This talk aims to contribute to the understanding of the right periphery, focusing on Right Dislocation (RD) and to argue that RD is not a uniform phenomenon. The right periphery remains comparatively unexplored, whereas the left periphery has been paid much attention in syntactic theories. Various asymmetric behaviors between pre- vs. post-verbal positions are observed. There is an interesting asymmetry between the pre- vs. post-verbal positions, with respect to extraction. Extraction is allowed out of an embedded CP in a pre-verbal position, but not out of a RD position, as shown in the following example in (1):

\begin{align*}
(1) \quad & * \text{[Ciswu-eykey]}_i \text{ na-mun } t_j \text{ sayngkakhanta } [\text{Yusu-ka } t_i \text{ insahaysstako}]_j \\
& \quad C-\text{DAT}_i \quad I-\text{TOP}_j \quad \text{think} \quad \text{/Y.-NOM}_i \quad t_j \quad \text{greeted} \\
& \quad \text{‘I think Yusu greeted Ciswu.’}
\end{align*}

Under this proposal, rightward movement is triggered by a head c above the C which types the clause such as a declarative or question marker. The head c hosts a focus or topic which scopes over the proposition. The head c triggers the rightward movement of an argument in RDC, where the appendix argument specifically clarify the meaning of the root proposition. It seems quite clear that these investigations can contribute to the research proposed by Rizzi (1997) on the universal properties and possible variations in the left/right periphery. Overall, the conclusion drawn in this paper implies that the right periphery is not merely parallel to the left periphery. Still many questions need to be asked regarding the right periphery. This issue gives an attention of language universals and variations in each periphery.

References:

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