

Long passives of causative and perception verbs in Italian and Spanish: a phasal account

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In Romance, long passivization of perception/causative verbs is highly restricted. One potential explanation for this is that the complements of these verbs are often phasal voicePs which do not allow movement of embedded arguments to the main clause (Sheehan & Cyrino 2018). Italian, however, is a notable exception to this general pattern, since ECM complements of *vedere* 'see'/'sentire' 'hear' and clause union complements of causative verbs both productively allow long passives.

In addition, in both Italian and Spanish there is a high degree of internal variation, depending on the type of complement selected by the perception verb and by the embedded verb involved. Long passives are for example out when the complement is a pseudo-relative clause, but they are fine when the complement is a gerund. With infinitives, speakers' judgements vary, and long passives are clearly better when the internal, rather than the external, argument of the embedded verb is promoted.

In this presentation, I propose that this intra-Romance difference is due to microvariation in the syntax of causatives/perception verbs. I argue that the differences between the various clauses derive (i) from their position (adjunction vs. complementation), (ii) their 'size' (VoiceP, FinP, etc.), and (iii) whether they have phasal status or not.