



Romantic and Germanic elements in the position of clitics in Cimbrian

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During the last decenny, Cimbrian became a frequently discussed object of research of theoretical linguistics as it is a variety of Germanic origin on which, however, Romanic varieties have had a strong impact for almost a millennium. Nowadays, Cimbrian is still spoken in northeastern Italy, particularly in the village Luserna (Cimbrian: Lusérn) in southern Trentino.

The results of the aforementioned linguistic research highlight that Cimbrian developed special syntactic phenomena indicating closeness to Romanic syntax which is limited by the fact that the basis is Germanic. An example of this statement would be: In Cimbrian, there are clitic personal pronouns, but only enclitic ones, as in the following sentence:

(1) *Der Tatta hat-se gekoaft.*

(2) * *Der Tatta se hat gekoaft.*

“Dad bought them.”

Proclitic personal pronouns could not develop because Verb-second word order is not an absolute rule in Cimbrian, as the following example shows:

(3) *Haiite die Mome hat gekoaft die Öala in die buteghe.*

“Today mom bought the eggs in the store.”

Nevertheless, Wackernagel’s law is still active which means that the finite verb is not in a typically Romanic position either. Another cause for the absence of proclitic personal pronouns can be seen in the lack of participle agreement; Germanic languages do not feature participle agreement in general.

A less considered aspect of Cimbrian syntax is the phenomenology of conjunctions introducing subordinate clauses; the influence of Romanic varieties cannot only be seen by conjunctions like *ke* “that” obviously borrowed from Romanic, but also by the Romanic word order caused by the latter. However, Cimbrian also shows composed conjunctions with one Romanic and one Germanic element, like *intânto az* (Italian *intanto* “meanwhile”, *intanto che* “while”). I would like to investigate the structure of subordinate clauses caused by such conjunctions and also the use of their “completely Italian” correspondents (like *intanto che*) in Cimbrian

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