
Evaluative pronominal possessives in Spanish

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In this talk, the semantic and syntactic properties of Spanish evaluative pronominal possessives (i.e. the affective possessive preceding a proper name (1a), the so-called emphatic possessive (1b), and the possessive in the Old and American Spanish doubled possessive construction (1c)) are thoroughly described, and compared with those of canonical pronominal possessives (2).

- (1) a. (Mi) Juan me quiere mucho
my John me loves a lot
b. Todos los días me bebo una/mi cervecita
all the days CL have a/my beer-DIM
c. Yo trabajaba aquí con la/su mamá de él
I worked here with the/his mum of he
- (2) Su foto es muy bonita.
his/her/their picture is very nice

It is proposed that Spanish evaluative possessives, in contrast to canonical pronominal possessives, do not originate as nominal modifiers, and then raise to D (3a), but are all directly merged in the DP-domain (3b), which captures the fact that affective, emphatic and doubling possessives just evaluate the relation between the possessed noun and the possessor, and are not interpreted as complements of the noun.

- (3) a. $[_{DP} [_D \text{ POSS}_i] [_{NP} N t_i]]$ (canonical possessives)
b. $[_{DP} \text{ POSS } [_{NP} N]]$ (evaluative possessives)

In order to account for their (partially) different distribution (1), it is further argued that affective, emphatic and doubling possessives are generated in different structural positions within the DP domain.