

## Word orders in the Old Italian DP<sup>1</sup>

### 1. 1 Laying out the problem

In this article I examine the impact of a cartographic approach on research about diachronic change and investigate the internal structure of the DP in Old Italian (OI). I propose that some of its marked word orders can be interpreted as instances of a scrambling phenomenon which allows a series of DP internal elements to move in front of the head noun. I show that scrambling in the DP displays similar properties to those found in the vP and the CP layers, which suggests an analysis in terms of left peripheral movements in a way similar to the one usually assumed for the V2-like property of OI.<sup>2</sup> Although I will not analyze in detail scrambling in the vP phase or V2 in this article (see Poletto (2006), (forthcoming) for a detailed discussion), I will assume that all phases are built in a parallel fashion (see Poletto (2006)) in particular with respect to the formal properties associated with the left periphery.<sup>3</sup> In a way parallel to the distinction found in the left periphery of the CP, the differences between OI and Modern Italian (MI) left periphery are two: in OI the lexical head can move to the lowest X<sup>o</sup> position in the left periphery of the DP phase, while in MI this is not possible. I concentrate here on the second fundamental distinction between the Old and the Modern Italian DP: in OI, there are left peripheral positions that are accessible to movement which are not accessible anymore. This provides another parallel between the CP and DP structure, as it has been noticed that the OI left periphery allows for movements to Specifiers in the left periphery that are no longer possible in MI: for instance, the informational Focus position in the CP is accessible without any further restriction in OI, while in MI it is only available when the contrastive Focus position is already occupied (see Benincà and Poletto (2004) for a detailed analysis of this distinction and Cruschina (2010) for modern Sicilian) and a class of null topics are found in OI that are not licensed in MI anymore (see Poletto (2014)). This differential access to the left periphery accounts for at least three different types of movements internal to the DP which can be shown to

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<sup>1</sup> It is my pleasure and my honor to dedicate this article to Luigi Rizzi, whom I owe the best time of my professional life in Geneva many years ago and who remains an unsurpassed source of inspiration as the head of a school of thought.

<sup>2</sup> The idea that there is a parallel between sentential structure and DP structure is rather old and goes back at least to Siloni (1995). Here I will make extensive use of Giusti's (2006), who explicitly assumes a parallel between the DP and the CP structure, though the exact make of all the projections is still to be investigated.

<sup>3</sup> I am aware of the fact that there has been a recent debate concerning the status of the DP as an independent phase or not, but I will keep the idea that DP is indeed a phase, because it can have a thematic grid and because of the well known similarities between the DP and the CP. For a more detailed discussion on this issue see Giusti (2006).

display different properties: a) PP preposing b) pre and postnominal structural genitives c) prenominal appositive adjectives. <sup>4</sup>

In section 1. 2 I summarize some recent work on the DP structure that will be relevant to my analysis of OI.

In section 2 I investigate those scrambling cases in which a PP originated inside the NP is raised to the DP or PP edge that contains it. On the basis of the empirical generalization stating that whenever an object PP is preposed, the definite determiner is never realized, I will propose that the preposed PP is located in the specifier of a DP-peripheral position (probably the highest one corresponding to ForceP in the CP) whose head is usually occupied by the definite determiner, which is not realized if its Specifier is occupied according to an economy principle.

In section 3 I will argue that a) OI still has some residual cases of structural genitive (in contrast to MI) assigned to possessive elements which can occur pre or postverbally depending on the type of possessive and b) it can be shown that at least some head nouns clearly have access to the left periphery of the DP.

In section 4 I investigate another typical feature which distinguishes Old and Modern Italian, namely the fact (as already noted by Thiella (2008)) that restrictive adjectives, which can only be postnominal in Modern Italian, can also occur in prenominal position in Old Italian. I will treat also these cases as movement of the adjective to a left peripheral position, a hypothesis already put forth by Giusti (2006) for the (pragmatically very restricted) Modern Italian cases. This possibility will also be tied to the V2-like property of the OI DP, which allows for movement of the N<sup>o</sup> to the DP internal left periphery.

Giusti (2006) shows that Modern Italian does have an active left periphery as Topic movements of adjectives are indeed possible. However, the basic distinction between the Old and the Modern Italian DP is the same that is well known from work by Benincà (1984) (2006) for the CP layer: it is indeed possible to move XPs to the CP layer both in Modern and Old Italian. Thus, the change from OI to MI is due to the interplay of two specific properties: the first is that the head noun can reach the head to the lowest position in the left periphery, either of the CP or of the DP, while this is not the case in modern Italian, the other is that there are positions in the left periphery that are available to fronting in OI which are not in MI.

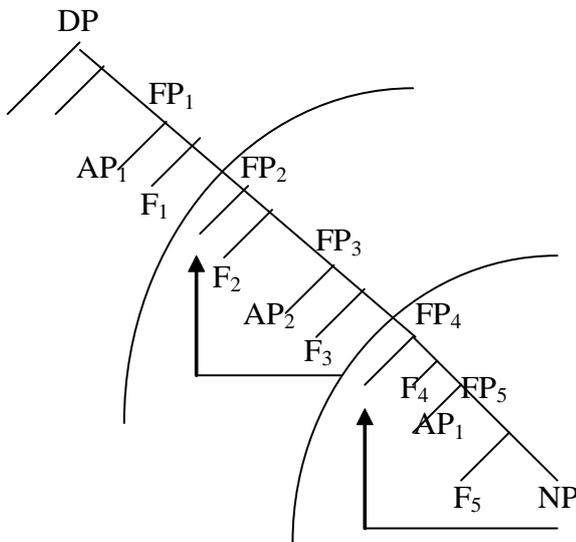
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<sup>4</sup> The empirical basis of this work is provided by a selection of the Opera del Vocabolario (OVI) online corpus <http://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/content/ovi> which only include Bono Giamboni's Libro dei Vizi e della Virtudi, Dante's Vita nuova and the Testi antichi fiorentini del Dugento edited by Schiffini. The reason why I made a selection with respect to the texts present of the OVI data base is that all the examples have been extracted manually as the corpus is not syntactically tagged and this required going through all the texts.

## 1.2 The structure of the DP phase

In recent work Cinque (2005) entertains the hypothesis that the noun movement is to be analyzed as the displacement of the entire NP to all the specifiers of the various functional projections in the IP-like space of the DP<sup>5</sup> or of successively higher XPs into higher specifiers giving rise to what is called “snowballing movement” and thus reversing the order of the adjectives as shown in (1) (see also Laenzlinger, this volume).

(1)



Cinque (2005) observes that in Modern Romance languages, whereas in prenominal position the adjective receives only one interpretation, which corresponds to individual level, non-restrictive and absolute reading, in postnominal position it can have two interpretations: the same of the adjective in prenominal position, or another interpretation, corresponding to stage level, restrictive and relative reading. Cinque (2005) illustrates his claim with examples of the following type:

(2) *Le invisibili stelle di Andromeda sono molto distanti.*

*The invisible stars of Andromeda are very far*

a. ‘Andromeda’s stars are all invisible and very far’

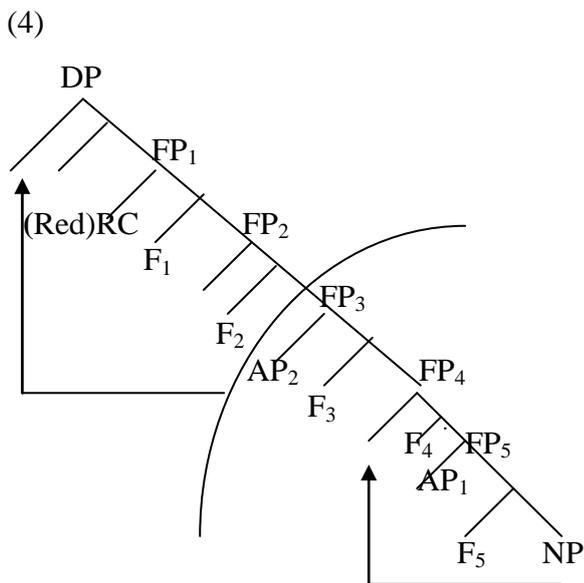
(3) *Le stelle invisibili di Andromeda sono molto distanti.*

*The stars invisible of Andromeda are all far*

<sup>5</sup> I will follow here Giusti (2006), who proposes that the highest projection in the IP-like space of the DP is a NumberP.

- a. ‘Andromeda’s stars are all invisible and very far’
- b. ‘there are some stars of Andromeda’s which are invisible and these are very far’

He further notices that this is the opposite of what we find in English, where restrictive adjectives can only be found in prenominal position. The explanation Cinque (2005) proposes for this difference is illustrated on the basis of the following structure: he starts from the assumption that the order we observe in English, as is generally the case in languages where modifiers precede the head, is the basic order of the adjectives. In Romance restrictive adjectives can only be postnominal because there is movement of the whole FP containing the noun and non restrictive adjectives to the Spec of the highest position in the DP, a movement which leaves the restrictive adjectives, which in their basic order are the highest, as shown by languages like English, in a postnominal position:



In what follows I will claim that this movement does not necessarily apply in OI because of the V2-like property of the Noun.

Giusti (2006) also follows the idea that the CP and DP have similar structures and analyzes prenominal adjectives as movements to a DP internal left periphery. She assumes that Cinque’s hierarchy of the adjectives is universal and can only be violated by A’-movement of an adjective and proposes the following more detailed left periphery of the DP, where the DP position corresponds to Force (and realizes the Case feature), while the lower dP corresponds to FinP in the CP layer and can host the head noun in N initial languages like Albanian. The intermediate

Kon(trastive) position is a Topic-like position where adjectives can be located when they are contrastive:

(5) [ DP Kase [ KonP [ dP Number [AgrP ... [NP]]]]]

Lower than dP there is also an IP-like space with several Agreement projections whose specifiers host adjectives as Cinque (1994) proposes.

Starting from this hypothesis of the internal structure of the DP layer, I will assume that the basic difference between Modern and Old Italian is the same that we find in the CP layer, (modulo the different labelling), namely the V2-like property of the left periphery of each phase. As the inflected verb can raise to the lowest C projection, namely Fin, when it is empty, the N can raise to d. As the inflected verb can also raise to higher positions in the CP, (see Benincà (2006) who shows that the inflected verb can raise up to Topic, creating enclisis of object clitics), there can be cases in which the N does not only raise to d but also higher up to D. This idea thus predicts that when N raises to the lower d or the higher D the corresponding “complementizer” does not occur, as it happens with the inflected verb. Determiners are the most probable counterpart of complementizers in the nominal domain. Like complementizers, they are “multifunctional” in providing the connection to the phase external structure and at the same time providing the “type” of phase (in the case of the DP, the determiner expresses features like referentiality, specificity and also case). I will not be able to justify this assumption in the present work, and I refer to Poletto (2014) for a detailed analysis of the V2-like properties of the DP. What I will concentrate on here are rather the various movements possibilities that can be observed in OI and that are not possible any longer in MI. I will show that:

- a) there are positions in the left periphery of the clause that cannot be realized in modern Italian but can host XPs in OI, as it is the case for the Informational Focus position in the CP layer as proposed by Benincà (2006) for OI and Cruschina (2009) for modern Sicilian. Among the various positions that can be occupied by XP in OI which are blocked in MI, I will concentrate here on the movement of an XP originating inside the DP and moving to the edge of the nominal phase, whose category can either be a DP, a QP or a PP.
- b) The left peripheral type of movement has to be distinguished from non-left peripheral movement inside the DP, which only targets some specific possessive pronouns that can bear a structural case in a position corresponding to the one of the TP in clauses. Also this type of phase-internal movement does not exist anymore in modern Italian.

The internal layering of the OI DP is thus identical to the one of MI and is illustrated in (6a). However in OI additional movements are possible that are not allowed in MI: (6b) illustrates a case of left peripheral movement to the edge of the DP phase and (6c) phase internal movement to a structural case position of possessive pronouns:

(6) a. [DP [SpecDP XP] D° def.det [ KonP [ dP · [AgrP [SpecAgrP [POSS.Pron]].. [NP N° [POSS.Pron] [XP] ]]]]]

b. [DP [SpecDP XP] D° defD [ KonP [ dP [AgrP [SpecAgrP [POSS.Pron]].. [NP N° [POSS.Pron] [~~XP~~] ]..]



c. [DP [SpecDP XP] D° defd. [ KonP [ dP [AgrP [SpecAgrP [POSS.Pron]].. [NP N° [~~POSS.Pron~~] [XP] ]]]]]



In what follows I will first consider cases of (6b) and then cases of (6c).

### 3.1 PP fronting as movement to the DP edge

Old Italian, being an SVO language like modern Italian, generally displays the order head noun-PP:

(7) e a Seleuco, figliuolo d' Antioco, ee data **la signoria dell' oste**. (B. G. Or. 181)  
 and to Seleuco, son of Antioco, had given the command of the army  
 ‘and he had given to Seleuco, son of Antioco, command over the army’

Giorgi (2010) notices that, although this is by far the more widespread option, OI also displays some striking cases of prenominal PPs, which are mainly found in poetry, but also, though more sporadically, in prose. The following examples show the case in point:<sup>6</sup>

(8) a. Fanno di loro gente un capitano c’ha nome Umilità  
 do.3pl of their people a captain that has name humility  
 ‘They elect a captain of their people called Humility’ (VeV 27)

<sup>6</sup> The fact that the definite determiner never appears when PP fronting applies does not necessarily mean that this is the only context in which the definite determiner is not realized in OI. The distribution of definite determiners in OI is rather different from MI, as shown by Thiella (2007) and depends on several semantic and syntactic factors. As for the distribution of indefinite articles, as far as I know nobody has ever investigated this point. If it were the case that also indefinite articles are sometimes null, this would mean that cases like (8c) are not necessarily to be interpreted as definite, but there could also be a null indefinite article. (8c) actually looks like a case in which the DP ‘madre antica’ is definite, but unfortunately this is not always clear for all the examples. Therefore, I leave the problem concerning the definite/indefinite status of DPs with internal PP-fronting open, as it awaits future research on the distribution of indefinite articles.



In the sample I manually abstracted out of the OVI corpus there are cases where the PP precedes an indefinite articles or a quantifier (see above (8a,b)), but no cases of definite determiners (see (8c) and footnote 5). If cases like (8) are to be explained as instances of (6b), here repeated as (10), we still have to explain why (9) holds:

(10) [DP [SpecDP [PP *di dolor*] ] D° defD [ KonP [ dP [AgrP [SpecAgrP ].[*madre*] [ADjP *antica*]] [[NP [~~*madre*~~] [PP-~~*di dolor*~~] ]..]

In (10) the PP *di dolor* ‘of sorrow’ has moved to the highest Spec of the DP phase, the NP containing the head noun *madre* ‘mother’ has moved from its based position to a position higher than the adjective *antica*, ‘old’ which thus ends up in postnominal position.

As for the reason why PP fronting seems incompatible with a definite determiner, I follow the standard assumption that when the SpecD position is occupied, the D° position needs not to be filled (see among others Koopman (1996)).<sup>8</sup> I will treat indefinite determiners in the same way as quantifiers, which never occupy the highest head of the phase, D°. According to Giusti & Leko (2005) there are two possible structures for quantifiers: they can be similar to adjectives, and as such be located in positions lower than d°, or they can work like lexical elements selecting a full DP. However, in no case do quantifiers occupy either the D° position, hence they are perfectly compatible with PP fronting. The same is true of the indefinite article.

One indication that PP fronting targets the edge of the DP phase is provided by the observation that PP fronting is not only compatible with postnominal adjectives (see (8c), but also with prenominal adjectives, and the order is always PP- adjectives- N as shown by the following example:

- (11) a. *di dolor grave e ssoverchio tormento*  
of pain big and overwhelming torment  
‘the torment of a big and overwhelming pain’ Dante (Rime, son. 54, 772)
- b. *coloro che son oggi e che per innanzi nasceranno possano avere verace fede e **di Dio***  
those who are today and who in future will.be.born can have real faith and of God  
**perfetto intendimento**  
perfect understanding

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<sup>8</sup> The other possibility to account for the lack of a definite determiner is to assume that this is due to the parallelism of phases, and being OI a V2 language, then the V2-like property must apply to the DP as well. This means that the lexical Noun can move to the left periphery of the clause, in which case the determiner is not realized.

‘those who live now and those who will be born will be able to have a true faith and a perfect understanding of God’ (*VeV* 69)

Since in these cases the preposed PP is located in front of an adjective:<sup>9</sup>, and since adjectives are the specifiers of FPs located in the IP-like space of the DP, this means that the PP must have been moved higher than this IP-like space inside the DP, namely to the DP-internal left periphery. Thus, the order PP-adjective N suggests that PP fronting is really very high in the structure of the DP namely the edge of the DP projection.<sup>10</sup>

Evidence in favor of a movement analysis of cases like (8) along the lines in (10) is provided by the fact that the phenomenon is also found within PPs: Andreose (2010) notices that OI presents several cases of PP preposing inside complex PPs:

- (12) a. Ballata, i’ voi che tu ritrovi Amore, / e con lui vade **a madonna davante**...  
Ballad I want.1sg that you find.2sg love and with him go.2sg to my-lady before  
‘Ballad, I want that you find Love and with him go before my lady...’ (*VN* 46)
- b. E come fue **a te presso**, così è a tutti coloro che voglion te seguitare...  
and how was to you besides so is to all those that want.3pl you follow.inf  
‘And as it was besides you, so it is besides all those that want to follow you...’  
(*VeV* 99)

Cases like (12) are rather frequent in the corpus and show that the fronting applies also at the edge of a PP: in both (12a) and (12b) there is a so called “lexical” preposition that selects a functional preposition (in both cases *a* ‘at/to’) which embeds the DP. Fronting applies here to the functional P and the DP which are placed in front of the lexical preposition.

Interestingly, when the PP fronts to the edge of the bigger PP containing it, there is no ban against a definite determiner, as (13) shows:

- (13) presso a tre miglia alla cittade  
close to three miles to.the city  
‘three miles close to the city’ (*Pagani* 247)

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<sup>9</sup> Notice that this looks like a real case of PP complement preposing, and this is clearly not a poetic text neither a translation from Latin.

<sup>10</sup> If the definite determiner is similar to the complementizer of inflected clauses, according to Rizzi’s (1997) original proposal, it should be merged in the highest left peripheral position. However, there has been recent work (see among other Ledgeway (2003) (2007)) which shows that the complementizer can be merged lower and be raised. This could also be extended to the definite determiner, however at the moment I have no test to distinguish between the two hypotheses.

This is so, because the PP *presso a tre miglia* ‘three miles away’ has been fronted to the Specifier of the PP whose head is the preposition *a* ‘at/to’ and not to the edge of the DP whose head is *cittade* ‘city’.

A further argument in favor of a movement analysis to the edge of the DP phase is provided by examples like the following, where the object PP has moved further on out of the DP into the clausal spine. Also cases like the following are ungrammatical in MI:

- (14) E delle genti del mondo quietare una parte  
 and of.the people of.the world calm,inf one part  
 ‘And to calm one part of the people of the world’ (*VeV* 78)

This shows that it is indeed possible to move the PP, actually the DP-internal movement most probably constitutes a preliminary step feeding the subsequent movement into the left periphery of the clause.

One more interesting argument is constituted by the fact that preposed PPs can have an indefinite article or a quantifier and the preposed PP is always located in front of them, showing that the movement is really to the edge of the whole phase, which also includes the QP:

- (15) Chi d’infamia d’alcuna macula si sozza  
 who of infamy of any spot himself gets.dirty  
 ‘who becomes dirty of any blemish of infamy’ (*VeV* 29)
- b. appresso la morte di questa donna alquanti die avvenne cosa...<sup>11</sup>  
 after the death of this woman several days happened.3sg thing  
 ‘several days after the death of this woman it happened that...’ (*VN* 33)
- c. Dipo’ la distruzione di Troia anni CCCCXIV  
 after the distruction of T. years 414  
 ‘414 years after the destruction of Troy’ (*Pagani* 72)

In (15a) the PP is preposed in front of the quantified nominal expression ‘alcuna macula’, but since the verb *sozzare* requires a genitive, i.e. a DP introduced by the preposition *di*, the fronted PP ends up in the edge of the phase, hence in front of the preposition *di*.

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<sup>11</sup> I report this example from Andreose (2010:623) who notices that the phenomenon of PP preposing is found inside DPs indicating a time interval. He does not explicitly say that all these cases include a quantifier, but this is always the case.

On this basis I conclude that OI has movement of a DP internal PP to the edge of the nominal phase, which is the SpecD, SPecQP or the SpecPP position, which explains why in these cases no definite determiner occurs, why the PP occurs on the left side of all other prenominal DP internal elements like adjectives. Furthermore, the fact that the edge of the nominal phase is available to PP fronting allows for further extraction of the PP inside the clausal spine.<sup>12</sup>

### 3. Movement to the IP-like space

Still starting from the general view that nominal expressions and clauses have similar structures, one might wonder whether OI is different from MI also with respect to movement in the IP-like space of the clause. One other striking case of DP-internal preposing of genitive pronouns is the one noted by Vanelli (2010) exemplified here by the following sentences:<sup>13</sup>

- (16) a. Al costui tempo  
to.the of.whom time  
'In his time' (CF 90)
- b. la colui vittoria  
the him.there victory  
'his victory' (Ligario 181)

Cases of this type are completely impossible in MI, where a postnominal PP introduced by the preposition *di* 'of' must be used yielding "al tempo di costui". In OI the possessive complement *di costui* is preposed to the noun, and the preposition *di* disappears. Evidently, this construction cannot be assimilated to PP fronting examined in section 2 for the following reasons: a) in PP fronting there is no deletion of the preposition b) all types of prepositions can be fronted, not only elements introduced by *di* b) in this case there is clearly no incompatibility with the definite determiner, which appears on the left of the moved possessive pronoun, contrary to what happens for PP fronting.

Hence, if this is not PP fronting to the edge of the DP what is it then? I surmise that this construction represents an instance of structural case assignment where genitive is assigned in a

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<sup>12</sup> The distinction between MI and OI is not directly related to the possibility to move the N to the left periphery of the clause, but to the fact that, being OI a V2-like language, some left peripheral positions that are not available in MI are still active in OI, as is the case for informational Focus in the CP layer (see Benincà (2006), Poletto (2014)).

<sup>13</sup> The prenominal position is not the only one with an element like *costui*, on the contrary this position is rather limited in relation to the postnominal one. However, what is interesting here is that the possibility of having *costui* in prenominal position exists, while it does not in modern Italian.

dedicated position in the structure similar to Saxon genitive in English. The possessive is moved to SpecPossessive (a position already identified by Giusti (2006) and Stavrou (2008) on the basis of other languages). PossessiveP is similar to TP in being a structural case assigner, though it does not assign nominative but genitive. That a residue of genitive is found with pronouns is expected, as pronouns are generally those elements which can still display case even in languages that have lost it on DPs.

In this case the movement of *costui/colui* is not to the left periphery of the DP, but to a dedicated genitive position located in the IP-like space of the DP and similar to SpecT for the subject of tensed clauses. If this type of movement is to a Genitive case checking position, then the structure corresponding to (16) is the one in (17):

(17) [DP [D° il] [TopicP...[OpP ] [ dP [PossP [DP *costui*]...[AgrP tempo [NP [N ~~tempo~~ [DP ~~costui~~]] ]]]]]]

This analysis also provides us with the means to capture further cases of structural genitive which do not only concern pronouns that were originally noted by Longobardi (1991) and that are also found in the OVI corpus: <sup>14</sup>

- (18) a. in casa i Frescobaldi  
in home the F.  
‘in Frescobaldis’ home’ (*GVillani* b77)
- b. In casa gl’Orciolini  
in home the O.  
‘In Orciolinis’ home’ (*CF* 126)

This type of construction is not identical to (16), as it only occurs with a definite set of head nouns. Furthermore, with the N *casa* there is no definite determiner and the head noun precedes the structural genitive. Following Longobardi (1991), <sup>15</sup> I propose that these cases are similar to construct state nominals, where there is movement of the possessive DP *gli Orciolini* to the SpecPoss position and movement of the head noun *casa* to D°, as the absence of the determiner indicates, thus bypassing its structural genitive DP. The derivation is illustrated in (19):

<sup>14</sup> There are examples of this construction with *casa* with the prepositions *da*, ‘from’ *di*, ‘of’ *a*, ‘to/at’ *in*, ‘in’.

<sup>15</sup> This is also the view accepted by Renzi (2010) and Thiella (2008), who shows that in Old Venetian the name *barca* ‘boat’ behaves the same. Moreover, they all notice that *casa* is representative of a small class of geographical nouns which all share the same structural property of being able to move to D. Given that this only concerns a small class, while I am rather concerned with the ‘standard’ DP-internal movements, I will leave this topic aside and refer to the literature mentioned above for further details.

(19) [DP [casa] [TopicP.[OpP ] [ dP [AgrP [DP gli Orciolini]...[AgrP casa [NP [N casa [DP ~~gli Orciolini]] ]]]]]~~

The distinction between real construct state cases like (18) and cases like (16) does not reside in the movement of the possessive element, but in the movement of the head noun, which remains below SpecPossP in (16) but raises to D° in (18). As for the reason why only the noun *casa* (and a handful of other geographical nouns) has this special properties, see Longobardi (1991), who notices that this phenomenon of raising to the D° position is not only found in OI, but is rather general in Romance with various degrees of grammaticalization of the N corresponding to English ‘home’ (for instance in French has moved even further and has become the locative preposition *chez*).

Our rather detailed left periphery of the DP also captures further cases which lay in between the simple case in (16) where only the possessive raises to SpecPoss and the construct state cases where also the head noun raises to D°.

Andreose (2010) reports further cases of lack of the preposition *di* (i.e. of structural genitive) which appear with intrinsically relational nouns like kinship nouns:

- (20) a. La figliola Guidi Tinaçi d’Aliana...  
the daughter Guido T. of A.  
‘The daughter of Guido Tinazzi of Agliana...’ (*Streda* 221)
- b. le rede Guiglelmo Gitti...  
the heirs Guglielmo Gitti  
‘the heirs of G.G.’ (*Streda* 243)

Cases like those in (20) look like a “mixed construction” because the structural genitive occurs after the head noun as in construct state but there is a definite determiner like in (16) and unlike in (18). Also these cases can straightforwardly be analyzed by assuming a split left periphery of the DP on the basis of Giusti (2006): here the relational noun has moved to the left periphery of the DP, but not as high as the definite determiner, but only to the lower d° position, as illustrated in (21):

(21) [DP [la] [TopicP.[OpP ] [ dP [figliola] [PossP [DP Guidi Tinaci d’Aliana]...[AgrP ~~figliola~~ [NP [N ~~figliola~~ [DP ~~Guidi Tinaci d’Aliana]] ]]]]]~~

These cases clearly show that the head noun in OI can move to the left periphery of the DP according to the assumption that the V2-like property is established in OI across phases. One further interesting generalization that comes from this small overview of the different movement properties of different head nouns is that the SpecPoss position seems to be available only to pronouns when the head noun remains below PossP, while it is also available to DPs containing a proper noun (all the examples I found in the corpus have a proper noun as possessor) when the head noun is intrinsically relational. The reason why structural genitive can be either pre or postnominal is due to the independent V2-like property that the OI DP displays.

#### 4. Prenominal restrictive adjectives

If we now turn to the order of adjectives, we see that there are several differences between OI and MI which suggest that OI allows for movements of adjectives to the left peripheral DP area that are now excluded in MI. In the previous sections we have seen that:

- a) the edge of the DP is available to PP fronting
- b) the SpecPoss position assigns structural case thus preventing the realization of the preposition *di*.
- c) In some cases the head noun moves to the left periphery of the DP bypassing a structural genitive.

Here I will argue that the prenominal adjectives found in OI that are impossible in MI are also instances of movement to the left periphery of the DP, namely to a Topic or Operator-like position (illustrated in (25) as OpP) between  $D^\circ$  and  $d^\circ$ .

A well known feature of Old Italian with respect to Modern Italian (see Thiella (2008)) is the fact that prenominal adjectives can have a restrictive interpretation in OI, while in Modern Italian prenominal adjectives can only be appositive (see section 1.2 where Cinque's analysis of this phenomenon is presented). This phenomenon is represented in (22) and (23), which are all ungrammatical in Modern Italian:

- (22) a. S'era svegliato nel destrutto cuore  
 refl was awaken in.the ruined heart  
 'It arose in the in the painful heart' (VN 141)
- b. avendo per anticho tempo grande nimistade  
 having for old time great enmity  
 'being enemies from old times' (CF 97)
- c. di vendichare la ricievuta onta

to *avenge.inf* the received shame

‘to *avenge* the shame received’ (Distruzione di Troia 164)

Cases like the ones above are extremely frequent, but we also find cases of modified or coordinated adjectives with an interpretation that is impossible in Modern Italian: the examples in (23) illustrate cases of prenominal coordinated adjectives that are ungrammatical in Modern Italian, (24) cases of modified adjectives:

(23) a. Uno gentile e potente uomo

a noble and powerful man

‘A noble and powerful man’ (CF 85)

b. Di là da mare rei e pericolosi passi

of there from sea guilty and dangerous passages

‘bad and dangerous passages on the other shore of the sea’ (VeV 100) Di là da mare

(24) a. domandò se avesse più care pietre

asked.3sg if had.subj.3sg more valuable stones

‘asked whether he had more precious stones’ (Nov. I, 123)

E avessimi posto in più oscuro e salvatico luogo

and had.2sg-me placed in more obscure and savage place

‘and placed me in a more unknown and savage country’ (VeV 4)

The analysis I intend to put forward here still derives from the same property that explains why OI allows for PP fronting and for postnominal structural genitives, namely the V2-like property, which can be split into two phenomena: a) the possibility to have N raising to the left periphery of the DP b) the possibility to reach left peripheral Specifier positions that are frozen in MI.

Recall that Cinque’s analysis of Modern Italian places restrictive adjectives in the highest position in the IP-like space of the DP internal structure, as their order with respect to other adjectives in the Germanic languages attests. The fact that in Italian the highest adjectives can only occur postnominally, while lower non-restrictive adjectives can occur both pre and postnominally is an “optic” effect due to movement of the whole big FP containing the NP and the lower non restrictive adjectives to the SpecD position, thus crossing restrictive adjectives, which thus surface in postnominal position. If the reason why in MI the highest adjectives appear to occur lower is that there is obligatory FP movement to the highest Spec, then the reason why in OI highest adjective

actually occur higher than lower ones must be due to the lack of the complex FP movement to SpecD, which in turn must be banned because of general properties which distinguish OI from MI. I claim that this general property is the V2-like property itself: i.e. if the head noun can raise to the left periphery, then there is no need to pied-pipe the whole FP to SpecD. The distinction between Old and Modern Italian is thus due to the fact that in OI the head noun can raise at least to the  $d^{\circ}$  position when  $d^{\circ}$  is empty, thus preventing movement of the whole FP (including the head noun) to its specifier.

The V2-like property of the OI DP also allows for restrictive adjectives to move to the internal left periphery, thus yielding the prenominal order of the restrictive adjective. Cases like the one above are thus to be analyzed as follows:<sup>16</sup>

(25) [DP [D<sup>o</sup>.il ] [. TopP.[distru<sup>to</sup>] [OpP ] [ dP cuore [AgrP cuore... [NP [N cuore ] ]]]]]

An argument in favour of a leftward movement analysis of the adjective is the fact that in some cases the adjective has a PP complement which is left stranded on the right side of the head noun:

- (26) a. Se io pensava di volere cercare una comune via di costoro  
 if I thought.1sg of want.inf look.for.inf a common way of them  
 ‘If I thought about finding a common way with them’ (VN 53)
- b. e ciò non è propria natura di cavallo  
 and this not is own nature of horse  
 ‘and this is not in a horse’s nature’ (Nov. II, 128)

In this case the adjective *comune* ‘common’ is on the left of the head noun *via* ‘way’ but its complement ‘of them’ is on the right of the head noun. The phrase cannot be interpreted other than ‘a way common to them’. The same is true in (26b), where ‘own’ can only be interpreted as taking the PP *di cavallo* ‘of horse’ as its complement as it is clear from the context.

Notice furthermore that OI also has the possibility to extract the moved XP to a higher CP-left peripheral position, a possibility that is clearly tied to the one of DP-internal movement, because subextraction is also banned in Modern Italian:

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<sup>16</sup> Here I adopt the analysis of Romance V2 as proposed in Poletto (2002) and Poletto (2014) where the lexical head moves up to the lowest projection in the left periphery (in this case  $d^{\circ}$ ), but Topics can be realized in TopicP without the need to be in a Spec-head relation with the lexical head. This allows to explain the cases of V3 and V4 where several topics appear in front of the inflected verb in the CP, which is what distinguishes Romance V2-like structures from the proper V2 of the Germanic languages.

- (27) a. **Molto** fue cotesto a dire grande ardimento  
 very was this to say.inf big courage  
 ‘It was very great courage to say that’ (VeV 99)
- b. **Molto** sono male partiti  
 very are badly separated  
 ‘They are sorted very badly’ (VeV 44)
- c. **Molto** fece il re Pelleus grande festa al nepote  
 very made.3sg the king P. big feast to.the nephew  
 ‘The king P. made a very big feast for the nephew’ (Distruzione di Troia 157)

The cases presented in (27) can only be interpreted if we assume that the modifier marked in bold is to be interpreted with the following adjective. Notice furthermore that these cases are not only found with copular constructions, but also with other verbs (as in (27c)).

Further cases of extraction of modifiers from the DP are those like the one reported in (28), where the modifier *solamente* ‘only’ modifies the PP *co le pettora de’ nostri cavalli* ‘with the breasts of our horses’, showing that there had to be left peripheral movement internal to the DP (or PP) in order to allow for further extraction, which is no longer possible in Italian.

- (28) a. **Che** *solamente* vi faremo cadere co le pettora de’ nostri cavalli  
 that only you will.make fall.inf with the breasts of our horses  
 ‘We will overthrow you with only the chests of our horses’ (VeV 96)

Moreover, given that cases of prenominal restrictive adjectives can be combined with the definite determiner, as minimal pairs like the following one display, I will not assume the same analysis I put forth for cases of PP preposing, which are incompatible with the definite determiner, thus suggesting movement of the PP/AdjP to the highest SpecD position, but movement to a lower position located in the Topic space of the DP-internal left periphery. The following examples constitute a minimal pair which shows that the movement of the adjective is compatible with a definite determiner but can also occur without it:

- (29) a. **Quella** c ha i piue ricchi fedeli  
 that which has the more rich believers  
 ‘The one that has the richer believers’ (VeV 39)
- b. E aveva più ricchi fedeli

and had.3sg more rich believers  
'And had the richer believers' (VeV 40)

The examples discussed above, which shows that a) restrictive adjectives can be prenominal and that b) it is possible to further extract modifiers into the CP, support the idea that the internal left periphery of the DP allows for movements in OI that are banned in Modern Italian, like it is the case in the CP and vP layers.

Hence, we can conclude that there is actually no difference in the basic positioning of the adjectives between Old and Modern Italian in the IP-like space of the DP internal structure, as expected in Cinque's theory; the only difference between OI and MI is that the left periphery of OI can attract adjectives to a position where they maintain their restrictive reading, while this is not the case in Modern Italian.

## 5. Conclusion

In this work I have shown that some scrambling phenomena found in the DP area in OI can be analyzed in a way parallel to V2 in the CP phase. We have seen that there are at least four types of movements in the DP area that have gone lost:

- a) the movement of a PP or to the highest position in the DP yielding scrambling as well as the non occurrence of a definite determiner
- b) the movement of a genitive phrase to a specifier located most probably in the IP-like area of the DP, a position which licenses genitive case and thus prevents the occurrence of the preposition *di* 'of'.
- c) The head noun to the left periphery of the DP bypassing the structural genitive position.
- d) Adjectives (or portions of the adjectival structure) can move to a left peripheral position lower than SpecDP which keep their original interpretation and can be either restrictive or non restrictive.

All these movements have disappeared in modern Italian. I hypothesize that the reason for the loss of (a, c) is unique and is related to the V2-like property of the left periphery of the DP.

The reason why structural genitive has disappeared is not related to V2 per se, but the reason why structural genitive can be postnominal in OI directly depends on the possibility to move the head noun to the left periphery of the DP.

The reason why in OI restrictive adjectives can remain in a prenominal position avoiding "snowballing" movement of an XP including the noun and non restrictive adjectives as assumed by

Cinque (2005) for MI is that snowballing is blocked by the ‘alternative’ V2-like movement of the head noun in OI which allows for N to d.

This analysis has the general consequence that it does not require to postulate that languages like OI have two different grammars and explains the cases of reordering found at different levels of the DP structure like cases of movement which can be reduced to one single property of the language, namely the V2-like property, which is active at other phase edges as well.

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