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*The Left periphery and the categorial status of zu-infinitivals*

The languages of the world differ with respect as to whether they allow for wh-infinitives and infinitival relative clauses.

In this talk, I postulate the "Wh-Infinitive-Generalization" that links the (non-) availability of wh-infinitives and infinitival relatives to morphological properties of the infinitival C-system. It is shown that wh-infinitives as well as infinitival relatives are impossible in languages in which the left periphery of the infinitive cannot be occupied with a phonetically realized infinitival complementizer. The infinitival complementizer often evolves as a result of grammaticalization from a Prep->Comp. In contrast, languages with wh-infinitives do exhibit infinitival complementizers. In order to derive the "Wh-Infinitive-Generalization", I argue, based on Chomsky's (2000, 2001, 2008) analysis of raising and ECM-infinitives that control C is "defective" in languages without wh-infinitives (/ infinitival relatives) where "defective" infinitival C is understood in analogy to defective T-def, i.e., C-def cannot bear the complete range of features specific to C. As a consequence, the specifier of C-def like the corresponding specifier of T-def may not serve as a final landing site. I want to pay special attention to the defective left periphery of the control infinitives in German. It is argued that these infinitives are CPs. Their behavior with regard to the available landing positions for wh-movement and other movement processes (topicalization, A-movement) will be examined.