Notes on FinP as landing site for V2

Giuseppe Samo
Département de Linguistique
Université de Genève

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Verb Second (V2)

(1) [CP [IP [VP]]]

➢ Verb (head) movement to $C^0$
➢ XP moved to SpecCP
➢ Only one XP to the left of the finite verb

*working hypothesis: toward a uniform analysis of V2
Cartography of Syntactic Structures

(1) [CP [IP [VP]]]

The Left Periphery (LP) of the Clause:

(2) [ForceP [TopP* [IntP [TopP* [FocusP [TopP* [ModP [Qemb [FinP ]]]]]]]]]]]

Which projection in Rizzi's map?

I will evaluate + and - of:

- ForceP
- TopicP / FocusP / ModP
- FinP
ForceP

TopP*

IntP

TopP*

FocusP

TopP*

ModP

Qemb

FinP
1. No free space

'outer portion' of the CP where items might be base generated (HT, Scene Setting) (Poletto 2002: 279)

The pillars of Hercules: no higher functional projections where items can move to.
(3) Upphæðin, þeir ákváðu hana strax.
Sum-the (N) they determined it (A) immediately
'As for the sum, they payed it immediately'

(Icelandic, Þráhinsson 2007: 358)

(4) så i England fick jag alltid rostat bröd.
so in England got I always toasted bread
'So (therefore) in England I always got toast.'

(Swedish, Bohnacker 2006: 453)

(5) Giani, inier, ci a-al pa fat?
John, yesterday, what has-he Interrogative Marker done?
'What has John done yesterday?'

(Rhaeto-Romance, Poletto 2002: 232 (38b))
More than one element might cross V2
(6) rameshan kyaa dyuntnay tse
Ramesh (E) what gave you
'As for Ramesh, what is it that he gave to you?'
(Kashmiri, Bhatt 1999: 107 (37a))

(7) Hiora untrymnesse he sceal rowian on his heortan.
their weakness he shall atone in his heart
'He shall atone in his heart for their weakness.'
(Old English, Pintzuk 1999: 136)

(8) Seinen neuen Aufsatz, wann sollen wir den lesen?
His.acc new.acc article when should we it read?
'When should we read his new article?'
(German, Hubert Haider, 03.12.2014)
ForceP
TopP*
IntP
TopP*
FocusP
Top*P
ModP
Qemb
FinP
1. (6), (7), (8)

2. (9) To VIVLIO sdhose i Maria sto Yani.

the-acc book gave-3s the-nom Maria to-the-acc Yani

'It is the book that Maria gave to Yani.'

(Greek, Tsimpli 1995: 177 (2b))

(10) ʔałal-kitaab-a wajada muhammad-un.

the-book-ACC found Muhammad-NOM

‘THE BOOK, Muhammad found.’

(Standard Arabic, Shlonsky 2000: 329 (6a))
1. Expletives

(11)  
a. Es ist ein Junge gekommen

b. *pro ist ein Junge gekommen
(There) is a boy come

c. *Gestern ist es ein Junge gekommen

d. Gestern ist pro ein Junge gekommen
yesterday is (there) a boy come

e. *Warum ist es ein Junge gekommen?
f. Warum ist pro ein Junge gekommen?
Why is (there) a boy come?

(German, Vikner 1995: 69 (7))

*I am aware that TopP/FocP/ModP would match with an asymmetric view of V2 (Subj vs non-Subj) à-la Travis (1984) and Zwart (1997). I will not enter into details, however I will not buy such idea following Schwartz & Vikner (1996), van Craenenbroeck & Haegeman (2006).
1. Expletives
“Since Fin is not a criterial head, it does not assign any special interpretative property to its Spec” (Rizzi and Shlonsky 2006: 344)

2. Vikner (1995: 40) “the closest leftward position to the canonical subject position”

John regrets that this book shall I have read
John regrets that I have read this book

b. Ég veit að það hefur enginn lesi. bókina
I know that there has no one read the book
I know that no one has read the book

c. Ég hélt að kysst hefðu hana margir stúdentar
I thought that kissed had her many students
I thought that many students had kissed her

d. *Ég hélt að hana kysst hefðu margir stúdentar
I thought that her kissed had many students
I thought that many students had kissed her

(Icelandic, Anderson 2012: 184 (7.4, 7.5))
FinP +

2. (13) a. Al m a dit c DUMAN va-
al a Venezia

*he me has told that tomorrow goes-he to Venice*
‘He told me that he is going to Venice tomorrow.’

(Rhaeto-Romance, Poletto 2002: 224 (18a))

b. I swear that not a single book did he buy

(English, Haegeman 2012: 9 (5))

Comp in ForceP/FinP

Bridge Verbs

(14) *Er sagt, daß die Kinder haben diesen Film gesehen
Er sagt, daß die Kinder diesen Film gesehen haben
‘He says that the children (have) this film seen (have)’

(German, Vikner 1995: 48 (36c, 36d))

(15) Ich glaube, gestern habe Maria dieses Buch gelesen.
I believe yesterday has Maria this book read
‘I believe Maria read this book yesterday’

(German, Roberts 2004: 303 (20))
**(FinP +**

3. towards a universalist hypothesis: Verb to C = FinP?

Subject-Inversion in French in (16); (9), (10):

(16)  

a. Qui que tu as vu?  
Who that you have seen?  
b. Qui as-tu vu?  
Who have you seen?  
c. *Qui qu'as-tu vu?  
Who that have you seen?

(Rizzi & Roberts 1996: 93 (6))

If XPs bear features, FinP as an escape hatch
(Cardinaletti 2010).

4. Once in FinP, nothing prevents the fronted XP (with or without the verb) from moving higher.

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Buying a universalist point of view, FinP seems to be the landing site* of the Verb** that encounters least problems.

*maybe the first position where the verb lands in the CP
** Not only in V2 languages

Further research is still required. e.g. Syntax/Prosody; Syntax/Semantics and particles like Rhaeto-romance 'pa' (Poletto 2002), at the border between CP and IP; locality.
Thank you!

Tusen takk!
Grazie mille!
Main References