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WORD ORDER AND DISCOURSE: THE CASE OF THE BALKAN LANGUAGES

Abstract: The paper investigates word order in three Balkan languages (Bulgarian, Greek and Romanian). It is argued that Balkan languages are discourse prominent and variations with respect to discourse notions like topic or focus are examined from a comparative perspective and in view of their hierarchical ordering in the left periphery of the sentence, which corresponds to that portion of the sentence which hosts topicalized and focalized constituents.

Keywords: topicalization; dislocation; clitics; focus; word order; Balkan languages

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