

Adriana Belletti, IGG47:

- Theoretical implications and the role of acquisition results.
 1. Aspects of the cartography of clausal incompleteness; 2. Reflexive 'si' as a route to passive.

The often unexpected shape of experimental results from acquisition studies is inspiring for linguistic theory in an original way: it can offer a special window from which properties that may remain unnoticed otherwise – i.e. by only looking at adult systems – can be uncovered. I will review here recent results from two different and unrelated domains both with the described characteristics of both being unexpected in their own way and both bearing on issues of general theoretical relevance.

The first domain concerns the cartography of clausal incompleteness, whereby adults and young children manifest different forms of clausal reduction thus suggesting different degrees of complexity in the reduction operations. This also crucially implies that complexity cannot simply be a matter of 'size'. The second domain concerns an apparently non target use of reflexive 'si' in the elicited productions of young Italian speaking children, also confirmed by recent results from comprehension. At a closer look, this result is inspiring of an analysis whereby use of 'si' may constitute a first access to (periphrastic) passive, as both constructions share crucial features in their derivations. This has implications for the disentangling of the very notion 'construction' and the uncovering of derivational ingredients shared by seemingly distant constructions and the way they may be processed by developing children in contrast with adults.