

Predication, Equation, and the Second Position

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It is well known that 2nd position (2P) clitics in Serbian can be placed after the first word (1W) or after the first phrase (1P). Recent work has also established that this alternation is not a matter of optionality, rather the choice is determined by structural, prosodic and discourse factors. In this talk, I examine the syntax of clitic placement in the context of copular sentences, where an interesting interpretive asymmetry emerges, contingent on the positioning of the clitic. I will show that the Serbian data not only support a raising analysis of specificational clauses (Moro 1997, Mikkelsen 2005), but also are consistent with the position that equative and predicative clauses can be given a uniform analysis (Adger and Ramchand 2003).