

The Department of Linguistics & TESOL at UT Arlington: Colloquium

Dr. Jim McCloskey

University of California, Santa Cruz

Lightest to the Right: An Anomalous Displacement in Irish

**Joint work with Ryan Bennett (UCSC) and
Emily Elfner (McGill University)**

Abstract

This talk examines a process in Irish which, counter to typological expectation, displaces weak object pronouns (the smallest and weakest words in the language) to the right edge. It examines some purely syntactic accounts of the displacement and argues that they are wrong, or at best incomplete. It also examines the possible influence on the process of constraints on the organization of discourse information and concludes that there are none. The process seems in fact to have a prosodic basis or a prosodic aspect. Therefore the larger theoretical and analytic task becomes that of understanding the interplay between syntactic and prosodic factors in determining the order of constituents.

Friday, February 17, 2012

3:00pm - 4:30pm, Chemistry and Physics Building Room 303