an International Journal of Theoretical Linguistics

Ángel L. Jiménez-Fernández
Editor-in-Chief
Universidad de Sevilla

Pilar Barbosa
Universidade do Minho

Victoria Camacho-Taboada
Universidad de Sevilla

Michelle Sheehan
University of Cambridge

Volume 5 Issue 1, June 2013
ISSN: 1989-8525
Editorial Team

Editors
Ángel L. Jiménez-Fernández, Editor-in-Chief, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
Pilar Barbosa, Universidade do Minho, Portugal
Victoria Camacho-Taboada, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
Michelle Sheehan, University of Cambridge, UK

Layout editors
Victoria Camacho-Taboada, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
Pedro J. Carrillo-Gomez, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

Copy editors
Roberto Cuadros, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
Megan Devlin, University of Ulster, UK
Frances Kane, University of Ulster, UK
Cristine Schaetz, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
Rebecca Woods, University of York, UK

Proofreaders
Roberto Cuadros, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
Mercedes Tubino Blanco, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

Translators
Cristine Schaetz, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
Mercedes Tubino Blanco, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

Principal Contact
Ángel L. Jiménez-Fernández, Phd
Phone: (+34) 954 551 546
Fax: (+34) 954 551 516
Email: ajimfer@us.es

Support Contact
Pedro J. Carrillo-Gomez
Phone (+34) 620 581 485
pedrocarrillo@gmail.com

Mailing Address
Facultad de Filología
Universidad de Sevilla
C/ Palos de la Fra. s/n
41004 Sevilla (Spain)

Volume 5 Issue 1, June 2013
ISSN: 1989-8525
Scientific Committee

Caroline Heycock, University of Edinburgh, UK
Anders Holmberg, University of Newcastle, UK
Selçuk Issever, Ankara University, Turkey
Mary Kato, State University of Campinas, Brazil
Michael Kenstowicz, MIT, USA
Itziar Laka, University of the Basque Country, Spain
Alazne Landa, University of the Basque Country, Spain
Mark Jary, University of Roehampton, UK
Maria-Rosa Lloret, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, Spain
Manuel Leonetti, Universidad de Alcalá, Spain
Ángel J. Gallego, Centre de Lingüística Teórica & Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
Mireia Llinas, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
Giuseppe Longobardi, University of Trieste, Italy
Ana Maria Martins, University of Lisbon, Portugal
Jürgen M. Meisel, University of Hamburg, Germany and University of Calgary, Canada
Amaya Mendikoeztea, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain
Shigeru Miyagawa, MIT, USA
Andrew Nevins, Harvard University, USA
Jairo Nunes, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Ana Ojea, University of Oviedo, Spain
Francisco Ordoñez, Stony Brook University, USA
Javier Ormazabal, University of the Basque Country, Spain
Sumru Öztay, Boğaziçi University, Turkey
Orin Percus, University of Nantes, France
Josep Quer, Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats & University of Pompeu i Fabra, Spain
Andrew Radford, University of Essex, UK
Eduardo Raposo, University of California at Santa Barbara, USA
Gemma Rigau, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
Luiggi Rizzi, University of Siena, Italy
Ian Roberts, University of Cambridge, UK
Juan Romero, University of Extremadura, Spain
Alain Rouveret, University Paris 7, France
Vieri Samek-Lodovici, University College London, UK
Uli Sauerland, Centre for General Linguistics, Typology and Universals Research (ZAS), Germany
Vassilis Spyropoulos, University of Athens, Greece
Esther Torrego, University of Massachusetts, USA
Ana Maria Brito, University of Porto, Portugal
Ignacio Bosque, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
Zeljko Boskovic, University of Connecticut, USA
Jonathan Bobaljik, University of Connecticut, USA
Elena Benedicto, Purdue University, USA
Adriana Belletti, University of Siena, Italy
Artemis Alexiadou, University of Stuttgart, Germany
Gorka Elordieta, University of the Basque Country, Spain
Utpal Lahiri, University of the Basque Country, Spain
Gabriela Matos, University of Lisbon, Portugal
Ines Duarte, University of Lisbon, Portugal
Maria Joao dos Reis de Freitas, University of Lisbon, Portugal
David Adger, University of London, UK
Teresa Cabre, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
Hector Campos, Georgetown University, USA
Anna Cardinaletti, University of Venice, Italy
Juan Uriagereka, University of Maryland, USA
Myriam Uribe-Etxebarria, University of the Basque Country, Spain
Susanne Wurmbrand, University of Connecticut, USA
Francisco Garrudo, University of Seville, Spain
María del Pilar Garcia-Mayo, University of the Basque Country, Spain
Teresa Fanego, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
María Victoria Escandell, UNED, Spain
David Embick, University of Pennsylvania, USA
Violeta Demonte, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain
Hamida Demirdache, University of Nantes, France
Paola Crisma, University of Trieste, Italy
Joao Costa, New University of Lisbon, Portugal
Guglielmo Cinque, University of Venice, Italy
Cedric Boeckx, Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats & Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Volume 5 Issue 1, June 2013
ISSN: 1989-8525
Interpolation, verb-second, and the low left periphery in Old Spanish

Geoffrey Poole
Newcastle University
geoffrey.poole@ncl.ac.uk
Interpolation, verb-second, and the low left periphery in Old Spanish

Geoffrey Poole  
Newcastle University  
geoffrey.poole@ncl.ac.uk

Abstract

Interpolation is a phenomenon of a number of (chiefly Medieval) Romance varieties in which direct and indirect object pronouns may be separated from the finite verb by elements such as negation, adverbs, subjects and prepositional phrases. This paper considers both their information structure and syntax using data from the Corpus del Español (Davies 2002-). I first argue that, contra a number of analyses, interpolation is not a process of focalization. Rather, many interpolated elements are a G-Topic in the sense of Bianchi & Frascarelli (2010); in other words, a familiar or given topic. This information structure account suggests that interpolation targets a functional category in the low left periphery, and this is confirmed by a number of distributional facts: interpolation appears to target a position lower than various high topic positions, but higher than the TP domain. However, some interpolated elements (particularly sentential negation) are less plausibly analysed as topics, and I suggest that these elements are positioned in the low left periphery by ‘Formal Movement’ (Frey 2004, 2006), a semantically and pragmatically vacuous operation which attracts the element at the left edge of the TP domain in order to satisfy a verb-second requirement.

Keywords: interpolation, Old Spanish, focus, G-Topic, information structure, Formal Movement, verb-second.

1. Introduction

One of the most striking respects in which Old Spanish differs from Modern Spanish is in the ability of direct and indirect object pronouns to appear separated from the finite verb by an intervening constituent, as illustrated in (1).\(^1\)

---

\(^1\) Thanks to Maria Maza, audiences at Newcastle University and the September 2012 LAGB meeting at the University of Salford, especially Liliane Haegeman, and two anonymous reviewers for much helpful discussion. Any remaining errors are my own.

\(^2\) See, e.g., Ramsden (1963), Wanner (1992), Rivero (1992, 1997), Fontana (1993), among others for discussion. I restrict myself in this paper to consideration of interpolation in Old Spanish. ‘Interpolation’ phenomena exist in other medieval Romance varieties, but seem to have different properties from interpolation in Old Spanish, suggesting that different processes...
Interpolation, verb-second, and the low left periphery in Old Spanish

Geoffrey Poole

(1) **se me non quiseses creer**

if me not wish.2SG believe.INF

‘if you do not wish to believe me.’

*El Libro de Alexandre (O),* 14th c.

(1) contrasts sharply with the word-order possibilities of Modern Spanish, in which the object pronoun is proclitic on the finite verb and may not be separated from it by any material.

‘Interpolation’ is the label traditionally given to this phenomenon, following Chenery (1905). Sentential negation is the most commonly interpolated element, as in (1) above, but elements such as adverbs (2), short prepositional phrases (3) and subjects (4), among others, are also frequently found:

(2) **Et la prueua desto es que los que lo asi fizieron que se fallaron ende bien**

And the proof of that is that those that it thus dis.3PL that se found.3PL there well

‘And the proof of that is that those who did it that way ended up well because of it.’

*Libro Infinido,* 14th c.

(3) **…mas que otro omenque se enel mundosupiese…**

...more that other man that se in. the world knew.3SG

‘…more than any other man that was known in the world…’

*Crónica de 1344 I,* 14th c.

(4) **…& vsa mal del buen entendimiento que le dios dio.**

and uses badly of. the good understanding that him God gave.3SG

‘…and he makes poor use of the good understanding that God gave him.’

*Castigos e documentos de Sancho IV,* 13th c.

Cases of interpolation in Old Spanish first appear in the 12th century, and are initially rather rare, although, as Fontana (1993:325) and Ramsden (1963:31) note, this may be due to the relative scarcity of texts (and the lack of texts in Old Spanish from any earlier). However, the phenomenon is robustly found in texts of the 13th century. Both authors note a drop in the 14th century, followed by an increase again the 15th century. However, interpolation rather abruptly disappears during the 16th century.

---

are at work. For example, Old Portuguese (Martins 2002, 2003, 2005) is able to interpolate very large, heavy elements of a kind not seen in Spanish. Old Italian, by contrast, only allows interpolation of adverbs (Ledgeway & Lombardi 2005). In Old Catalan and Provençal the phenomenon is entirely unattested (Ramsden 1963: 134; Fischer 2003: 260). All Old Spanish examples are taken from the *Corpus del Español* (CdE) (Davies 2002-) unless otherwise indicated.
This chronology is broadly confirmed by the data in the *Corpus del Español*. Table 1 summarizes the instances of interpolation of sentential negation immediately following a complementizer, a common interpolation pattern.\(^3\)

Table 1. Instances of C-ObjPn-NEG-V\(_{\text{fin}}\) in the Corpus del Español

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Century</th>
<th>13(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
<th>14(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
<th>15(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
<th>16(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
<th>17(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instances</td>
<td>1745</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per million words</td>
<td>259.84</td>
<td>268.96</td>
<td>58.69</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although there is an absolute dip in the number of examples from the 13\(^{\text{th}}\) to the 14\(^{\text{th}}\) centuries, the frequency of occurrence is virtually identical. However, by the 15\(^{\text{th}}\) century interpolation has fallen to under 25% of its previous frequency, and in the 16\(^{\text{th}}\) century appears to have disappeared entirely (though this particular pattern exaggerates the effect slightly).

By way of illustrating the frequency of interpolation relative to non-interpolation, consider Table 2:

Table 2. Instances of C-NEG-ObjPn-V\(_{\text{fin}}\) in CdE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Century</th>
<th>13(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
<th>14(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
<th>15(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
<th>16(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
<th>17(^{\text{th}}) c.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instances</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>2633</td>
<td>12462</td>
<td>7886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per million words</td>
<td>286.49</td>
<td>256.60</td>
<td>322.62</td>
<td>731.58</td>
<td>638.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 summarizes the instances in which a negated finite verb and object pronoun immediately follow a complementizer, but where the negation is not interpolated. (Instead, sentential negation appears to the immediate left of the pronoun-verb cluster, just as it would in Modern Spanish). As can be seen by comparing the last row in the two tables, interpolation is about as common as non-interpolation in the 13\(^{\text{th}}\) and 14\(^{\text{th}}\) centuries, though non-interpolation of course eventually comes to dominate entirely.\(^4\)

Section 2 begins by considering the information structure value of interpolation. Contra Batllori et al. (1995) and Poole (2007), among others, I suggest that interpolation is not a focalization process. Instead, I argue that, in many cases, the interpolated

---

3 The *Corpus del Español* contains no texts prior to the 13th century.

4 A final notable fact about interpolation is that it is overwhelmingly found in subordinate clauses rather than main clauses. Chenery 1905 describes it as a non-root phenomenon, while Rivero (1997: 188) notes only ‘isolated examples’ of main clause interpolation. Both Fontana (1993: 46) and Nieuwenhuijsen (1999: Section 3.3) characterize interpolation as ‘almost exclusively’ a subordinate clause phenomenon. [Nieuwenhuijsen: ‘Sin embargo, el fenómeno de la interpolación no se producía en cualquier contexto sino casi exclusivamente en oraciones subordinadas.’] I know of no analysis that captures this generalization satisfactorily. See footnote 26.
element is plausibly a G-Topic in the sense of Bianchi & Frascarelli (2010) - the ‘Familiar Topic’ of Frascarelli & Hinterhölzl 2007. Under their analysis, G-Topics are located in FamP, a functional projection in the low left periphery. In Section 3, it is argued on the basis of a number of word order facts that interpolation targets a position lower than various higher topic positions, but higher than TP, precisely the space suggested by the information structure analysis. Those interpolated elements which are not plausible G-Topics, however, reveal the role that verb-second plays in interpolation. Where there is no G-topic available to support the raised verb in the left periphery, a Formal Movement operation of the sort seen in other verb-second languages (Frey 2004, 2006; Light 2012) attracts the element at the left edge of the TP domain, frequently sentential negation.

2. The information-structure value of interpolation

In this section, I consider the specific information-structure value of interpolation. A number of authors (e.g., Batllori et al 1995 and Poole 2007, among others) have claimed that the interpolated element is a focus and, given the word-order facts to be discussed later, it is a logical possibility. Although detailed information-structure information can be difficult to extract from texts, there are a number of context-independent reasons to reject this analysis (in addition to the existence of seemingly unambiguous contexts). Instead, consideration of full NP and PP interpolation suggests that the interpolated element is a G-Topic (a ‘given’ or ‘familiar’ topic in the sense of Frascarelli and collaborators).

2.1. Interpolation is not focus movement

Sitaridou (2011) identifies three different focalization processes in Old Spanish: contrastive focus, (new) information focus and verum focus. When an element undergoes contrastive focus, it is ‘singled out from a discourse set of competing alternatives’ (Sitaridou 2011: fn 14). Information focus, on the other hand, does not require a contrastive interpretation for the focalized element, but it is associated with new information (ibidem: fn 4, 174, 177). Verum focus is ‘a kind of narrow focus on the sentence polarity, and the propositional content is presented as background information’ (Leo-
netti & Escandell-Vidal 2009:182). Although details of information structure can be difficult to extract from texts, there are a number of considerations, both context-independent and context-dependent, which clearly indicate that the interpolated element is not a focus and does not play any of these information structure roles.

### 2.1.1. Uniqueness

One context-independent reason to suspect that interpolation is not a process of focalization is that interpolation of two short items is occasionally found:

(5) *si lo así no fizesen mostraria que no quieran obedecer* if it thus not do.3pl would.show.3sg that not would.want.3pl obey.1nf

mandamiento de dios ni del señor temporal

command of God nor of the lord worldly

‘And if they don’t do it like this, it would show that they don’t want to obey the orders of God or their temporal master.’

*(Siete Partidas, 13th c.)*

(6) *el mal que se ay aquí faze*

the evil that SE today do.3sg

‘the evil that is done here today’

*(General Estoria V, 13th c.)*

This is unexpected if the interpolated elements are foci, since, as noted by, e.g., Zagona (2002:251), Modern Spanish allows only one pre-verbal focus.

(7) *AYER los TOMATES compró Juan.*

*yesterday the tomatoes bought-3sg Juan.*

‘It was yesterday the tomatoes that Juan bought.’

*(Modern Spanish, Zagona 2002:251)*

If the modern Spanish constraint is inherited from earlier stages of the language, rather than being a post-Golden Age innovation, then (5) and (6) are unexpected if interpolation is a focalization process.

### 2.1.2. Interpolation in factive complements

A second context-independent reason to believe that interpolation is not a focalization process is that it is licensed in the complements of factive predicates. Zagona (2002:252) notes that focalization in Modern Spanish is impossible in the complement of factive predicates:

(8) a. *Dice que MAÑANA lo operan.*

“He says that it’s tomorrow that they’re operating on him.”

b. *Siento que MAÑANA lo operen.*

“I regret that it’s tomorrow that they’re operating on him.”

*(Modern Spanish, Zagona 2002:252)*

---

7 She characterizes the distinction in terms of whether or not the embedded clause is asserted or presupposed. The general impossibility of focus in the propositional complement of factive predicates is not specific to Spanish. See Haegeman (2005, in press) among many others.
With specific reference to verum focus, Leonetti & Escandell-Vidal (2009:184) observe that since the proposition embedded under a factive predicate is presented as true, it is not appropriate for it to contain verum focus fronting since ‘the discourse function of the VFF construction is that of selecting and emphatically asserting the positive option’.

Nonetheless, interpolation can be found without difficulty in the propositional complement of various factive predicates, including see (9), know (10) and forget (11).

(9) Et desque vio que lo non fazia….
And since saw.3sg that it neg would.do.3sg
‘And since he saw that he wouldn’t do it….’

(El Conde Lucanor, 14th c.)

(10) Empero que supiesen que lo no podian fazer sin matar a hector.
But that knew.3pl that it not could.3pl.do.inf without kill.inf a H.
‘However, they knew that they couldn’t do it without killing Hector.’

(Historia Troyana, 14th c.)

(11) maraujlla seria si la podrias guardar nín olujdar que la non
wonder would.be if it could.2sg.keep and.not forget.inf that it ‘neg’
descubries.
discovered.2sg
‘It would be a miracle if you could keep [the secret] and not forget that you had discovered it.’

(Castigos y documentos para bien vivir, 13th c.)

These examples again suggest that interpolation is not an instance of focus fronting since it should not be generally possible in the complements of factive predicates.

\subsection*{2.1.3 Interpolation of ‘pleonastic’ negation}

A third context-independent reason to reject a focalization analysis of interpolation comes from examples involving ‘pleonastic’ negation. As in Modern Spanish, sentential negation is licensed in the complement clauses of verbs in Old Spanish which express, for example, doubt, fear or prohibition, without contributing a negative interpretation to that clause.\footnote{See, e.g., Keniston (1937: 605-7) for Old Spanish and Butt & Benjamin (2000: 330) for Modern Spanish.}

(12) ella dudase que el angel non dixese verdad.
she doubted.3sg that the angel ‘not’ said.3sg truth
‘She doubted that the angel was telling the truth.’

(Meditations of Pseudo-Augustine, 14th c.)
(13) Yo vengo a impedir que no se case con doña Leonor don Pedro
I come.1sg to prevent that not se marry with d. L d. P
‘I am coming to prevent Don Pedro from marrying Doña Leonor.’

(Servir a Señor Discrete, 16\textsuperscript{th} c.)

From the context, it is clear that (12) and (13) are not interpreted as a ‘double’ negation. It is not that the subject in (12) doubted that the angel was not telling the truth (i.e., that she believed that the angel spoke truthfully). Nor in (13) is the speaker planning to force Don Pedro to marry Doña Leonor (‘I am coming to prevent them from not marrying’). It seems as though sentential negation in these clauses is not contributing anything semantically. It is certainly not negating the clause that it appears in.

Crucially, ‘pleonastic’ negation of this sort is able to undergo interpolation. In (14), interpolation is seen in the complement clause of the verb guardar ‘to keep/prevent’ while in (15) it is in the complement clause of negar ‘to deny’.

(14) Mas conujene que nos guardemos que les non demos las viandas quando more agree.3sg.
that us keep.1pl that them ’not’ give.1pl.
la fiebre fuere en su estado
the fever is.3sg in its state
‘Furthermore, we should keep from giving them meat while the fever persists.’

(Tratado de las Fiebres, 15\textsuperscript{th} c.)

(15) podrian quebrantar las arcas & los çilleros / & tomar lo que quisiesen
could break-INF the chests the storehouses and take-INF it that wanted.3pl
/& despues negar que lo non tomaron.
and after deny.INF that it ’not’ took.3pl
‘They could break into the chests and storehouses and take what they wanted and then later deny that they took it.’

(Orderamiento de Alcalá, 14\textsuperscript{th} c.)

Just as in (12) and (13), the interpolated morpho-syntactic negation does not negate the clause that contains it in (14) and (15). (14) is not an exhortation to restrain vegetarian impulses (‘We should keep ourselves from not giving them meat’), nor does (15) suggest an admission of guilt (‘They could deny that they didn’t take it’). The interpolated sentential negation appears not to contribute to the semantics of its clause at all. As such, it seems impossible to imagine that interpolation in (14) or (15) instantiates focus of any kind, much less, hypothetically speaking, some sort of polarity focus (See also example (11) in the previous section).

Similar facts are also seen with another type of pleonastic negation which, again as in Modern Spanish, can appear in certain adjunct clauses, particularly those introduced by hasta ‘until’, when the main clause is negated.
(16) ques non mouio daquel logar. fasta que ella non tornó sana
that.se not moved.3SG from.that place until that she ‘not’ turned.3SG healthy
‘[The people of Israel] didn’t move from there until she returned to health.’

(General Estoria I, 13th c.)

In (16) the negation in the until-clause is clearly not negating the clause that contains it. (It is not even clear that such an interpretation would be coherent). However, it is possible for pleonastic negation of this type to undergo interpolation.

(17) Et dixieron a Bernaldo que nunca se partirien del; fasta que
And said.3PL to B that never se leave.COND.3PL of. HIM until that
el Rey le non diesse a so padre.
the king to him ‘neg’ gave.3SG to his father
‘And they said to Bernaldo that they would never leave him until the king gave it (back) to his father’

(Estoria de España II, 13th c.)

Once again, prima facie, it is difficult to see how a semantically vacuous element could constitute any kind of focus.

2.1.4. The wider discourse context

The previous sections have suggested that interpolation is not a focalization process without the need for any interpretation of a discourse context. However, examples of interpolation can also be readily found in which one can fairly confidently claim that the interpolated element is not focalized. Consider (18): 9

(18) Et dixieron a la oliua como en uez de omne. Sey tu nuestro rey. / Respuso les ella como
And they spoke to the olive tree as if it were a person: “You be our king”. It replied to them: “How could I abandon my bounty which the gods and men use and which is a great benefit and service to everyone and come and be king among the trees?” And so the olive tree didn’t want to be their king. Since the olive tree didn’t want to do it, they asked the fig tree, and it replied to them similarly.

(General Estoria II, 13th c.)

In (18), the entire clause containing interpolation pues que la oliua lo non quiso ‘since the olive tree didn’t want [to do] it’ simply repeats information just given in the immediately preceding sentence la oliua non quiso ser so Rey ‘the olive tree didn’t want to be their king’. There seems to be no sense in which any of the clause containing

9 I omit for reasons of space the morpheme-by-morpheme gloss for the examples in (18) and (19) as the argument hinges on the larger discourse context, the relevant portions of which are explicated in the text.
Interpolation, much less the interpolated sentential negation itself, can be plausibly interpreted as contrastive, to constitute new information or instantiate polarity focus.

Interpolation is also possible of elements which clearly represent old, rather than new, information. In (19), for example, the interpolated element *esto* ‘that’, resumes the recently mentioned event *que se salliesen de su tierra* ‘that they should leave his land’, said event having been in fact already resumed once by *esto* in the sentence immediately preceding the one containing the interpolated instance of *esto*.

(19)  
Et estonçe les dixo el Rey *que se salliesen de su tierra* Et aquella gente a quien *esto* dixo fueron se a la villa & tanto que *les esto dixo* luego se armaron muy bien & venjeron se al Rey onde yazia en su alcaçar & lidiaaron conel & lo mataron  

‘And then the king said to them *that they should leave his land*. And those people to whom he said *that* went to the town and as soon as he said *that* to them they armed themselves well and went to the king where he rested in his fortress and fought with him and killed him.’

*(Crónica de 1344 I, 14th c.)*

The interpolated instance of *esto* in (19) is clearly not any kind of new information, and, like the example in (18), it seems impossible to interpret it as contrastive or emphatic in any way.

2.2. G-Topics and interpolation

Having argued in the previous section that interpolation is not a focalization process, in this section I suggest that many instances of interpolation, particularly full NP and PP interpolation, are plausibly analysed as ‘given’ or ‘familiar’ topics in the sense of Bianchi & Frascarelli (2010) and Frascarelli & Hinterhölzl (2007).

2.2.1. Bianchi & Frascarelli’s (2010) typology of topics

As noted by Frascarelli & Hinterhölzl (2007), the notion ‘topic’ encompasses a number of different elements which perform a number of different functions. Specifically, they identify three different types of topic: (1) the ‘aboutness topic’, which indicates in which entry within the conversational common ground the proposition expressed by the sentence should be stored, (2) the ‘contrastive topic’, which introduces alternatives with respect to other topics and (3) the ‘familiar topic’, which is used for retrieval of information already present within the conversational common ground content and is connected with topic continuity. Bianchi & Frascarelli (2010) label these three topics *A-Topics*, *C-Topics*, and *G-Topics* respectively.
Interpolated elements cannot be A-Topics or C-Topics. A-Topics are not permitted in embedded clauses, as they constitute, in effect, independent speech acts (Bianchi & Frascarelli 2010:Section 5). C-Topics, although they are allowed in some embedded clauses, are not licensed in the full range of contexts in which interpolation is found. For example, topicalized elements in English (a kind of C-topic) are disallowed in conditional clauses where if introduces a condition for the event given in the main clause:

(20) *If these topics you don’t pass, you won’t get the degree.

(Haegeman 2012:136)

However, interpolation is perfectly possible in clauses of this kind, as illustrated by (21) and (22):

(21) el que ha la manoue nce si lo bien sopo ire io gar e he that has the hand win.3sg if it well know.3sg play.inf

‘The starting player will win if he knows how to play [the game] well.’

(Libro de ajedrez, dados y tablas, 13th c.)

(22) Enganno faras si me no dieres lo que me deues. fraud will do.2sg if me neg will give.2sg it that me owe.2sg

‘You will be defrauding me if you don’t give me what you owe me.’

(Estoria de España I, 13th c.)

Furthermore, as Bianchi & Frascarelli (2010:63-4) note, C-Topics by their very nature are unique, but, as discussed in Section 2.1.1 above, it is possible to have two short elements interpolated.

G-Topics, by contrast, are licensed in the full range of clauses in which interpolation is seen, and there can be multiple ones. G-Topics are used to resume information which is already present in the conversational common ground, for example for topic continuity. Thus, the information structure value of G-Topics also seems descriptively appropriate for many instances of interpolation. 10

2.2.2. Interpolation as G-Topic

One of the most commonly interpolated nominal elements is the demonstrative pronoun esto ‘that’. A particularly clear example of what appears to be topic continuity was seen in (19) -repeated below-, in which not only does the interpolated element esto ‘that’ resume a recently mentioned clause, but the immediately preceding clause also contains an instance of esto ‘that’ resuming the same clause. 11

10 I return in Section 3.3 below to the cases for which a G-Topic analysis is less plausible.

11 In fact, the preceding clause’s subject aquella gente a qujen esto dijo, literally ‘those people to whom that he.said’, likely contains another instance of esto ‘that’ as a G-Topic (which I
(19) Et estonçe les dixo el Rey que se salliesen de su tierra Et aquella gente a quien esto dixo fueron se a la villa & tanto que les esto dixo luego se armaron muy bien & venjeron se al Rey onde yazia en su alcaçar & lidiaron conel & lo mataron

‘And then the king said to them that they should leave his land. And those people to whom he said that went to the town and as soon as he said that to them they armed themselves well and went to the king where he rested in his fortress and fought with him and killed him.’

(Crónica de 1344 I, 14th c.)

There are also cases of prepositional phrase interpolation for which a G-Topic analysis seems plausible. In the context immediately preceding (23), a description is given of a storm which destroyed over 80% of the Roman naval force returning from Carthage:

(23) Assi que diz la estoria que fasta a aqueltiempo tan grand tempestad que se en mar fiziesse como aquella non fuera oya en ninguna part that se in sea made.3sg as that neg was heard in no place

‘Thus history says that until that time as great storm as that one which arose in the sea had never been heard of anywhere.’

(General Estoria IV, 13th c.)

Clearly, in such a context, en mar ‘in the sea’ represents something already present in the conversational common ground which resumes background information.

Many cases of interpolated NP subjects also seem amenable to an analysis in terms of G-Topics. Between the 13th and 16th centuries, the overwhelmingly most commonly interpolated Det + NP combination is el rey ‘the king’, an element which is part of the conversational common ground of many Old Spanish texts. (24) is a typical example:

(24) estonces el rey don Fernando yuase para santiago en romeria & mando a Rodrigo que echase alos condes dela tierra. E asi he did.3sg.it as it the king ordered.3sg

‘Then the king Don Fernando left for Santiago on a pilgrimage and ordered Rodrigo to expel all the lords from the land. And so he did it, as the king had ordered.’

(Crónica del Cid, 15th c.)
Other interpolated NP subjects include elements which are also very plausibly accessible from the conversational common ground given the context: Dios ‘God’, el padre ‘the priest’, omne or el omne ‘man’ (in the sense of ‘one’), etc.

(25) ...pūra pasar el Jordan & entrar a la tierra que les dios prometiera... for cross.1INF the J. and enter.1INF to the land that them God promised ‘in order to cross the Jordan and enter the land that God promised them...’

(General Estoria II, 13th c.)

(26) destruyera todas las cosas aun mas que lo omne podrie creer destroyed.3SG all the things even more that it one could.3SG believe.1INF ‘He demolished everything even more than one could believe.’

(General Estoria IV, 13th c.)

Among the more commonly interpolated adverbs are así ‘thus, in this way’ and aquí allí allá ‘here’/‘there’/‘over there’ -see, e.g., (2), (5) and (6) above, and (37) below-. Inasmuch as these adverbs have a deictic component to their interpretation, they too seem to be plausible G-Topic candidates.

3. The syntax of interpolation

Having argued in the previous section that many interpolated elements are plausibly analysed as given or familiar topics, I turn in this section to the syntax of interpolation. I argue that the elements of the ‘interpolation cluster’ (the pronoun, the interpolated element and the finite verb) are attracted to a functional category in the low left periphery of the clause, exactly what is suggested by Frascarelli & Hinterhölzl’s Fam(iliar)P analysis of G-Topics. In other words, I assume that the structure of the relevant sub-part of (2), for example, is (27).12

(27) …los [ForceP que [TopicP [ForceP [FamP lo asi fizieron [FinP [TP …

The elements of the interpolation cluster appear to the right of various elements which plausibly occupy higher areas within the left periphery, such as topics and ‘recomplementation’ structures, but aspects of their distribution relative to some adverbial elements suggest that they are not in the TP-domain. Ultimately, I claim, interpolation is a verb-second phenomenon: the interpolated G-topical element serves as a first-position holder for the verb which has raised to Fam’. When no non-clitic G-Topical element is present, the element at the left edge of the TP domain (frequently sentential

12 I include various empty cartographic heads in (27) for illustrative clarity only.
negation) is attracted by a semantically vacuous ‘Formal Movement’ operation (Frey 2004, 2006) purely to satisfy the EPP feature borne by Fam.

### 3.1. An outline of the left periphery in embedded clauses

Under the cartographic approach to the left periphery inaugurated by Rizzi (1997), the functional projection CP, just as with IP, is broken down into a number of distinct functional projections, as illustrated in (28):

\[
(28) \quad \text{[\text{ForceP} \text{TopP} \text{FocusP} \text{TopP} \text{FinP} \text{TP}}
\]

ForceP, the highest functional projection within the articulated CP, specifies the clausal type (declarative, exclamative, relative, etc.) and is typically occupied by complementizers. The lowest head, FinP, expresses the finiteness specification of the TP which is its sister. Between those two projections lie TopP and FocusP, which are functional projections associated with these traditional left-periphery effects. As (28) shows, there is a higher Topic position preceding FocusP and a lower Topic position which follows it.

Though they differ with respect to the precise details, various authors have suggested that Rizzi’s ‘cartographic’ approach can be extended to Old Spanish (e.g., Fernández Ordóñez 2008-2009, Sitaridou 2011) and I adopt it here for expository convenience. At least some aspects of the hierarchy in (28) are clearly borne out by Fernández Ordóñez’s (2008-2009) extensive study of topic and focus in Alfonsine prose. Consider (29), for example:

\[
(29) \quad \text{falló en él saber de las cosas temporales e de las espirituales tanto que } [\text{TOP esse rey Nabucodonosor to padre} ] [\text{FOC adelantado e príncep} ] \text{ le fizo de los sabios magos encantadores e de los fechizeros e de los adevinos (GE4: 271).}
\]

(Fernández Ordóñez 2008-2009:25)

Immediately following the complementizer we find a phrase identified by Fernández Ordóñez as a topic, followed by a second phrase identified as a focus. These elements would seem to straightforwardly map onto ForceP, TopP and FocusP.

\[
(30) \quad \text{[\text{ForceP que} \text{TopP esse rey Nabucodonosor to padre} \text{FocusP adelantado e príncep} ]…}
\]

### 3.2. Locating the interpolation cluster within the left periphery

Given the conclusion in Section 2 that the interpolated element is a plausible G-Topic, this immediately locates the interpolation cluster within the lower part of the

---

13 But see the appendix.
left periphery. G-TOPics, following Bianchi & Frascarelli (2010), are syntactically the lowest type of topic within the left periphery.

(31) \[
\text{ShiftP} \text{ A-Topic } \text{ContrP} \text{ C-Topic } \text{FocP} \text{ FamP}^* \text{ G-Topic } \text{FinP} \text{ IP}
\]

(Bianchi & Frascarelli 2010)

As (31) indicates, G-TOPicS occupy a functional projection (Fam(iliar)P) in the low left periphery, following FocusP but preceding FinP (The asterisk indicates that, as mentioned above, there can be multiple G-TOPicS). I will adopt FamP to refer to the functional projection associated with interpolation for expository convenience (but see also footnote 22). In this section, I suggest that various word order and distributional facts confirm the low left periphery as the location of the interpolation cluster.

### 3.2.1. Elements which precede the interpolation cluster

The overwhelmingly most common position for the interpolation cluster is immediately adjacent to the subordinating element of its clause (usually a complementizer). As complementizer-like elements typically occupy ForceP, the highest functional head within the left periphery, this already suggests that the interpolation cluster occupies a (perhaps even high) position within the left periphery. However, cases can be found, though infrequently, in which the complementizer and the interpolation cluster are separated by intervening material which is plausibly associated with the higher Topic region of the left periphery. This suggests that the interpolation cluster in fact occupies a position in the lower portion of the left periphery, precisely the general position occupied by FamP.

In cases such as (32a) and (b), for example, the interpolation cluster is separated from the subordinating element by the subject.

(32) a. se Dios me de mal cura
   if God me of evil cures.3SG
   ‘if God cures me of evil’
   (El Libro de Alexandre (O), 14th c.)

b. Sy el físico la bien conosçe
   if the physician it well knows.3SG
   ‘if the physician knows it well’
   (Rivero 1997:24d)

Given the structure in (28), I assume that the complementizer *se/sy ‘if’ occupies ForceP, the highest of the functional heads. As ForceP immediately dominates TopicP, an analysis in which subjects such as *el físico occupy the higher TopicP seems initially plausible.

In Modern Spanish, many previous researchers have argued that pre-verbal subjects are in fact base-generated topics, which are clitic-doubled by pro.14 Fontana

14 See Contreras (1991), Olarrea (1996), Alexiadou & Anagnostopoulou (1998), and Or...
(1993:4.2.3.1) discusses some evidence which points in the same direction for Old Spanish. For example, he notes certain cases where the ‘subject’ is doubled by an overt quantifier:

(33) todos los que jugaban cada uno metía dentro de este circulo chico un piojo
All the-ones that placed each one put inside of this circle little a louse
‘All those who played, each one of them put a louse inside the little circle.’

(Fontana 1993:182)

As he notes, cada uno ‘each one’ is not plausibly analysed as a floating quantifier of some kind. Based on the interpretation of the sentence, it seems that the preposed material acts as a restriction on the quantifier in subject position, suggesting an overt realization of a normally covert doubling structure.

The element preceding the interpolation cluster can also, though more rarely, be a non-subject NP or PP and in many cases these non-subject NPs and PPs are very plausibly interpretable as topics.

(34) Ca pues que este merced nos agora fazedes…
Because as that that kindness us now did.2SG
‘Since you just did us that kindness...’

(Estoria de España II, 13th c.)

(35) & que desta manera se non contrallan estas razones de Moysen
and that of that way se not contradict.3PL those laws of Moses
& de Josepho
and of Joseph
‘And in that way the laws of Moses and Joseph were not violated.’

(General Estoria I, 13th c.)

Both the NP object in (34) and the NP object of the preposition in (35) contain the demonstrative pronoun esto ‘that’, and in both cases these elements refer to aspects of the previous discourse.

Furthermore, it is possible to find cases where the element which precedes the interpolation cluster is a fronted object which is clitic-doubled by a pronoun.

(36) no traigamos aquí las vidas de los Santos Padres del Testamento viejo de
not bring.1PL here the lives of the holy fathers of the testament old of
antes del Diluvio, y después del Diluvio, de novecientos y
before of the flood and after of the flood of 900 and
ochocientos años; porque esto lo más creemos por fé
800 years because that it more believe.1PL by faith

dóñez & Treviño (1999), among many others, and Zagona (2002: Chapter 5) for an overview.
‘We do not discuss here the lives of the Holy Fathers of the Old Testament before the Flood and after the Flood, 900 years and 800 years respectively, because we believe that more by faith.’

(Jardin de Floras Curiosas, 16th c.)

(37) Et quando Diana andaua a caça o a correr so mont &
And when Diana went hunting or to run-INF her mountain and
la siesta la alla tomaua…
the nap it there took.3SG

‘And when Diana went hunting or to climb her mountain and took a nap there…’

(General Estoria II, 13th c.)

Actual clitic left-dislocation in the context of interpolation, as seen in (36) and (37), is extremely rare, as clitic-doubling of indirect and direct objects increases diachronically as interpolation is decreasing (see Fontana 1993:375-382 for discussion and Sitaridou (2011:172) for additional references). However, as noted by Sitaridou (2011:170), preposed objects are often topical in Old Spanish even without clitic left-dislocation. It therefore seems plausible to analyse esto in (36) and la siesta in (37) as occupying TopicP within an articulated left-periphery, suggesting that the interpolation cluster, which immediately follows it, occupies the low left periphery.

3.2.2. Interpolation and recomplementation

Localization of the interpolation cluster in the lower area of the left periphery gains further support from its relation to so-called ‘recomplementation’ phenomena, illustrated in (38):15

(38) Et dios... quiera que los que este libro leyeren que se aprovechen
del costumbr de....
And God want that the.pl that this book will read.3PL that se benefit.3PL

‘And God grant that those who read this book benefit from the habit of…’

(El Conde Lucanor, 14th c.)

In (38), there is an instance of the complementizer que ‘that’ immediately following the verb ‘to want’, but there is also what appears to be a second complementizer following the heavy pre-verbal subject los que este libro leyeren ‘those who read this book’.

Crucially, when a clause contains both recomplementation and interpolation, the interpolation cluster follows the second complementizer.

15 Fontana (1993: 234) describes recomplementation as the unmarked option with some verbs in the texts from the 13th to the 15th centuries that he examines, while Pountain (2001: 95) characterizes recomplementation as a feature of a plain, colloquial register.
(39) ca creo que ninguna dueña que más pare de vna criatura que se no puede salvar de adulterio
Because believe.1SG that no woman that more give.birth.3SG of a child that se no can.3SG save.INF from adultery
‘because I believe that no woman who has ever had a child is immune to adultery’

(Gran Conquista de Ultramar, 13th c.)

Analyses of the cartography of recomplementation differ slightly in their details, but all locate the second complementizer in an area immediately following the higher topic area within the left periphery. Like the data in (32) to (37) concerning subjects and topical non-subject NPs and PPs, this then suggests that interpolation occupies a low area of the left periphery, which is expected if it targets a functional projection such as FamP.

3.2.3. A note on the object pronoun

Given that the object pronoun, as the leftmost element of the interpolation cluster, immediately follows the second complementizer in recomplementation structures and is in turn immediately adjacent to the interpolated G-Topic, it is presumably located in a position relatively close to FamP. Indeed, some previous analyses of interpolation (e.g., Martins) assume that the object pronoun moves to the same functional category as the interpolated element. If that were the case here, this would suggest that the object pronoun is in the outer specifier of FamP, and this seems plausible from an information structure point of view. Frascarelli & Hinterhölzl (2007:2) characterize familiar topics, for example, as ‘typically destressed and realized in a pronominal form’. This requires claiming that object pronouns in Old Spanish are (or at least can be) XPs rather than X’s, but this conclusion seems independently warranted, given that some interpolated elements, such as full NP subjects and PPs, are clearly XPs (see also Rivero 1992 for discussion). Full NPs and PP cannot be adjoined to the verb in a head position, and therefore the object pronoun which precedes them cannot be either.

3.2.4. Adverb distribution

Particularly since Cinque’s (1999) influential study, the position of the finite verb relative to adverbs has become a standard test to determine how high the finite verb has raised. If, as the previous sections have suggested, the interpolation cluster does indeed occupy the low left periphery, we would expect that to be reflected in its position.

relative to various high adverbs on the Cinque hierarchy. Unfortunately, Old Spanish did not possess an extensive inventory of high, speaker-oriented adverbs (compare Sitaridou’s 2012:587) remarks concerning Old Portuguese, which appears to be similar).

However, an interesting picture emerges when we compare the distribution of adverbs relative to (non-)interpolation (restricting the discussion to interpolation of negation to facilitate the comparison).17 Where negation is not interpolated, the Corpus del Español contains over 700 examples of an embedded clause in which an adverb appears immediately to the left of negation (i.e., *quesí – Adv – NEG – ObjPn – V*<sub>fin</sub>) during the 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century period.18 (40) is one such example:

(40) si assi no lo fizeire
    if thus neg it do.3sg
‘if he doesn’t do it this way’

(Siete Partidas, 13th c.)

By contrast, when the same set of elements displays interpolation (i.e., *quesí – Adv – ObjPn – NEG – V*<sub>fin</sub>), the number of examples drops by over 99%: there are only five individual examples in which an adverb precedes an interpolation cluster, as in (41):

(41) Et si assi lo non fizeredes
    and if thus it neg do.2pf.
‘and if you don’t do it this way’

(Documentos castellanos de Alfonso X - Castilla la Vieja, 13<sup>th</sup> c.)

If the relevant elements were in a lower position when negation was not interpolated, but in a higher position when it was, this radically different distribution would be a natural consequence.19 The fact that adverbs which can appear at the edge of or outside of the TP domain commonly precede an uninterpolated cluster but never

---

17 Just as in Tables 1 and 2 above, comparing interpolation and non-interpolation of negation means that there is only one grammatical uninterpolated word order to consider and it differs minimally from the interpolated order.

18 Tagging issues in the Corpus del Español make the precise number difficult to determine, but this is the correct order of magnitude.

19 See the appendix, and footnote 30 in particular, for an argument that this complementarity is not due to any kind of intervention effect (under the assumption that at least some adverbs under discussion undergo movement to a higher position, rather than being base-generated there). However, there are certainly adverbs in examples like (40) which are relatively high on the hierarchy (e.g., entonces ‘then’ and ahora ‘now’).
Interpolation, verb-second, and the low left periphery in Old Spanish

3.3. Verb-second and interpolation of negation

As has been mentioned, sentential negation is the most commonly interpolated element. However, it would seem to represent a challenge to the approach outlined thus far, in which the interpolated element is located in FamP in virtue of being a familiar or given topic. I take it that, by its very nature, sentential negation is generally incapable of serving as any kind of topic.

Nonetheless, I assume that sentential negation genuinely occupies the category I have been referring to as FamP. The various category-independent generalizations concerning interpolation (the adverb facts discussed above, as well as the issue discussed in the appendix) and the obligatory adjacency between the interpolated element and the object pronoun would seem to be impossible to account for otherwise. In other words, I take an example like (1) (repeated below) to have the same structure as (27) above—that is, the structure in (42), and not for example (43), in which only the pronoun occupies FamP—:

(1) se me non quisieres creer
   if me not wish.2sg believe.inf
   ‘if you do not wish to believe me’

(42) \[ \text{ForceP} \text{se} \text{FamP} \text{me non quisieres} \text{TP} \text{creer} \]

(43) \[ \text{ForceP} \text{se} \text{FamP} \text{me} \text{NegP} \text{non} \text{TP quisieres creer} \]

However, examples such as (1) do raise the question of what would drive the attraction of sentential negation to a projection such as FamP?

I suggest that interpolation of negation is an instance of ‘Formal Movement’ in the sense of Frey (2004, 2006). It involves attraction of the element which is at the left edge of the TP domain in order to fill a position in the left periphery, with no effect other than to satisfy an EPP feature. Formal Movement therefore is movement

20 Of course, strictly speaking, what the asymmetry suggests is that something is in a higher position in the interpolation case. However, see Section 3.3 for arguments that it is indeed all three elements of the interpolation cluster (the object pronoun, negation and the finite verb).

21 Given the absence of unambiguously very high adverbs and the well-known mobility of adverbs in general, I take the fact that various adverbs could follow the interpolation cluster not to provide the same help in fixing the location of the interpolation cluster, as it is potentially unclear what functional projection they occupy or are adjoined to.
which has no pragmatic or semantic consequences, and it is not therefore necessary for negation to be a G-Topic. It is attracted simply as the closest available element, given that NegP immediately dominates TP in Spanish (see, e.g., Zagona 2002:195-6 for an overview and references).

Attraction via Formal Movement would also account for the ability of ‘pleonastic’ negation to undergo interpolation, as in example (15) -repeated below-.

(15) podrian quebrantar las arcas & los cílleros / & tomar lo que quiisiesen could break-INF the chests the storehouses and take-INF it that wanted.3PL

/& despues negar que lo non tomaron.
and after deny-INF that it ‘not’ took.3PL

‘They could break into the chests and storehouses and take what they wanted and then later deny that they took it.’

(Orderamiento de Alcalá, 14th c.)

Recall from Section 2.1.3 that these elements, though they have the morpho-phonological appearance of sentential negation, contribute nothing to the semantics of their clause. Under the assumption that these elements do indeed occupy a low left-peripheral functional projection such as FamP, they can only have been attracted purely in order to satisfy an EPP feature.

Frey assumes that Formal Movement plays a key role in the verb-second constraint in German, and Light (2012) extends Frey’s analysis to account for verb-second phenomena in a number of other Germanic varieties. If Formal Movement is the operation by which non-G-Topics end up in FamP, then interpolation can be directly connected to a verb-second constraint in Old Spanish. By hypothesis, FamP bears a strong EPP feature, and this results, in part, in the finite verb raising to the head of FamP. When there are no other G-Topics beyond the object pronoun (which cliticizes to its left), the element at the left edge of the TP domain is attracted, and, in cases

22 For the claim that Old Spanish possessed such a constraint, see, e.g., Fontana (1993, 1996, 1997) and Ledgeway (2011) but compare Mackenzie (2010) and Sitaridou (2011) and see Sitaridou (2011) for an overview and references. Various authors (e.g., Haegeman (1997), Roberts (1999), Poletto (2002) and Westergaard & Vangsnes (2005), among others) argue that the verb raises at least as high as Fin in verb-second clauses, and although I have used Frascarelli & Hinterhölzl’s FamP to label the functional category implicated in interpolation, I believe that the analysis is unaffected if interpolation effects were to turn out to be localized in FinP instead. See the appendix for some additional discussion concerning the cartography of the low left periphery.

23 As is well-known (e.g., Pountain (2001: 264)), it is not until the 15th century that clitics appear sentence-initially or after an intonational break. Prior to this point, clitics must be supported by some element to their left.
such as (1), that element is sentential negation.\footnote{This assumes, as mentioned above, that sentential negation is an XP rather than a head. Interestingly, the ‘full’ form of sentential negation \textit{non} is disproportionately favoured in interpolation contexts, particularly in the 14th and 15th centuries. For example, while the sequence \textit{non} \textit{V} is slightly less than eight times more common than \textit{no} \textit{V} during the 14th century, it is nearly 25 times more commonly interpolated.} \footnote{Thus there appears to be some version in Old Spanish of a contrast discussed by Frey/Light, which in Germanic is between ‘Formal Movement’ and ‘true A’-movement’ (though I leave open the question of whether a ‘true’ G-Topic in the inner specifier is the result of movement or base-generation).} However, when for independent reasons there is another G-Topic occupying the inner specifier of FamP (in addition to the pronoun), Formal Movement is not triggered.

The optionality of interpolation then reduces to the presence or absence of the relevant EPP feature in FamP. Viewed in this way, the proposal can be connected to Westergaard (2009)’s micro-parameter analysis of verb-second. Under her approach, verb-second is not itself a single, monolithic parameter. Rather, the traditional verb-second effect arises from the interaction of a number of different parameters regarding verb-raising relating to distinct functional heads. Certain constructions introduce particular functional heads, and these may or may not trigger raising of the verb (and therefore verb-second) on a head-by-head basis.\footnote{This is surely ultimately the locus of the explanation for why interpolation is restricted to embedded clauses, assuming that the functional head in question also attracts the object pronoun, but I must leave a detailed investigation of the issue for further research.}

A Formal Movement analysis may also be appropriate for at least some instances of interpolation of personal pronoun subjects. Old Spanish, like its modern counterpart, is a pro-drop language. Overt personal pronoun subjects are used for emphasis, contrast or a switch in reference. Given this usage, at least some cases of pronoun subject interpolation seem unproblematic.

\begin{verbatim}
(44) Capitulo.cl. como vn dia que el conde entro a ver la condessa & chapter 150 how one day that the count entered to see the countess and ella tenia sus tres fijos so el manto & como no se quiso she had her three children under the robe and how neg se wanted leuantar a el ni yr avn que la llamo & de como gelo dixo & dela respuesta que le ella dio raise to him nor go even that her called and of how to her it said and of the response that to him she gave.

‘Chapter 150: how one day the count came in to see the countess, and she was breast-feeding her three children and how she didn’t want to get up for him or to go even though he called her, and of how he spoke to her and of the reply that she gave him.’
\end{verbatim}

\textit{(Gran Conquista de Ultramar, 13\textsuperscript{th} c.)}
In (44) the interpolated pronoun simply indicates that the subject of the verb *give* has switched back from ‘the count’ (the subject of the previous sentence) to ‘the countess’. It is clearly not emphatic or a contrastive focus of any kind. Since both of these third-person entities are clearly accessible from the conversational common ground, it seems reasonable to analyse *ella* ‘she’ in (44) as a G-Topic.

However, there are other interpolated pronoun subjects which do not seem to be associated with mere topicality.

(45) *manifiesta cosa es que lo feziste a tuerto et sin pecado que te él fiziese manifest thing is that it did unjustly and without sin that you he did.*

‘It’s clear that you did it unjustly and without him having done you any wrong.’

*(Calila e Dimna, 13th c., Poole 2007:13)*

In contrast to (44), the context in (45) appears to be contrastive and possibly emphatic. While it is true that the mere fact that a pronoun is used means that the referent is accessible from the conversational common ground, the claim that the interpolated pronoun subject in (45) is a G-Topic seems less immediately plausible. However, under the assumption that the pronoun subject in (45) is, like sentential negation, attracted by Formal Movement as the element at the edge of the TP domain, the lack of a G-Topic interpretation is expected.

### 4. Conclusion

In this paper, I have considered the phenomenon of interpolation in Old Spanish from the point of view of both information structure and syntax. Contrary to a number of previous analyses, interpolation cannot be a species of focus movement. There are contexts which seem entirely unambiguous, but there are also a number of arguments which are context-independent. I proposed instead that many interpolated elements (including full NPs, PPs and adverbs) could be understood as given or familiar topics (G-Topics in the sense of Bianchi & Frascarelli 2010). These are the lowest of the left-peripheral topics, and various word order and distributional observations appear to confirm that the interpolation cluster occupies such a position. I suggested that specifically the interpolation cluster occupies the specifiers and head position of Fam(iliar)P, the low left-peripheral projection which is the locus of G-Topics under Bianchi & Frascarelli’s analysis. However, interpolation is possible of some elements which are less plausibly claimed to be G-Topics, and it is these that reveal the role played by the verb-second constraint. If no G-Topic is hosted by the inner specifier of FamP (the object pronoun occupies the outer specifier), sentential negation or a non-G-Topic subject at the left edge of the TP domain is attracted via Formal Movement (Frey 2004, 2006; Light 2012) to serve as the ‘first-position’ element.
Appendix: the cartography of the low left periphery

Throughout this paper I have adopted the cartographic approach to the left periphery, but this has been essentially for expository convenience. While at least some Old Spanish phenomena would seem to support the approach in broad outline (for example, reocomplementation phenomena suggest the presence of at least two heads), and Fernández Ordóñez’s (2008-2009) study seems to provide the basis for a mapping, nothing in the proposed analysis of interpolation requires that there be a one-to-one (or very few-to-one) relationship between information structure roles and functional syntactic categories.

However, one observation concerning interpolation does seem to have some bearing on the specifics of the low left periphery under the cartographic approach. Recall from Section 3.1 that the area between TopicP and FinP has been claimed to contain functional categories connected with both Focus and Topic, as (28) above indicated.

(28) \[ \text{ForceP} \rightarrow \text{TopicP} \rightarrow \text{FocusP} \rightarrow \text{FinP} \rightarrow \text{TP} \]

Based on the analysis proposed here, FamP would seem to be a plausible instantiation of the lower TopicP in (28). However, interpolation appears not to co-occur with wh-operators, which are claimed (even in embedded clauses in Spanish) to occupy FocusP. Crucially, this complementarity is not seen with respect to relative clause operators, which, by hypothesis, occupy ForceP, a higher position in the articulated CP. Although arguments from non-appearance must always be taken as tentative, the observed distribution would follow from the assumption that in Old Spanish there is only one functional category below the higher TopicP, rather than two, and that this category may be have either topic properties or focus properties.27

The pre-Golden Age period, when interpolation is at its height, offers no shortage of instances in which a verb selecting for a [+wh] CP contains a wh-operator in that clause.

(46) ca non sabedes quien vos quiere mal o quien vos quiere bien
   Because not know.2pl who you wants.3sg evil or who you wants.3sg good
   ‘because you don’t know who desires you ill and who desires you good.’

(Castigos y documentos para bien vivir, 13th c.)

27 Interestingly, Martín-González (2002: Ch. 2 fn 26) also notes that in Modern Spanish low left-peripheral topics are incompatible with non-D-linked wh-phrases (which he assumes occupy FocusP).
Furthermore, when verbs which can select either a [+wh] or a [-wh] CP (such as *saber* ‘to know’) select a [-wh] CP, interpolation is possible in the complement clause:

(47) bien sabían que se no podían defender contra la fuerza de tanta gente de moros
    ‘They knew very well that they couldn’t defend themselves against the might of so many Moors.’
    
    (Gran Conquista de Ultramar, 13th c.)

However, there appear to be no examples like the constructed (48), in which a CP complement of a verb contains both a wh-operator and interpolation.28

(48) *ca non sabedes quien lo así fiziese
    because not know.2PL who it thus did.3SG
    ‘because you don’t know who did it like that’

It is the low left periphery which is relevant, given that I assume, following Demonte & Fernández-Soriano 2009’s analysis of Modern Spanish, that wh-operators in Old Spanish target FocusP rather than ForceP in subordinate clauses. Old Spanish contains examples fully parallel to the Modern Spanish examples discussed by Demonte & Fernández-Soriano (2009:29-31), in which a wh-operator can be preceded by a complementizer:

(49) E dini de monçon pregunte que quien gela pornia en la cabeza:

28 Clearly it is not the object pronoun or the verb which creates the complementarity with wh-operators. Examples such as (i) are of course plentiful:

(i) & non pudo saber quien lo ferio
    and not was able.3SG to.know who it did.3SG
    ‘and he couldn’t know who had done it’
    
    (Historia Troyana, 14th c.)

The example in (ii) even contains an instance of a wh-operator in a negated clause which contains an object pronoun:

(ii) y un batricajo le dio tan cascante que no sé quien
    and a blow him gave.3SG so shattering that NEG know.1SG who
    no se espante
    not SE frighten.3SG
    ‘and he gave him a blow so shattering that I don’t know who wouldn’t have been frightened’
    
    (Teatro Completo, 16th c.)

Thus the complementarity does appear to derive specifically from the interpolated element, rather than any other sub-element of the interpolation cluster.
And Dini de Monçon asked who would put it on his head. And he said that the bishop, who was the highest ranking person among them, had to crown him.

*(Gran Conquista de Ultramar, 13th c.)*

In (49), the verb *preguntar* ‘to ask’ is followed by a complementizer, which is then followed by the wh-operator *quien* ‘who’. As shown by the continuation, this construction reports a genuine request for information, since the answer to the indirect question immediately follows. In (50) it is a wh-phrase *que gente* ‘what people’ which follows the complementizer. In the continuing context, not included for reasons of length, the speakers entertain several possibilities and eventually are told to go up and find out, again indicating that (50) reports a genuine request for information. However, if the complementizer occupies the Force head, then the wh-operator must be in a lower position, which, following Demonte & Fernández-Soriano, I take to be the specifier of FocusP.

29 The literally three counter-examples that I know of to this generalization all involve *por qué* ‘why’, as illustrated by (i) (see also Rivero (1992: 245)).

(i)  Responde / que te fic / por que me non diste dicha en answer.IMP what you did.1SG why me not gave.2SG happiness in quantas que ame which.FPL that loved.1SG

‘Answer me. What did I do to you? Why didn’t you give me happiness from any of those that I loved?’

*(Libro de Buen Amor, 14th c.)*

However, Rizzi (2001) argues that in Italian *why* is base-generated in the specifier of INT(errogative)P, a functional projection between TopicP and FocusP, in which case these examples in fact indirectly support the proposed analysis. Also, Zubizarreta (1998) observes that *por qué* is the one wh-phrase which is compatible with a focused constituent, again suggesting that the two occupy a different position. Notice however that (i) is also an apparent instance of main-clause interpolation, as are the other counter-examples noted by Rivero, which does raise questions about their status.

30 One might be tempted to argue that the incompatibility between wh-operators and inter-
The fact that interpolation appears to be in complementary distribution with wh-operators becomes particularly significant in light of the fact that the complementarity appears not to extend to relative clause operators. Thus, while there are no examples like (48), in which a CP complement of a verb contains both a wh-operator and interpolation, interpolation can be found in all classes of relative clauses. (51)-(53) illustrate interpolation in restrictive, non-restrictive and free relative clauses respectively.

(51) otro tal sería si algun clérigo fuese casado con virgen
Other such would be.3SG if some priest were.3SG married with virgin
ante que fuese ordenado & despues que se ordenasse casasse
before that was.3SG ordained and after that se ordained.3SG married.3SG se
con otra muger con quien lo no pudiese fazer de derecho
with other woman with whom it not could.3SG do.INF of right
‘Another case would be if a priest were married to a virgin before he was ordained and, after being ordained, married another woman with whom he had no right to.’

(Siete Partidas, 13th c.)

(52) & tan bien fue a ver a la reyna Halabra su madre de quien ya
dijo en otros lugares que era muy leída & de muy gran saber
And also went.3SG to see.1PL a the queen H his mother of whom you
ya diximos en otros lugares que era muy leída & de muy gran saber
already said.1PL in other places that was.3SG very read and of very great wisdom
‘And he also went to see Queen Halabra his mother, about whom we have already spoken elsewhere, who was well-read and very wise’

(Gran Conquista de Ultramar, 13th c.)

Interpolation is not due to the fact that they potentially compete for the same position, but rather is the result of some sort of intervention effect. However, as will be discussed momentarily, interpolation is compatible with relative clause operators, which is potentially unexpected (at least on an operator-movement analysis of relative clauses). Furthermore, it is difficult to imagine, particularly given the discussion below, what feature or set of features interpolation and wh-operators might share, to the exclusion of relative clause operators.

31 I assume, following Haegeman (2009) among many others, that temporal adverbial clauses are correctly analysed as free relatives. This will account for a number of superficially problematic examples, all of which involve clauses introduced by quando ‘when’, as in (i).

(i) avrás poca vergüenza, quando lo así fárs
will have.2SG little shame when it thus will do.2SG
‘You will be ashamed of yourself when you do it like that.’

(Libro Rimado de Palacio, 14th c.)

(See Haegeman 2009 for discussion and many additional references.)
(53) quien le entonces viese griegos matar / & espedaçar espedaçar bien
ternja quele deujan doler los braços delos muchos grandes
golpes que dava:
‘Whoever saw him then killing Greeks and butchering them would have had to have
had aching arms given the number of hefty blows that he struck….’

(El emperador Otas de Roma, 14th c.)

Since relative clause operators occupy ForceP, the highest head in the left periphery, rather than the lower FocusP head (following Rizzi 1997 among many others), they are not potentially competing for the same position with interpolation, under the assumption that there is only one low left periphery position available and that, in interpolation contexts, it must be FamP, a topic position, rather than FocusP.

References


Davies, Mark. 2002. *Corpus del Español* (100 million words, 1200s-1900s). Available...
online at <http://www.corpusdelespanol.org>


Interpolation, verb-second, and the low left periphery in Old Spanish

Geoffrey Poole


Rodríguez Ramalle, Teresa. 2003. La gramática de los adverbios en -mente o cómo expresar opiniones y actitudes a través de la lengua. Madrid: Ediciones de la UAM.

Reception date: 24/01/2013
Revision date: 30/03/2013
Acceptation date: 21/04/2013

Geoffrey Poole
Newcastle University
geoffrey.poole@ncl.ac.uk