

CLITICS THAT DON'T CLIMB
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Croatian clitics are second-position elements – they need to occupy the second position in the clause (Franks and King 2000; Čavar and Wilder, 1994; Halpern 1995, among others). The second position of the clitic(s) in an embedded clause is calculated relative to the minimal clause that contains them (1).

1. a. [Jan misli [da je Hana upoznala **Vida**]].
Jan.NOM thinks that aux.cl Hana.NOM met Vid.ACC
'Jan thinks that Hana met Vid.'
- b. [Jan misli [da **ga** je Hana upoznala __]].
Jan.NOM thinks that him.CL.ACC aux.cl Hana.NOM met
- c. *[Jan **ga** misli [da je Hana upoznala __]].
Jan.NOM him.CL.ACC thinks that aux.cl Hana.NOM met

However, in infinitival (e.g., subject control) configurations, pronominal clitics can climb into the matrix clause (2).

2. a. [Jan_i želi [PRO_i kupiti Hani **poklon**]].
Jan.NOM wants PRO to-buy Hana.DAT present
'Jan wants to buy Hana a present.'
- b. [Jan_i želi [PRO_i kupiti **ga** Hani __]].
Jan.NOM wants PRO to-buy him.CL.ACC Hana.DAT
- c. [Jan_i **ga** želi [PRO_i kupiti Hani __]].
Jan.NOM him.CL.ACC wants PRO to-buy Hana.DAT

Clitic climbing is not always allowed (Aljović 2004): e.g., in object control configurations (3-4), clitics (especially dative clitics) are strongly preferred to remain in the infinitival clause.

3. a. [Jan uči Hanu_i [PRO_i precizno crtati **kružnice**]].
Jan.NOM teaches Hana.ACC PRO carefully to-draw circles.ACC
 - b. [Jan uči Hanu_i [PRO_i precizno **ih** crtati __]].
Jan.NOM teaches Hana.ACC PRO carefully them.CL.ACC to-draw
 - c. ??[Jan **ih** uči Hanu_i [PRO_i precizno crtati __]].
Jan.NOM them.CL.ACC teaches Hana.ACC PRO carefully to-draw
4. a. [Jan uči Flokija_i [PRO_i ponovno vjerovati **ljudima**]].
Jan.NOM teaches Floki.ACC PRO again to-trust people.DAT
 - b. [Jan uči Flokija_i [PRO_i ponovno **im** vjerovati __]].
Jan.NOM teaches Floki.ACC PRO again them.CL.DAT to-trust
 - c. *[Jan **im** uči Flokija_i [PRO_i ponovno vjerovati __]].
Jan.NOM them.CL.DAT teaches Floki.ACC PRO again to-trust

The talk will examine cases like (3-4c) and also some subject control configurations which also disallow clitic climbing from an infinitival clause.

References

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