

On silent PLACE in a variety of Spanish
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In this paper, we consider Kayne's (2005) proposal for the existence of the silent/null noun PLACE and argue that it is present in locative constructions of the type "en lo de X" ('at X's') in Argentinean Spanish. In addition, we extend earlier work by Terzi (2010) on locative prepositions, which postulates the existence of a silent noun PLACE in Spanish to the analysis of these constructions. We show that Kayne's (2005) proposed silent noun PLACE and Terzi's (2010) analysis of locative prepositions in Spanish together with an analysis of neuter "lo" as a determiner can be combined to account for the syntax, distribution and interpretation possibilities available in these constructions in this variety of Spanish.

Revisiting data from Bernstein (1997) on non-standard English, Kayne (2005) observes the similarities between (1a) and (1b) and between (2a) and (2b), where the (b) sentences come from nonstandard English.

- (1) a. It's been here for a long time b. It's been in this here place for a long time
(2) a. It's been there for a long time b. It's been in that there place for a long time

Kayne (2005:67) proposes that "locative 'here' and 'there' are parallel to 'this here place' and 'that there place' except that locative 'here' and 'there' have an unpronounced counterpart of 'place' and an unpronounced determiner instead of 'this' and 'that'."

In sentences such as (3a), Kayne (2005) also proposes that there is a silent noun PLACE, as shown in (3b) and that PLACE must raise, as shown in (3c).

- (3) a. We'll be over at John's tonight
 b. We'll be over at John's PLACE tonight c. We'll be over at PLACE_i John's t_i

The ungrammaticality of (4a) is attributed by Kayne (2005) to the impossibility for PLACE in (4b) to move higher up due to the presence of "hers/theirs" which occupy the higher SPEC position onto which PLACE would have moved.

- (4) a. * We'll be over at hers/theirs tonight b.* We'll be over at hers/theirs PLACE tonight

In this paper, we investigate constructions such as (5a) below in Argentinean Spanish which are equivalent to (3a) in English but which are formed with the neuter determiner "lo" followed by a PP headed by the preposition "de" ('of'). Interestingly, the equivalent of (4a) in this variety of Spanish is (6) and is degraded. This sentence favors an interpretation that could be paraphrased as: "let's discuss his issues/ the things that have to do with him", similar to the meaning of (7). Following Kayne (2005), we will argue that (6) is degraded under the locative reading because PLACE is unable to raise in this structure.

- (5) a. Vamos a lo de Juan esta noche. *Let's go to Juan's house tonight*
 b. Vamos a lo PLACE de Juan esta noche
(6) ? Vamos a lo de él esta noche
(7) Vamos a discutir lo de él. *Let's discuss his things/issues*

In addition to postulating a silent noun PLACE, Kayne proposes that when PLACE is present, a locative adposition must also be present in order to license the right interpretation. This is predicted in these constructions in Spanish, as well, which contain a locative preposition (*en/a/hacia*) as we see in (8) below.

- (8) a. Estoy en lo de Juan c.f. Leí lo de Juan (non-locative interpretation)
 b. Vamos a/hacia lo de Juan c.f. Me contaron lo de Juan (non-locative interpretation)

Constructions with prepositions which have both a locative and a non-locative meaning should both be allowed in these constructions, with differing interpretations. Such is the case with “por” (‘for’) and “para” (‘for’) as we can see in the contrasts in (9) and (10) respectively.

- (9) a. Voy a pasar por lo de Juan para buscar mis cosas . (locative)
 b. Se dejaron de hablar por lo de Juan. (non-locative)
- (10) a. Me voy para lo de Juan, me está esperando. (locative)
 b. Voy a preparar la torta para lo de Juan (non-locative)

As predicted, with the prepositions “con” and “sin” as in (13) no locative interpretation can be construed.

- (13) a. Con lo de Juan, llegaremos a juntar el dinero que necesitamos
 b. Sin lo de Juan, no llegaremos a juntar el dinero que necesitamos

In this paper, we analyze the structure “locative preposition + lo + de X” in Argentinean Spanish and propose that it is parallel to the structure “in this/that here/there place” in (1b) and (2b) in non-standard English proposed by Kayne. We adopt Terzi’s (2010:210) analysis of locative prepositions given in (14) for the phrase “en su oficina” and extend it to the analysis of the constructions under study.

- (14) [PPLoc [PLoc en [DP [D Ø [AgrP su oficina [QP/NP PLACE]]]]]]

We propose that the neuter determiner “lo” is the equivalent of “this/that” in the examples in (1b) and (2b) and is under D and that the silent noun PLACE is present in the structure. The structure we propose for “a lo de Juan” in (5a) is given in (15) below.

- (15) . . . [PPLoc [PLoc a [DP [D lo [AgrP [NP PLACE de Juan]]]]]]

In addition, this analysis also sheds light on our understanding of the multiple nature of the neuter “lo” in Spanish.

References: Bernstein, Judy (1997) “Demonstratives and Reinforcers in Romance and Germanic Languages,” *Lingua* 102, 87–113. --- Kayne, Richard (2005) “Here and There” in Kayne, R. (2005) *Movement and Silence*. Oxford, Oxford University Press. --- Terzi, Arhonto (2010) “Locative Prepositions and Place” in Cinque, Guglielmo and Luigi Rizzi (eds.) *Mapping Spatial PPs: The Cartography of Syntactic Structures*, Volume 6 (Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax) 2nd Edition. Oxford, Oxford University Press.