Book Reviews

This volume of the *Cahiers de praxématique* is rather loosely organized around the theme of detached elements in French. Eight articles follow a brief introductory chapter. With one exception, the authors are all affiliated with universities in France; predictably, their analyses are cast in the *grammaire de l'énoncé* framework.

For many readers, the notion of detachment may bring to mind sentences of the type *La France, c'est beau* or *Il va bien, Jean* in which one finds, on either side of a grammatically well-formed clause, an additional element often co-indexed with a pronoun inside the clause. This additional element, depending on its placement, is commonly referred to by English-speaking scholars of French as a left- or right-detachment (or alternately, dislocation). In a larger sense, however, any element not completely integrated into the clause may be considered a detachment: vocatives (*Bertrand, où es-tu?*), adverbials (*La nuit, on voit mal*), appositives (*Malheureuse, elle s'est mise à pleurer*), and so forth. Not surprisingly, the vastness of the term occasions a good deal of terminological uncertainty, not to mention inconsistency. In the introduction, entitled '*Détachement, adjonction, discontinuité, incidence...*' Franck Neveu, the volume's editor, attempts to chart a course through this confusion and identifies the problem of terminology as a focus of the volume. However, each individual author delimits the phenomenon with his or her own definitions, ensuring clarity within a given article but at the same time producing a very heterogeneous volume, with a wide array of material subsumed under *détachement*.

Neveu also contributed the first article, '*Grammaires de l'adresse. Aspects de la discontinuité syntaxique*,' which lays out some notions of the syntax of terms of address and thus serves as a preface to the following article (on the same topic). Neveu characterizes terms of address as outside but adjacent to the syntax of the relevant clause, autonomous but functionally associated with it. A cursory review of earlier work on detachments follows; most readers will want to refer to the original sources.

Dominique Lagorgette's analysis in '*Termes d'adresse, insulte et notion de détachement en diachronie: quels critères d'analyse pour la fonction d'adresse*' focuses on medieval French, using a corpus of terms of address. Interestingly, in Old French texts, 25% of terms of address do not appear in the nominative case, as would be predicted. This observation, unexplained by grammars of the language, will certainly merit further investigation. The author continues with a discussion of the role of terms of address in accomplishing speech acts.

More diachrony follows in Bernard Combettes' '*Aspects diachroniques des constructions à détachement*', in which the author proposes that detached constructions shed light on language change. Looking at topicalisations and appositives, he argues that as the Old French verb-second constraint weakened, the phrase-initial position, already a privileged position for descriptive information, hosted more and more themes, rhemes, circumstantials, and the like. Under his analysis, the initial position's syntactic integration into the following clause slowly weakened, leading to the sort of left-detachment topicalisation structures familiar in Modern French.

Readers interested in Old French will want to continue with Sophie Prévost's '*Détachement et topicalisation: des niveaux d'analyse différents.*' Here the distinction between the *détachements* and the linguistic processes that use them (e.g., topicalisation, focalisation) is made explicit. Problematic in medieval texts is the observation that Old French used left-detachments for both topicalisation and focalisation. In Middle French texts, the author notes fewer and fewer cases of left-detachments serving to focalize information, evincing an evolution toward the situation observed in the modern language, with a strong association between left-detachments and topicalisation.

Naoyo Furukawa's article entitled '*Les éléments initiaux détachés et la thématisation*' examines non-referential thematisation, using examples drawn primarily from modern literary sources. The author points out that adjectives, for example, are only conceptual and never referential. Thus, in *Riche, il l'est*, the adjective may be considered a theme (or topic, depending on the terminology adopted) despite its lack of referentiality.

Nicole Le Querler examines syntactically unlinked detachments in '*Le nominativus pendens en français.*' Sometimes referred to as *hanging topics*, the nominativus pendens comprises a detached topical element and a juxtaposed clause in which the detachment is not (syntactically) co-indexed: *Le champagne, t'as sorti les coupes?* The author's analysis shows that in such cases, a pragmatic link is almost always identifiable with the following clause; the nominativus pendens may be related prosodically, lexically, semantically (as in the example just given), or through metonymy. The nominativus pendens is viewed as a topical frame into which the rest of the utterance is placed.

In a similar vein, Anne Lacheret and Jacques François take as a given in '*De la notion de détachement topical à celle de constituant thématique extrapropositionnel*' that a left-detached topic is not somehow moved (i.e., under a transformational syntax framework) from inside its clause, but rather that the clause is appended to the topic. Their article focuses on aspects of the prosody of detached constituents. They argue

that varying degrees of prosodic contour correspond in oral discourse to new topics, revisited topics, subtopics, and given topics. This claim is of theoretical interest but would benefit from empirical support.

The presence of the final article, Mary-Annick Morel's '*Intonation et procédures de rattachement ou de rejet dans le dialogue oral en français*,' is perplexing in light of the theme of the volume and the content of the other papers. The author examines the role of the listener—and specifically of the listener's backchanneling—in dyadic discourse. Essentially, backchannels (*mmm, eh oui, ah bon?, c'est vrai!*, etc.) uttered with a rising intonation tend to be perceived by the speaker as encouragement to continue, whereas those uttered with a falling intonation signal a doubt, question, or hesitation vis-à-vis what the speaker has said. The prosody of the listener's backchannels may thus modify the course of the interaction. Discourse analysts will no doubt appreciate these findings, but even under the broadest interpretation of *linguistique du détachement*, this contribution does not feel at home in the volume.

The articles in this volume of *Cahiers de praxématique* will be of interest to scholars of medieval French, functionalist syntacticians, discourse analysts, and students already familiar with the core literature on detachments in French.

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Celle uses a sample of bilingual corpora (primarily English and French, with some German) from a mixed range of sources and a theoretical approach based on 'opérations énonciatives' to discuss selected areas of interest in tense and modality. Her approach places textual analysis at the heart of linguistic activity: she believes that there is a close relationship between textual practice and language system. Contrastive analysis of authentic texts illuminates subtle differences between closely related languages. Furthermore, it sheds a different light on each individual language. The particular topics chosen show that the parameters of quality and quantity function in amore solid manner in English than in French.