / que X_{focus} V_{weak} ... / que | Disl | X_{focus} V_{weak} ...
 a. que V_{weak} ...: quid <u>sis</u> acturus (*Fam.* IX.2.5)
 'what you intend to do'
 - b. que X V_{weak} ...: cum plena <u>sint</u> monumenta Graecorum quemadmodum (...) (*Fam.* IX.16.6)
 'seeing that the annals of the Greek abound in examples of how (...)'
 - c. que | Disl | Adv V_{weak} ...: qui una cum hoc Furio semper <u>erat</u> in hac Allobrogum sollicitatione uersatus (Adams 1994b: 39)
 'who had always been associated with this Furius in tampering with the Allobroges'

2.5. Finally, in subordinate clauses, Latin permitted a constituent with theme or focus function in the position preceding SpecC". In this construction weak pronouns followed the preposed element (19a) or the complementizer (19b):

(19) X (p) que ... / X que (p) ...

- a. Mortem <u>mihi</u> cur consciscerem causa non uisast, cur optarem multae causae (*Fam.* VII.3.4)
 'Why I should contrive my own death there seemed no reason; why I should pray for it there were many'
- b. Ego quanti <u>te</u> faciam semperque fecerim (*Fam.* VI.10.1) 'How highly I esteem and always have esteemed you'

2.6. Table II summarizes the principal types of sentence structure and the possibilities for the placement of weak pronouns in Latin, with a tentative (minimal) structural analysis (as for the Old Romance cases in section 1.5, I leave the elements in peripheral position out of consideration).

Table II: Latin								
		sentence structure	weak pronoun after					
main	a.	$[{}_SX \ \dots \ V]$	х	(9)				
	b.	[_F X [_S V]]	х	(10)				
	c.	[FV [S]]	V	(11)				
sub.	a.	[cque [s V]]	que	(15b-c)				
	b.	[Cque [FX [S V]]]	que/X	(15a)/(16a-b)				
	c.	[Cque [FV [S]]]	que/V	?/(16c)				
	d.	$[_{G}X [_{C}que [_{S} \dots V]]]$	X/que	(19a)/(19b)				

We may assume that the Latin sentence had a V-final structure (main/a) and a rule of focussing/emphasis that preposed a constituent (including the verb) into an initial functional position (main/b-c) (cf. Panhuis 1982). We have no positive evidence for postulating a parallel rule of topicalization, as in Old Romance: the expression of the topic was the task of peripheral elements. Subordinate clauses presented the same possibilities as main clauses (sub./a-c) and in addition constituents (but not the tensed verb) could be moved into a position preceding the C-domain (position labeled here G: sub./d).

Weak pronouns were freely placed after the preposed constituent in the F/G-domain (main/b-c, sub./b-d) or after the complementizer (sub./a-d). In main clauses without focussing, weak pronouns appear after the first element of the S-domain (main/a).

We could imagine that the position of the weak pronouns was bound to the realization of one of the functional domains F/C/G for reasons of semantic interpretation, e.g. because, being thematic elements, they had to have S in their domain. We could also conceive that, being unstressed, they could not appear in absolute initial position in the sentence at the level of Phonetic Form. So, weak pronouns always raised to a functional domain higher than S; if this domain was phonologically realized, weak pronouns did not violate the filter forbidding them to appear in absolute initial position; if this higher domain was not phonologically realized, a Last Resort rule applied that postposed the weak pronoun, avoiding the application of the filter.

2.7. Independently of the details of the analysis, at a descriptive level, it is evident that the position of weak pronouns in Latin and the position of clitics in Old Romance were very similar, as Tables I and II show. But before I trace the lines of the diachronic evolution from the older system to the newer one, I must clarify why I insist in keeping weak pronouns and clitics distinct, or, in other words, what the reason is for claiming that Latin weak pronouns were not clitic (yet). (As for the copula *esse*, cf. the discussion in Adams 1994b: 12.2).

2.7.1. It was not only the non-nominative forms of Latin personal pronouns that had a weak use, but also the nominative ones, as their placement in the examples in (20) shows (cf. Adams 1994a: section 8):

- (20) a. Hunc <u>ego</u> mihi belli finem feci (*Fam.* VII.3.3) [cf. (9)] 'This I resolved should be for me the end of the war'
 - b. Quem <u>tu</u> mihi Popilium, quem denarium narras (...)? (Fam. IX.16.7) [cf. (10)]
 'What is this Popilius you prate to me about, and this penny [...]?'
 - c. quoniam <u>tu</u> secundum 'Oenomaum' Acci non (...) Atellanam, sed (...) mimum introduxisti (*Fam.* IX.16.7) [cf. (15)]
 'since you now, following the lead of Accius's *Oenomaus*, have staged not (...) an Atellan play, but (...) a farce'
 - d. quanto semper <u>tu</u> et studio et officio in meis rebus fuisti (*Fam.* VI.22.3) [cf. (16)]
 'as you have consistently shown, and effectively too, in dealing with my affairs'
 - e. quod <u>ego</u> cur nolim nihil uideo (*Fam.* IX.6.2) [cf. (19)] 'and I see no reason why I should be indisposed to do so'

Now, if the non-nominative pronouns had been clitic, the nominative ones should have been too. But in the early stages of Romance languages only accusative and dative clitics existed: it would be very strange if a well-developed clitic system with forms for all grammatical cases had been reduced to only non-nominative forms, especially in view of the more generalized use of pronouns in Romance compared to Latin.

It is more natural to assume that in Latin weak pronouns were not clitic and that they became clitic only when the use of pronominal anaphora became obligatory. In Latin pronominal anaphora freely alternated with zero anaphora. Consider the following text excerpt: (21) Demetrius uenit ad me (...). Tu <u>eum</u> uidelicet non potuisti uidere; cras aderit; uidebis igitur (*Fam.* XVI.17.2)
'Demetrius came to see me (...). You evidently could not have seen him. He will be in Rome tomorrow, so you will see <u>him</u> then'

The English translation shows that the text refers to Demetrius anaphorically three times (with the underlined pronouns him/he/him respectively): in the Latin text, only the first reference is realized with an anaphoric pronoun (*eum*), the other two have zero anaphora. In Old Romance, pronominal anaphora was obligatory in the case of direct and indirect objects and was realized by a clitic; in the case of the subject, pronominal anaphora was not obligatory and subject clitics did not exist (Vanelli-Renzi-Benincà 1985). It was only later, in some Romance languages as French and the Northern Italian dialects, that the expression of the subject became obligatory and these languages developed subject clitics, too (Vanelli 1987).

2.7.2. Not only personal pronouns used without a preposition had a weak use, but also those which were preceded by a preposition, as their placement in the following examples show (for a similar phenomenon in Old Czech cf. Esvan 1992):

- (22) a. Haec <u>ad te</u> scripsi uerbosius (Fam. VII.3.5) [cf. (9)]
 'I have written all this to you with some verbosity'
 - b. disce a me $\pi \rho o \lambda \epsilon \gamma o \mu \epsilon \nu \alpha \varsigma$, quas quaeris (*Fam.* IX.18.3) [cf. (11)] 'let me at once teach you the first principles, since you ask for them'
 - c. At tibi repente paucis post diebus, cum minime expectarem, uenit ad me Caninius mane (Fam. IX.2.1) [cf. (12)]
 'But, lo and behold, a few days afterwards, when I least expected it, Caninius paid me a sudden visit one morning'
 - d. cum <u>ad me</u> peruesperi uenisset (*Fam.* IX.2.1) [cf. (15)] '[as he] came to me very late one evening'
 - e. Si quid <u>ad me</u> scripseris (*Fam.* VI.22.3) [cf. (16)] 'If you send me any message'
 - f. (Non ea res me deterruit) quo minus, postea quam in Italiam uenisti, litteras <u>ad te</u> mitterem (*Fam.* VI.22.1) [cf. (17)]
 '(It was not the fact of (...) that put me off) writing to you after your arrival in Italy'

The group P + pronoun is a phrase and this cannot be reconciled with the widely accepted view that clitics are heads (or rather, at least in their enclitic forms, a sort of affixes—cf. the following section).

To explain these facts, we must assume that prepositions were proclitic words in Classical Latin and that they could be adjoined to nominal NPs and to strong as well as to weak pronouns, not altering the character of their host. The cliticity of prepositions is proved by the fact that they could not be separated from their complement (perhaps the unique impossible scrambling in Latin word order) and that, differently from other types of phrases (cf. ex. (10b)), they did not admit a weak pronoun between them and their complement (examples as *Per <u>ego uobis</u> deos atque homines dico, ut (...)* (Plautus *Menaechmi* 990), where the weak pronouns *ego* and *uobis* are inserted between the preposition *per* and its complement *deos atque homines*, are limited to the archaic language).

2.7.3. In Latin, examples with a weak pronoun following and depending on two coordinated verbs are possible (23a); the same holds in German (23b), while in Romance this construction is impossible with an enclitic pronoun (23c-d) (cf. Benincà-Cinque 1993):

(23) a. sed cum consilii tui bene fortiterque suscepti eum tibi finem statueris quem ipsa fortuna terminum nostrarum contentionum esse uoluisset, oro optestorque <u>te</u>, pro uetere nostra coniunctione ac necessitudine proque summa mea in te beneuolentia et tua in me pari, (...) ut (...) (Fam. VI.22.2)

> 'But seeing that you have resolved that the policy you so honourably and gallantly adopted should cease from the very moment when it had pleased fortune herself to put an end to our struggles, I beg and implore of you in the name of our old and intimate connection and of my most sincere affection for you, and of yours, just as sincere, for myself, to (...)'

- b. Jeder von ihnen verbirgt und versteckt <u>sich</u>. each of them conceal and hide himself
- c. (Port.) *Oiço e vejo-<u>te</u> I-hear and I-see vou
- d. (Port.) Oiço- <u>te</u> e vejo-<u>te</u> (Barreto 1980: 237n) I-hear you and I-see you

If we assume that clitics, and especially enclitics, form a sort of compound with their host, the behaviour of Romance enclitics is straightforward: two coordinated verbs are not a word, so composition is impossible. The very fact that in Latin and in German this construction is possible, shows that these pronouns are not clitics, but independent words (though weak), to which no such restriction is applicable.

2.7.4. Weak pronouns might be separated from their host by other weak words: besides copula (cf. (14c)), mainly adverbs with connective value, as in the following examples:

- (24) a. Sollicitum <u>autem te</u> habebat cogitatio cum officii tum etiam periculi mei (*Fam.* VII.3.1) [cf. (9)]
 'But your anxiety was due to your brooding over the double problem of my duty and my danger'
 - b. illud <u>tamen tibi</u> polliceor (*Fam.* VI.22.3) [cf. (10)] 'this much, however, I promise you'

- c. erit <u>enim nobis</u> honestius (...) (*Fam.* IX.2.5) [cf. (11)] 'for it will be more creditable to us (...)'
- d. cum <u>enim te</u> semper magnum hominem duxerim (*Fam.* IX.6.4) [cf. (15)] 'while I ever deemed you a great man'

Although the syntactic behaviour of these adverbs was not exactly the same as in the case of personal pronouns (they always followed the first *word*, not the first constituent of the clause), they were clearly weak (they could not occupy the absolute initial position in the sentence). Now, if these groups of weak words had been enclitic in the same sense as Romance clitics may be, we would have to assume the formation of very complex compounds, which seems unnatural. Other solutions are surely imaginable, but it is clear that the Latin facts are very different from the Romance ones and deserve a different analysis. (Note that, if weak pronouns had been enclitic in Latin, this would have had some consequences in the accentual pattern of the group *host* + *enclitic* due to the nature of Latin stress; Latin grammarians do not report any fact of this type.)

3. From Latin to Old Romance

I will now sum up the main similarities and differences between Latin and Old Romance in the domain of sentence structure and of weak pronoun vs. clitic placement and then I will trace the main lines of the diachronic evolution.

3.1. If we compare Table I (section 1.5) and Table II (section 2.6), it turns out that:

a. if we disregard the position of the verb (final in Latin, not final in Old Romance), Old Romance Type II sentences preserved the Latin sentence structure quite well, namely:

- the main clause structure corresponds to Latin pattern b;
- the subordinate clause structures correspond to Latin patterns a and b;
- clitics occupy the same position as Latin weak pronouns.
- b. Old Romance Type I sentences represent the innovative trend:
 - they generalize Verb Movement into a pre-S functional position (in Latin, the verb could move as an option of the general rule of focussing/emphasis);
 - they generalize Constituent Preposing to thematization/topicalization (in Latin, it was limited to focussing/emphasis);
 - the position of clitic pronouns is fixed more strictly: in principle they follow the preposed constituent (pattern a of main and subordinate clauses); in the absence of such a constituent, they are cliticized in the upper domain C (pattern b of subordinate clauses); in the absence of an upper domain, they are enclitic to the verb (Law Tobler-Mussafia—pattern b of main clauses). In Latin, weak pronouns might be freely placed after the focussed element (constituent or verb) or in the upper domain C (patterns b and c of main clauses and all the patterns of subordinate clauses); in the absence of these contexts, they were placed after the first element of the S-domain.

c. the possibility of preposing a constituent into a pre-C position (Latin pattern d of subordinate clauses) is not preserved in Romance.

3.2. The main innovations in the evolution of sentence structure from Latin to Old Romance are then (disregarding the more archaic Type II):

a. the different basic position of the verb (non final);

b. the generalization of Verb Movement into a functional position;

c. the extension of Constituent Preposing to the cases of thematization/topicalization.

As for the weak pronouns:

d. they had become clitic;

e. their position had been fixed.

I will conclude with some remarks on these points.

To point a: Verb Movement being generalized, the basic position of the verb can be established only on the basis of Type II sentences, in which the verb did not raise into a pre-S functional position. It is not clear to me what the relation is between this diachronic change and the following one.

To point b: as for the origin of this construction, we may think that it is based on an preexisting Latin structure and we may wonder whether it is a generalization of the rule that focussed/emphasized a constituent and that could focus/emphasize the verb too (Lenerz 1985) or it is the extension to all the other verbs of the placement of the (weak) copula (Hock 1982). Both hypotheses entail some difficulties: while in Latin the focussing of the verb was in complementary distribution with the focussing of another constituent, in Old Romance Verb Movement always accompanies Constituent Preposing. We would thus have to explain the cooccurence of the two movements and also the fact that the preposed verb had no emphatic value anymore. The copula hypothesis does not face this last problem, but comes up against difficulties when it has to explain V1-sentences (cf. (1e)—being weak, the copula could not appear initially in the sentence). For some discussion cf. Kiparsky (1995: 3.3).

To point c: the fact that a preposed constituent could have the pragmatic function of theme/topic, had some repercussion on the possible functions of peripheral elements; in some Romance languages the peripheral position tended to be limited to circumstantials (to arguments only when they were heavy—cf. de Kok (1985: 2.1) on Old French, Vanelli (1986) on Old Italian, Salvi (1993a: 4.1) on the differences between Old Portuguese and Old Spanish).

To point d: cf. the discussion in section 2.7, especially 2.7.1.

To point e: adverbality is not an attribute Romance clitics had from the beginning, as examples (4)-(6) show and as is natural, since Latin weak pronouns were not bound to the verb, but to the first element of a syntactic domain. But the adverbality of clitics was typical of Type I sentences and this is an indirect consequence of the obligatory rule of Verb Movement: in main clauses the verb was always the first or the second element of the clause and the clitics were placed after the first element of that domain, so they were always adjacent to the verb (a similar reasoning is applicable to subordinate clauses).

We may conclude that Romance clitics are the descendants of Latin weak pronouns and that their position is essentially the position weak pronouns occupied in the Latin sentence: the differences in this domain are only apparent and are due to the changes that had independently occurred in the evolution of sentence structure.

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