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## Peripheral fragments in discourse

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A recent approach to the syntax of dislocation constructions (Ott 2014, 2016) analyzes dislocated constituents as elliptical root clauses, juxtaposed in discourse with their non-elliptical ‘host’ clause:

- (1) a. [dem PETER ~~vertraue ich~~] [dem vertraue ich]  
b. [dem vertraue ich] [dem Peter ~~vertraue ich~~]  
c. [ich vertraue nur einem] [dem PETER ~~vertraue ich~~]

I argue that the ellipsis approach to dislocation paves the way for a principled explanation of the interpretation of dislocated elements in discourse. Left-dislocated XPs are interpreted as contrastive topics, whereas right-dislocated constituents are either discourse-old or focal. This generalization can be explained, I argue, by explicating the relation dislocated elements, *qua* ellipsis fragments, bear to explicit or implicit Questions Under Discussion (QUDs), in line with some recent work on fragments (Reich 2007, Weir 2014).

In focal right-dislocation (1c), the right-peripheral fragment responds to an accommodated QUD raised by the indefinite correlate (*Who do you trust?* in (1c)). Right-dislocated discourse-old material (1b) similarly responds to an implicit clarification question, however in this case one that is considered resolved by the speaker, leading to the suppression of a focal pitch accent. Finally, left-dislocation is argued to be a means of triggering accommodation of a *subquestion* of the QUD. For instance, (1a) could be uttered in the context of the QUD *Who do you trust?*; the left-juxtaposed fragment then indicates that the host clause is going to address the subquestion *Do you trust Peter?*. The approach derives the fact that only left-peripheral fragments can be contrastive, whereas only right-peripheral fragments can be focal.

**References:** • Ott, D. 2014. LI 45. • Ott, D. 2016. Glossa 1. • Reich 2007. In Schwabe & Winkler, On information structure, meaning, and form. • Weir, A. 2014. Fragments and clausal ellipsis. UMass dissertation.