

PROCLISIS AND ENCLISIS OF OBJECT PRONOUNS AT THE TURN OF THE 17TH CENTURY:

THE SPEECH OF THE FUTURE LOUIS XIIITH.*

Paul Hirschbühler et Marie Labelle

Université d'Ottawa and Université du Québec à Montréal

1. *Introduction*

The *Journal de Jean Héroard* (Foisil 1989) gives us an idea of some aspects of the language spoken at the turn of the 17th century thanks to transcriptions of the speech of the child who would become Louis XIII. Louis XIII was born in september 1601; during his first years of life, Jean Héroard, who was his appointed doctor, made a record of his development and, what is particularly interesting for us, transcribed almost phonetically an important number of utterances proffered by the child from the moment he started to speak to around his 12th birthday. After that, transcriptions are less numerous and are less clearly exact renditions of the child's speech. Given characteristics of several varieties of current spoken French, other early renditions of the spoken language (e.g. around 1830, those of Henry Monnier (1799-1877)) as well as what is known of the development of French by children, we consider the data collected by Héroard as a trustworthy rendition, as far as the aspects of syntax discussed here are concerned. The data is fascinating because it is very similar to that of normally developing French-speaking children. In

* This work has been funded by grant 410-2001-0456 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. We would like to thank two anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments.

this article, we study the relative position of object clitics and the verb in this corpus, focusing on the variation between preverbal and postverbal position of the clitics. We assume that the variation reflects grammars in competition, in the spirit of Kroch (2000) and Lightfoot (1999). The data is discussed in the light of the evolution of French clitic placement, showing that it reflects a combination of changes in clause structure and of changes in the grammar of clitics themselves. We focus on imperatives, paying special attention to coordinated positive imperatives and to negative imperatives.

2. *Positive imperatives*

2.1. **The general rule**

The first examples of simple positive imperatives with clitics are found when the child was 2;08. As can be seen in (1), clitics are postverbal, following the general rule for imperatives throughout the history of French. (In the examples, the relevant verbs are in bold and the clitics in bold italics; other relevant elements are underlined.)

(1) a. **Alé** ***vous en*** Moucheu Eouä. (2:08; June 1604, p. 486)

‘Go away, Mister Héroard.’

b. **Assisé** ***moy*** enco (2:08; June 1604, p. 490)

‘Sit me again.’

c. **Amené** ***le amené*** ***le*** que je le voie (2:08; June 1604, p. 490)

‘Bring him, bring him that I see him.’

This word order in imperatives goes back to early Old French. Early Old French, as Old Romance in general, was subject to the so-called “Tobler-Mussafia law” (TM), according to which objects clitics are preverbal everywhere except when this would place them in clause initial position. The constraint held for all clause types, as illustrated in (2) and (3).

(2) a. **Pursiu les**, senz doute les prendras, sis ociras.’

‘Chase them, without doubt you will catch them, and kill them.’ (QLR:58,8 in Kok:84)

b. **Vint s’en** al tabernacle;

‘[She] went to the tabernacle’ (QLR I,9)

c. **Conois la** tu?”

‘Do you know her?’ (Queste:112,17 in de Kok:82)

(3) a. Un vaissel nuvel **me portéz é sél m’i metéz**

‘Bring me a new dish and put salt in it for me.’ (QLR:176,20 in de Kok:78)

b. Allez **en est** en un verger suz l’ombre.

‘He went into a garden, into the shade.’ (Roland:11)

c. Sire, (...) ensi **vous avint** il?

‘Sire, (...) did it happen to you so?’ (Merlin II 46 in Skårup:161)

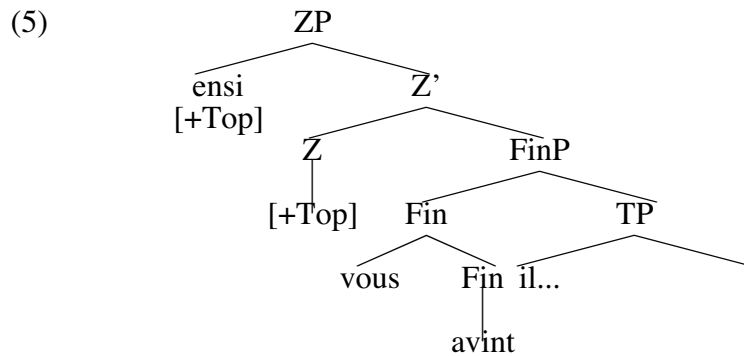
In earlier work, we showed that these facts can be accounted for by an Optimality Theory (OT) type constraint on clitics such as that given in (4b) (cf. Hirschbühler & Labelle 2000, 2001, Labelle & Hirschbühler 2001), viewed as one of a series of OT ranked violable constraints (4). In a nutshell, (4) places clitics to the left of the verb unless that would place them in clause initial position.

- (4) a. {cl, [+T]} (clitics adjoined to finite V)
 b. NONINITIAL (cl, CP) (clitics noninitial in CP)
 c. LEFTMOST (cl, CP) (clitics as far left as possible)
 Ranking : (a) >> (b) >> (c) ('>>' = dominates)

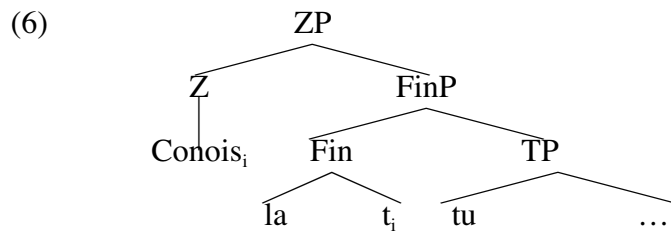
This sort of approach to clitic placement has been argued for by various authors in their discussions of other languages, most notably by Anderson (e.g. 1996, 1999) and Legendre (e.g. 1996, 1997, 2001). However, there are alternative accounts for the distribution of clitics in various languages that focus on the role of verb movement. In particular, Benincà (1991, 1995), Cardinaletti & Roberts (1991), Martins (2001 [1995]), Rivero (1997) and many others, proposed that the postverbal position of clitics in Romance is the result of the verb moving over the clitics to a higher position. In this type of approach, verb movement takes place independently of the presence of clitics. We have recently proposed (Hirschbühler & Labelle 2000, 2001, Labelle & Hirschbühler 2004) an analysis along those lines where the position of the clitics with respect to the verb is determined by the position of the verb. Here, we follow this type of approach, highlighting towards the end of the paper a possible limitation that suggests that at least for part of the data, an OT type of approach might still be needed.

Briefly, we assume a split-CP layer *à la* Rizzi (1997). Rizzi has proposed that the traditional CP should be reanalyzed into a number of distinct functional categories such as Topic, Focus, Finite. We also adhere to the generally accepted view that Old French is a verb second language. To account for V2, we posit a CP layer with two functional heads, as in (5). Some XP with a Topic of Focus feature occupies (as a result of Move or Merge) the specifier of the highest

head of the CP layer, a discourse-related head labelled Z. This Z head selects a Fin(ite) head having a V feature, and attracting the verb. We assume that clitics are adjoined to the highest head having a V feature, which is Fin in V2 clauses, as shown in (5) (for sentence (3c)).



The TM effect is the result of the verb moving to Z, to the left of clitics. We assume that the movement of the verb reflects the fact that it too may carry a Topic or Focus feature.



V2 in imperatives essentially disappeared during the XVth century, with an occasional example showing up until the beginning of the 17th century (cf. De Kok 1985:316, 321; Fournier 1998:84, §115), as in (7):

- (7) a. Or me dites, si ces mutacions contre notre naturel ne sont vrayes folies, [...] ?
 ‘Now, tell me whether these changes against our nature are not real foolishness, ...’
 (Louise Labé (1525-1566, discours 5))

b. *Ecrivez-leur puis me baillez vos lettres.*” (Maupas [1607], in Fournier 1998:§115 bis)

‘Write to them and-then give me your letters.’

At the start of the 17th century, French was no longer a V2 language, that is, it no longer had a Z head forcing movement of either an XP to its Spec or a V to its head in all clause types. To account for the *V-cl* order in unmarked positive imperatives, we assume that the Z head of Old French had been reanalyzed in the 13th century as a head carrying a [+IMP] illocutionary feature, forcing the imperative verb to move there, to the left of clitics.

Let us now turn to the data in the Louis XIII corpus.

2.2 Balanced and unbalanced coordination

In coordinated positive imperatives, Louis XIII relies on two grammatical systems until age 10. In positive imperatives introduced by *et* or *puis*¹, the corpus contains seven examples with a preverbal clitic and six with a postverbal one. The examples are listed in Tables 1 and 2 (the material between parentheses are clarifications added by Héroard.) As discussed below, the *et V-cl* order corresponds to a balanced coordination system, where both conjuncts have the same structure, while the *et cl-V* order corresponds to an “unbalanced coordination” system. The

¹ It is not clear whether in these examples *puis* should simply be treated as an adverb meaning ‘then’ and occupying SpecCP (ZP) in a residual V2 construction, as discussed below in the text, or whether *puis* and *et puis* should be treated as a substitute of *et*, as in many dialects, among which spoken québécois.

examples of Louis XIII do not contain deviations from the word orders that are attested in the evolution of French from the middle of the 16th century to the present.

Table 1 – Positive imperatives introduced by (*et*) *puis*

	preverbal clitic		postverbal clitic
a.	Descendé la <u>pu</u> la remeté . (3;09, June 1605, p. 687) 'Bring her down, then put her back.'	a'.	M'amie Piolan <i>renvoié le moi</i> mai que madame soi (soit) en sa chambre <u>et pu</u> faite li a crere que vou l'avé a peti semblan. (3;08, June 1605, p. 678) '(...) and then make her believe that (...)'
b.	«Faitte faite la colé (coler),» dict-il soubdain, « <u>pu</u> la meté la afin qu'on ne die pa que c'é moi qui l'ay rompue» (4;03, Dec. 1605, p. 849) '(...) then put it there so that (...)'		

Table 2 – Coordinated positive imperatives with *et*

	Preverbal clitic		Postverbal clitic
a.	Il le dict. « Ton regne advene etc. donne nou note pain quotidien. Fau ti dire ainsi maman ga: <u>et nou padons</u> nos offence. Ai-je bien di maman ga» ... (3;08, Jun 1605, p. 688)	a'.	Vene moy sevi a maon bateme <u>et emmené moy</u> un beau cheval ... (4;04, Jan. 1606, p. 863) '(...) and bring me a nice horse...'

	<p>‘Maman Ga, must we say so: and pardon (us) our sins’</p>		
b.	<p>Me de Montglat le faict escrire a son fils: «Petit montga voié de ma par moucheu de gan du mon onque et madame la gan ducesse ma tante <u>et leu dite</u> que je leu baise teshumbemen le main ... (6;04, Jan. 1606, p. 863)</p> <p>‘(...) and tell them that ...’</p>	b’.	<p>Donné mon chapon a ma soeu (soeur) <u>et donné moy</u> sa tete de cheveau. (4;07. Apr. 1606, p. 927)</p> <p>‘give my chicken to my sister and give me her goat head’</p>
c.	<p>«Birat allé vous en au logi de Francino <u>et li dite</u> qu’i m’envoie lé poutrai (les pourtraicts) du gran pere a maman et de mon grand pere, allé, couré». (7;04, 11 Jan. 1608, p. 1362)</p> <p>‘(...) and tell him that...’</p>	c’.	<p>Leve moy, <u>et faictes moy</u> venir tous les garcons de la chambre (9;07, May 11 1611, p. 1920)</p> <p>‘Get me out of bed and have all the boys of the room come to me’</p>
d.	<p>«Tené porté cela a maman ga, couvré cela <u>et li dite</u> que je li envoie de tou ce que j’ay». (8;02; 10 Nov. 1608, p. 1536)</p> <p>‘(...) and tell her that...’</p>	d’.	<p>«Gardés vous bien et soiés le plus fort quand vous irés a la guerre; <u>et escrivés moy</u> souvent». (9;11. Aug. 4, 1611, p. 1941)</p> <p>‘(...); and write to me often.’</p>
e.	<p>«Madame envoiés leur dire qu’ils s’assemblent <u>et me y envoiés</u> ils ne me refuseront point». (10;07, 20 May 1612, p. 2022)</p>	e’.	<p>«Portés, dict-il, cela a Mousseu de Souvré <u>et dictes luy</u> que vela des hortolans des Tuilleries que je luy envoie». (10;0. Sept. 1611, p. 1957)</p>

'(...) and send me there,'	'(...) and tell him that...'
----------------------------	------------------------------

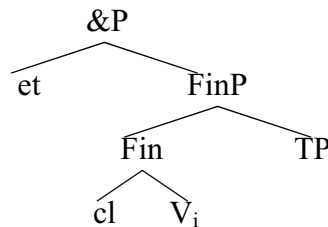
The early Old French order *et V-cl* was supplanted by *et cl-V* during the first half of the 13th century. This new word order arose towards the end of the 12th century and lasted until the end of the 17th century. (Skårup:366; de Kok: 315).

(8) Nicole, apportez-moi mes pantoufles et **me donnez** mon bonnet de nuit.

'Nicole, bring me my slippers and give me my nightcap' (Molière, B.G.II,4)

We analyze the *et cl-V* order in examples like (8) and similar ones in Tables 1 and 2 as due to an "unbalanced coordination" of the type proposed by Kiparsky (1995:149) for Old Germanic languages. Kiparsky shows that, in Old English, in a non-initial conjunct, besides the normal V2 order, V may be final (as in embedded clauses), or it may immediately follow the coordinating conjunction (with the subject in postverbal position). He derives these word orders by assuming that "Spec-C and C⁰ may be omitted in non-initial conjuncts." For French, we suggest that the second conjunct of an imperative clause is FinP instead of ZP_[+IMP].

(9) (from 1170 to classical French)



In this construction, the Z head, which carries the illocutionary force feature, has scope over both conjuncts. Let us add, for completeness, that the coordinator *mais* introduces full CPs

(not FinP), as indicated by the fact that *mais V-cl* rather than *mais cl-V* is generally found in positive imperatives (Foulet 1972:§172, de Kok 1985:76, 79, 314-316). This divergent behavior is not unexpected, given contrasts such as those below (present-day French), where the two coordinated clauses have a distinct illocutionary force. The facts suggests that *mais* requires each conjunct to express its own illocutionary force, and therefore to project a full CP.

- (10) a. [Pierre est doué], *mais/*et/*ou* [a-t-il la volonté de faire les sacrifices nécessaires?]
 ‘Peter is talented, but/*and/*or has he the will to make the necessary sacrifices?’
- b. [Suis-moi si tu veux], *mais/*et/*ou* [sais-tu à quoi tu t’engages?]
 ‘Follow me if you want, but/*and/*or do you know what you are committing yourself to?’
- c. [Pierre n’est pas rapide], *mais/*et/*ou* [fais-lui confiance pour faire de l’argent!]
 ‘Peter is not quick, but/*and/*or put your trust in him to make money!’

As can be seen in the right-hand column of Tables 1 and 2, examples of type *et V-cl* are found in the corpus of Louis XIII, where they are as frequent as those with the *et cl-V* word order. In texts written around 1600, in coordinated imperatives, the *cl-V* order was the general rule. The *et V-cl* order re-emerged as early as in the middle of the 15th century, as illustrated in (11).

- (11) et pardonnez moy toutesfois. (CNN :164 , year 1466, in Kok:314)
 ‘and pardon me however’

This word order reflects a balanced coordination system where both clauses are full articulated CPs (i.e. ZPs). It supplanted the older system during the 17th century, examples of *et cl-V* being only occasionally found during the 18th century. At this point we speculate that the emergence of postverbal clitics in coordinated imperatives is an ultimate consequence of the loss of V2. With the disappearance of constructions of type *XP cl-V*, *et* and *ou* provide the only remaining context where the clitic may be preverbal in positive imperatives. Since *et* and *ou* have no effect on clitic position in declaratives and questions, there would have been a tendency to make the paradigm uniform through syntactic regularization, with coordination being uniformly reinterpreted as occurring at the highest level in the CP layer, the cue provided by examples with preverbal clitics being insufficient now to maintain the earlier analysis.

In sum, in coordinations, Louis XIII displays two competing grammars. The fact that we found as many examples of a preverbal clitic as examples of a postverbal clitic shows that in the early part of the century, the grammar where *et* provides a context for preverbal clitics is still part of spoken language.

3. *Negative clauses*

3.1 Omission of *ne*

In the corpus of Louis XIII, in addition to negatives with *ne* (12), negative declaratives, questions, and imperatives are found without *ne* in large number. After the age of 10, there are more examples with *ne*.

(12) a. A **ne** tare dire (je ne le sçauroit dire)

(2;04. Jan. 1604, p. 468)

‘I couldn’t say that’

- b. A **ne** tare dire tela (je ne sçauroit dire cela) (2;04. Jan. 1604, p. 468)
 ‘I couldn’t say that’
- c. je **ne** pante a nu ma (je ne pense à nul mal) (2;05. Feb. 1604, p. 472)
 ‘I think of no evil.’

The first negative clause of the corpus is a negation without *ne*:

- (13) ... on lui présente son sabot, respond: «Fai **pa** beau saboté» (2;06. Mar 1604, p. 475)
 ‘one presents him with his clog, answers: “One is not beautiful, with clogs”.’

But, even before the child turns three, there is variation between presence (14) and absence (15) of *ne*:

(14) Negative clauses with *ne*

- a. Je **né pas** encore equivé (2;08. May 1604, p. 482)
 ‘I have not yet written’
- b. je **ne** sui **pu** petit enfan ... je **ne** pui **pu** equivé ... (2;08. May 1604, p. 485)
 ‘I am no more a little kid... I can’t write anymore...’
- c. je **ne** veu **poin** voë le cu de Madame, ... (2;09. May 1604, p. 486)
 ‘I don’t want to see the ass of Madame,’
- d. ...mai je **ne** le veu **pa** voi. (2;10. June 1604, p. 489)
 ‘...but I don’t want to see him’
- e. Je n’ay **pa** bien joué (2;11. Aug 1604, p. 506)

‘I didn’t play well.’

(15) Negative clauses without *ne*

a. Vou passeré **pa**. (2;11. Aug 1604, p. 504)

‘You won’t pass.’

b. J’ay **pa** bien joué (2;11. Aug 1604, p. 506; twice on that page)

‘I didn’t play well.’

d. Je sui **pa** gentilhomme. (2;11. Aug 1604, p. 510)

‘I am not gentleman.’

Negative clauses without *ne* are found to the end of the corpus. A representative set of examples is given below.

(16) a. «Hoo je mangeré (ne mangerois) **pu** (plus)». (5;02. Dec. 11, 1606, p. 1127)

‘Hoo, I will not eat anymore.’

b. «Non, je je le veu **pa** (ne le veulx pas)» (6;02. Dec., 1607, p. 1352)

‘No, I don’t want it.’

c. «I son **pa** (ils ne sont pas) fai pu cela (pour cela)» (6;02. Dec., 1607, p. 1352)

‘They are not made for that (purpose).’

d. «Dite a maman ga que j’avé **pa** (je n’avois pas) bien fait le deu (deux) ligne(es) et que

j’en recommence deux aute (tres)» (7;11. Aug. 1608, p. 1474)

‘Tell Maman Ga that I didn’t do well the two lines and that I am doing two more.’

- e «Maman ga, j'ay fai troi ligne (es) mai vené **pa** icy ba, **ne** bougé (és) de dessu un coffre, je m'en va achevé (er) encore deu ligne (deux lignes)».... (7;11. Aug. 1608, p. 1474)
 'Maman Ga, I have done three lines, but don't come down here, don't move from chest, I will finish two more lines.'
- f. «Parlon **pa** de cela, parlon de cela». (11;11. Aug. 1612, p. 2046)
 'Let's not talk about that, let's talk about that.'

Clearly, the absence of *ne* in negative clauses is not a question of late acquisition, as *ne* is used productively from very early on (before three), and there is a sizeable proportion of negative clauses without *ne* after the child has reached five years old. To us, this shows that Louis XIII has two grammars in competition, one with *ne* and one without. If this is right, the omission of *ne* in spoken speech, which is typical of contemporary spoken French, has its origin as early as the beginning of the 17th century (for a discussion of the rise and the spread of *ne* deletion, see Martineau and Mougeon 2003).

3.2 Negative imperatives without *ne*

The omission of *ne* is also found in negative imperatives. We now turn to the effect of the omission of *ne* on clitic placement. In Old French, clitics always preceded the verb in negative clauses, due to the presence of *ne*, which occupies the clause-initial position, allowing clitics to remain preverbal.

(17) a. N'i ad castel ki devant lui remaine

'There is no castle that resist him'

(Roland 004)

b. De ces service ne **vos membre** il gaires

‘You don’t remember this help’

(Orange :180)

In an approach where encliticization is the result of movement of the verb to the left of clitics, we have to assume that *ne* occupies a head position, either a Neg head between Z and Fin or the Z head itself. In either case, its presence blocks verb movement (Rivero 1997). We simply assume here, pending further work on the subject, that the Z head may carry some type of affirmative/negative polarity feature allowing it to host *ne*, thereby preventing V from moving to it. In this approach, if *ne* is omitted in negative imperatives, we expect the verb to move to Z over the clitics, yielding the *V-cl* order. Indeed, in the corpus of Louis XIII, the first relevant example has a postverbal clitic:

(18) Madame esternue, chacun luy dit «Dieu vous soit en aide». Il s’en fasche : «Non, **dite luy pa** Dieu vous soit en aide». (3;02. Nov. 1604, p. 548)

‘Madame sneezes, everyone says to her “God bless you”. He gets angry: “No don’t tell her God bless you”.’

This word order is attested in many French dialects (Hirschbühler & Labelle 2001, 2003).

(19) a. Québécois:

Occupe-toi pas de ça. (‘Ne t’occupe pas de ça.’)

‘Don’t bother about it.’

Dis-moi pas ça, j’vas t’embrasser encore...

(Larose 1898:180)

‘Don’t tell me that, I’ll kiss you again...’

b. Bourbonnais:

... les curés je les aime point. Aime-les point, mon gars,

‘... priests I don’t like them. Don’t like them, boy, ...’ (Fallet 1973:12)

In the dialect of Vendée described by Rézeau (1976), clitics are postverbal in negative imperatives without *ne*, but preverbal after the conjunction *pi*, the local equivalent of *et* (19).

(20) a. **Argard moe pa.** (‘Ne me regarde pas.’)

‘Don’t look at me.’

b. Va ché li pi yi di... (‘Va chez lui et dis-lui...’)

‘Go to him and tell him...’

The first example of (20) shows that in this dialect, V raises to a functional projection to the left of clitics in non-coordinated negative imperatives, just as it does in positive imperatives; the second one is a case of unbalanced coordination, with the verb remaining under Fin.

This is not the grammar developed by Louis XIII, however, as, after example (18) of a negative imperative with a postverbal clitic, the corpus contains 30 distinct utterances where clitics are preverbal in the absence of *ne*, the first one at 4;06 and the last one at 8;00 years of age (several occurrences of the same cl-V sequence in a single utterance count for one). See Table 3. This word order in negative imperatives without *ne* is the most common one today in European French.

Table 3 – Negative imperatives without *ne* and with preverbal clitics

1.	Gade bien de me faire mal, me meté <u>pa</u> l'epingle dan la teste (3;06, March 1605, p. 620) 'Take care not to hurt me, don't put the needle in my head.'
2.	He maman ga m'appelé <u>pa</u> moveu, m'appelé <u>pa</u> moveu, appelé-moi moucheu daulphin (3;10, June 1605, p. 675) 'Hey Maman Ga, don't call me snotty-nosed, call me Monsieur Le Dauphin'
3.	Hee maman ga me doné <u>pa</u> le fouet.... (4;03, Dec. 1605, p. 851) 'Hey Maman Ga, don't whip me'
4.	Me faite <u>pu</u> de conte (des contes), chanté (és) je veu domi (dormi). (4;04, Jan. 1606, p. 873) 'Stop telling me stories, sing, I want to sleep.'
5.	Fefé le dite <u>pa</u> a papa, je fairay pu (je ne le fairay plus).. (4;07, Apr. 1606, p. 931) 'Fefe, don't tell it to my dad, I won't do it again.'
6.	«Hee maman ga me donné (és) <u>pa</u> le fouet, hee me donné <u>pa</u> le fouet maman ga» (4;08. May 1606, p. 954) (Two other examples on this page)
7.	«..., je serai pu opinate, je vou pie (prie) ly dite pas ». (4;08. May 1606, p. 961) '..., I won't be stubborn anymore, please, don't tell him.'
8.	« le dite pas ». (4;08. June 1606, p. 983) 'Don't say it (to anyone)'
9.	«Hé li dite <u>pa</u> j'en mangeray pu (plus)». (4;09. June 1606, p. 984) 'Don't tell him, I won't eat of that anymore'
10.	«Maman j'ay fai l'opinate au matin, me donné (és) <u>pa</u> le fouet demain matin, ...» (4;10. July 1606, p. 1011)
11.	«Maman je vos pie (prie) , me vené (és) <u>pa</u> voi (pas voir) si matin» (4;10. July 1606, p.

	1012) 'Maman, please, don't come to see me so early (in the morning)'
12.	«He maman ga padoné moy, me doné (donnés) <u>pa</u> le fouet»,. (4;10. July 1606, p. 1014;
13.	«He maman ga me doné (és) <u>pa</u> le fouet, <u>ne me le doné pa</u> ». (4;10. July 1606, p. 1017)
14.	«He maman ga me baillé (és) <u>pa</u> le fouet,... ». (4;10. July 1606, p. 1020; also p. 1053)
15.	«He maman me doné (és) <u>pa</u> le fouet»,. (4;11. Aug. 1606, p. 1028; also p. 1029, 1032, 1049 (four times), 1053 (two times), 1072, 1249, 1289.)
16.	« Je vous pie (prie) vous en allé (és) <u>pa</u> ». (5;10. July 1607, p. 1251) 'Please, don't go away.'
17.	«Je veu ete (estre) le valé de pié (valet de pied) mai le dite pas ». (5;11. Aug. 1607, p. 1275) 'I want to be the footman, but don't tell that (to anyone)'
18.	... disant a Mr de la court: «La Cour le laissé pa enté (trer), ...». (5;11. Aug. 1607, p. 1289) 'saying to Mr de la Cour: "La Cour, don't let him come in"
19.	« J'aime mieux estre foueté et le dicte pas au roi mon pere». (8;00. Sept. 1609, p. 1664) 'I prefer to be whipped, and don't say that to the king my father.'

The *cl-V* order in these sentences suggests that, in such negative imperatives without *ne*, there is a syntactically present but phonetically null *ne*, i.e. a null negative head preventing verb-movement to the left of clitics (Hulk 1996). Present-day speakers of French who use the same *cl-V* word order often comment that they “feel” that there is a suppressed *ne* in these examples. For contemporary French, this hypothesis is discussed, and rejected, in Hirschbühler & Labelle (2001) on the basis of a contrast in the behavior of clitics *en* and *y* as opposed to the other clitics, and on the basis of negative imperatives where the negative element is a negative quantifier like

rien ‘nothing’ or *personne* ‘nobody’. In the next section, we discuss the case of *en* and *y* in the corpus of Louis XIII; this corpus does not contain relevant examples with *rien* or *personne*.

3.3. Negative imperatives with *en* and *y*

For speakers of contemporary French, *en* and *y*, are excluded from the preverbal position of negative imperatives without *ne* when they are not preceded by another object clitic (21)-(22), (Hirschbühler & Labelle 2001, 2003).

(21) a. ***En parle** pas.

‘Don’t talk about it’

b. ***En mettons** pas.

‘Let’s not put any (on)’

c. ??**Y vas** pas.

‘Don’t go there’

d. ***Y goûte** pas.

‘Don’t taste it’

(22) a. **Vous en faites** pas.

‘Don’t worry about it’

b. **Vous y fiez** pas.

‘Don’t trust it’

There is no constraint against clause-initial *en/y* in questions & declaratives, as seen in (23):

(23) a. **En voulez-vous?**

‘Do you want some?’

b. **Y allez-vous?**

‘Are you going there?’

c. **En acheter** serait inutile.

‘To buy some would be useless’

d. **Y aller** serait inutile.

‘To go there would be useless’

Instead of producing (21), some speakers reintroduce *ne* (24); others allow the *V-cl* order in that specific case (i.e. only with *en, y*) (25).

(24) a. **N’*en* parle pas.**

‘Don’t talk about it’

b. **N’y va pas.**

‘Don’t go there’

(25) a. **Parles-*en* pas.**

‘Don’t talk about it’

b. **Vas-y pas.**

‘Don’t go there’

In the corpus of Louis XIII, we find a number of negative imperatives with *en* and *y*. As shown in (26), all of them are with *ne*. This suggests that Louis XIII is a speaker of the dialect which requires *ne* in negative imperatives when *en* or *y* would otherwise be initial.

(26) a. «N'*en* **meté**pa su du pain e (elle) me fai mal au(3;09)cu J(œu)it(605, p. 687)

‘Don’t put any on (my) bread, it makes me sick’

b. «He Mamie d’Agre, n'*en* **mangé** (és) pa,... » (5;01. Oct 1606, p. 1093)

‘Hey, Mamie d’Agre, don’t eat that’

c. «Ma soeur, n'*en* **mangé** pa, i n’e pa bon.» (7;02. Nov. 1608, p. 1543)

‘My sister, don’t eat that, it’s not good.’

d. «N'y **faite** poin mette de febvre.» (7;04. Jan. 1609, p. 1558)

‘Don’t have someone put a bean in it’

e. «He mousseu de Souvré n'y **allon** point allon la dedans.» (7;07. Apr. 1609, p. 1597)

‘Hey Monsieur de Souvré, let’s not go there, let’s go in here.’

f. «Durle ne **y touché** (és) pa, ...» (9;09. June 1611, p. 1931)

‘Durle, don’t touch it’

Louis XIII produces negative declaratives with *en* not preceded by *ne*. The absence of *ne* in (27) shows that there is no general obligation for *en* to be preceded by *ne* in negative clauses. We have no relevant example for *y*.

(27) a. «Hé li dite pa j’*en* **mangeray** pu (plus).» (5;09. June 1606, p. 984)

‘Hey, don’t tell him, I won’t eat (of that) anymore’

b. «... mis je li ay dict que j’**en avois pas** envie.» (8;0. Sept. 1609, p. 1816)

‘I have told him that I don’t feel like it.’

These examples pose a challenge for a purely syntactic approach of the type we have been developing. Let us consider first the word order *cl-V* in negative imperatives without *ne* for clitics other than *en* and *y* (when these would be initial). Attributing the *cl-V* word order in negative imperatives without *ne* to the presence of a phonologically null negative head as in (28) leads one to expect (21). An abstract *ne* would fill the Z head, blocking V-movement, and we should expect these sentences to be acceptable.

(28) le dis pas: [ZP \emptyset_{Neg} [FinP le dis [IP...pas...]]]

For the speakers who raise the verb to the left of *en/y* (25), we have an indication that there is no abstract *ne* in (21). But if there is no abstract *ne*, we have no explanation for the *cl-V* order with the other clitics. One could say that whatever blocks movement of the verb when other clitics are there is absent when *en* or *y* is initial. For example, assuming that the blocking of V-movement is not due to an abstract *ne* but to a negative feature on the verb (Hirschbühler & Labelle 2003), it could be proposed that, as a repair strategy, such a formal feature is deleted or rendered inactive in the presence of *en/y*. Obviously, this is not theoretically tenable, although one could always say that the particular demands of *en/y* are responsible for the emergence of a word order otherwise excluded for these speakers.

Descriptively, what seems to be the case is that there is a surface restriction that excludes the sequence *#en/y V* in imperatives, i.e. a residual Tobler-Mussafia effect excluding clitics from clause-initial position, but limited to *en* and *y* in imperative clauses. In order to avoid violating this constraint, speakers either place the clitics postverbally or fall back on an alternative construction that probably most speakers of the *cl-V* order have, i.e. *ne-(cl*)V*.² For speakers who place the clitic postverbally, we could assume a late linearization rule *à la* Halpern (1995) in the case of *en/y*.

(29) [_{ZP} Ø [_{FinP} *parles-en* [_{IP}...*pas*...]]]

For the speakers who reintroduce *ne* one might want to say that there is, in the general case, an abstract *ne* in negative imperatives, but that the selection of this abstract *ne* when *en/y* are clause-initial in imperatives yields a violation of the surface restriction. Assuming such a residual TM constraint places the burden of the explanation not on syntactic facts, but on a diacritic mark on *en/y*. Notice that this idea treats *en/y* as more conservative than the other clitics: while the other clitics can be clause initial in imperatives, *en* and *y* resist.

It is probably not accidental that it is precisely these clitics that behave differently from the other clitics. Throughout the history of French, *en* and *y* have been known to function exceptionally. For example, in the middle of the 18th century, Restaut (1766: 241, in de Kok 1985: 315) states that while the other clitics may be placed before or after the verb following *et* in imperatives, *en* and *y* are preferred postverbally in the same context:

² For an OT approach of the facts, see Hirschbühler & Labelle (2001, 2003).

(30) “il est plus ordinaire de dire, *écoutez ma proposition, et réfléchissez-y; recevez ma remontrance, & profitez-en; que y réfléchissez, en profitez.*”

‘it is more normal to say *écoutez ma proposition, et réfléchissez-y; recevez ma remontrance, & profitez-en* than to say *y réfléchissez, en profitez.*’

Interestingly, *en* and *y* display here a more ‘modern’ grammar.³ This observation, however, is consistent with the idea of a surface constraint against clause-initial *en* and *y* in imperatives.

En and *y* also behaved exceptionnally, and, in this case, more conservatively, by raising to T in infinitival clauses longer than the other clitics. In Old French, both the infinitival verb and the clitics appeared under the T head of infinitival clauses, that is, between *ne* and *pas* in negative infinitives. Then, infinitival verbs stopped raising to T, but not clitics. Today, clitics appear on the infinitival verb to the right of *pas*. But *en* and *y* continued to raise to T longer than the other clitics. They are still occasionally used in that position (cf. Kayne 1989: 240 and notes 3, 4), and their use, as in (31), does not seem to be limited to literary French.

(31) a. Je préférerais n’en rien dire

‘I would prefer not say anything about it’

b. J’ai regretté de n’y pas être allé

‘I regretted not to have gone there’

³ For the XVIth century, we have found four examples of *et y V-imperative* in the ARTFL database, one by Rabelais and three by Beroalde de Verville.

To summarize, the syntactic approach in terms of verb movement that we have been developing cannot readily explain the facts relative to *en/y*. The restriction on *en/y* does not find a syntactic explanation if one doesn't take into account the fact that these clitics, as opposed to the other clitics, reject the initial position in imperative clauses.

4. *Conclusion*

The corpus collected by Jean Héroard allows us to observe features of the French spoken by a child at the turn of the 17th century. The interest of the data is that it allows us to see grammars in competition in the speech of the future Louis XIII and that it manifests the phenomenon of omission of *ne* that will be attested much later in literary writings. The distribution of clitics in this corpus is exactly what was to be expected on the basis of a residual V2 system and on the basis of the current distribution of clitics in *ne*-less imperative clauses in France.

We studied the position of clitics with respect to imperative verbs in this corpus, examining it in the light of the history of French. In coordinated imperatives, the *et cl-V* order was very much alive, but was in competition with a more recent trend in favor of the *et V-cl* order. These word orders were explained by assuming that, in the unmarked case, V moves to $Z_{[+imp]}$ in imperative clauses. We assumed that the *et cl-V* word order in imperatives resulted from the fact that the second conjunct was less than a full CP. The *et V-cl* order in imperatives was attributed to a regularization of the pattern of imperative clauses. Turning to negative clauses, we observed that the negative marker *ne* was regularly omitted in this corpus. In negative imperatives without *ne*, the word order used by Louis XIII is the one generally observed today in France, *cl-V pas*. But

the contrast between the absence of imperative examples of the type *en/y-V pas* and the presence of imperative examples of the type *n'en/y-V pas* suggests that, as in current varieties of French, there is a restriction on *en/y*, which cannot be initial in imperative clauses. Here we reach the limits of an explanation of clitic placement in terms of syntactic features forcing V movement independently of the clitics. In the case of *en/y*, we must take into account a surface restriction attached to these clitics.

References

- Anderson, Stephen R. 1996. "How to Put your Clitics in their Place, or Why the Best Account of Second-Position May be Something Like the Optimal One". *The Linguistic Review* 13.165-191.
- Anderson, Stephen R. 1999. "Towards an Optimal Account of Second Position Phenomena". *Optimality Theory: Phonology, syntax, and acquisition*, ed. by Joost Dekkers, 302-333. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Benincà, Paola. 1991. "Complement clitics in Medieval Romance: The Tobler-Mussafia law". *Clitics and their Hosts*. ESF-Eurotype report. Theme group 8: Clitics, ed. by Henk van Riemsdijk & Luigi Rizzi, 1-27. Department of language and literature, Tilburg University.
- Benincà, Paola. 1995. "Complement clitics and the Tobler-Mussafia law". *Clause Structure and Language Change*, Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax, ed. by Adrian Battye & Ian Roberts, 325-44. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Cardinaletti, Adriana & Ian Roberts. 1991. Clause-structure and X-second. Unpublished manuscript.
- Fournier, Nathalie. 1998. *Grammaire du français classique*. Paris: Éditions Belin.

- Halpern, Aaron. 1995. *On the Placement and Morphology of Clitics*. Stanford: CSLI Publications.
- Hirschbühler, Paul & Marie Labelle. 1994. "Changes in Verb Position in French Negative Infinitival Clauses". *Language Variation and Change* 6: 149-178.
- Hirschbühler, Paul & Marie Labelle. 2000. "Evolving Tobler-Mussafia effects in the Placement of French clitics". *New Approaches to Old Problems. Issues in Historical Linguistics*, ed. by Steve Dworkin & Dieter Wanner, 165-182. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Hirschbühler, Paul & Marie Labelle. 2006. "La position des clitiques par rapport au verbe à l'impératif dans l'évolution du français". *Recherches Linguistiques* 30.13-38.
- Hirschbühler, Paul & Marie Labelle. 2006. "Regional Tobler-Mussafia Effects in French Dialects". *Romance Linguistics: Theory and Acquisition*, ed. by Ana Maria Perez-Leroux & Yves Roberge, 149-164. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Hulk, Aafke. 1996. "How "greedy" is the French imperative?" *Linguistics in the Netherlands 1996*, ed. by Crit Cremers & Marcel den Dikken, 97-108. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Kayne, Richard. 1991. "Romance clitics, Verb Movement, and PRO". *Linguistic Inquiry* 22.647-686.
- Kiparsky, Paul. 1995. "Indo-European Origins of Germanic Syntax". *Clause Structure and Language Change*, Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax, ed. by Adrian Battye & Ian Roberts, 140-169. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kok, Ans de. 1985. *La place du pronom personnel régime conjoint en français: une étude diachronique*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Kroch, Anthony. 2000. "Syntactic Change". *The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory*, ed. by Mark Baltin & Chris Collins. Oxford: Blackwell.

- Laka, Itziar. 1990. *Negation in Syntax. On the Nature of Functional Categories and Projections*. Ph.D. Dissertation. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Labelle, Marie & Paul Hirschbühler. 2001. "Les clitiques arguments en serbo-croate et dans l'histoire du français". *Clitiques et Cliticisation, Actes du Colloque de Bordeaux*, ed. by Claude Muller, Paulo de Carvalho, Laurence Labrune, Frédéric Lambert, Musanji Mwatha Ngalasso & Katja Ploog, 109-132. Genève: Éditions Slatkine.
- Labelle, Marie & Paul Hirschbühler. 2004. "Changes in Clausal Organization and the Position of Clitics in Old French". *Grammaticalization and Parametric Change*, ed. by Montse Batllori & Francesc Roca. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Larose, Wilfrid. 1898. *Variétés canadiennes*. Montréal: Imprimerie de l'Institution des Sourds-Muets.
- Legendre, Géraldine. 1996. "Clitics, Verb (Non-)Movement, and Optimality in Bulgarian". Technical Report JHU-CogSci-96-5. Johns Hopkins University.
- Legendre, Géraldine. 1997. "Second Position Clitics in a Verb-Second Language: Conflict Resolution in Macedonian". *ESCOL '97. Proceedings of the Eastern States Conference on Linguistics*, ed. by J. Austin & A. Lawson, 139-149. Ithaca, Cornell University: CLC Publications.
- Legendre, Géraldine. 2001. "Morphological and Prosodic Alignment of Bulgarian Clitics". *Optimality Theory: Syntax, Phonology, and Acquisition*, ed. by Joos Dekkers, Frank van der Leeuw, & Jan van de Weijer, 423-462. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lightfoot, David. 1999. *The Development of Language: Acquisition, Change, and Evolution*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

- Martineau, France & Raymond Mougeon. 2003. "A Sociolinguistic Study of the Origins of *ne* Deletion in European and Quebec French". *Language* 79.1: 118-152.
- Martins, Ana Maria. 2000 [1995]. "A Minimalist Approach to Clitic Climbing". *Portuguese Syntax: New Comparative Studies*, ed. by João Costa, 169-190. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. [Reprinted with minor revisions from Martins, Ana Maria. 1995. "A Minimalist Approach to Clitic Climbing". *Papers from the 31st Regional Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. Volume 2: The parasession on clitics*, ed. by Audra Dainora, Rachel Hemphill, Barbara Luka, Barbara Need and Sheri Pargman, 215-233. Chicago: The Chicago Linguistic Society.]
- Rézeau, Pierre. 1976. *Un patois de Vendée. Le parler rural de Vouvant*. Paris: Klincksieck.
- Rivero, María Luisa. 1997. "On Two Locations for Complement Clitic Pronouns: Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian and Old Spanish". *Parameters of Morphosyntactic Change*, ed. by Ans van Kemenade & Nigel Vincent, 170-206. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rizzi, Luigi. 1997. "The Fine Structure of the Left Periphery". *Elements of Grammar*, ed. by Liliane Haegeman, 281-337. Dordrecht : Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Skårup, Povl. 1975. *Les premières zones de la proposition en ancien français*. Études Romanes de l'Université de Copenhague. Akademisk Forlag.

Primary sources

- [BG] Molière. *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*. Théâtre complet de Molière. Le Livre de Poche. Paris: Gallimard.
- Fallet, René. 1973. *Le braconnier de dieu*. Paris: Denoël.
- Journal de Jean Héroard*, 2 vol., ed. by M. Foisil, 1989. Paris: Fayard.

[Monnier] Monnier, Henry. 1869. *Les bas-fonds de la société*. Paris: J. Claye imprimeur.

[Orange] La Prise d'Orange, 5th. edition, ed. by. C. Régnier. Paris: Klincksieck. 1977.

[QLR] *Li Quatre Livre des Reis*, ed by E.R. Curtius, Dresden, 1911. Gesellschaft für
Romanische Litteratur. Halle: Max Niemeyer.

[Roland] *La Chanson de Roland*, ed. by Gérard Moignet, 1970. Paris: Bordas.