Peripheries in Zaar Intonation Structure
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When annotating authentic corpora, the role of peripheries in Information Structure (IS) is one of the main issues to be addressed. The left periphery (LP) is the preamble (Morel & Danon-Boileau 1998) and the right periphery (RP) is the post-rheme. In Zaar, a West-Chadic language spoken in Nigeria, they are identified as intonations units separated from the rheme (or assertive core) by an intonation boundary (pause, pitch reset, etc.). The notions of Focus and Topic and focus become pertinent when a 'chunk' is identified as a Left-Periphery intonation unit, outside the assertive score, and its IS status needs to be decided.

The phenomena are analysed according to the principle that focus and topic are to be apprehended as the results of specific linguistic structures (i.e. focusing and topicalising). They are studied "from the bottom up", NOT as the manifestation of extra-linguistic concepts such as given/new. In Zaar, the preamble is where topic and focus operate, with or without contrast. The post-rheme is where afterthoughts and major illocutionary functions (e.g. questions, exclamations, etc.) are expressed.

The paper explores the results of the study of these phenomena in Zaar, presenting how the IS has been annotated in Elan, and a typology of the different peripheries. The study is based on the annotation of a 90mn spontaneous oral corpus produced for the CorpAfroAs and Cortypo projects.

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