

Results

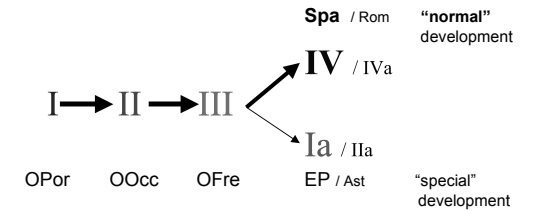
- in the course of the evolution of the Romance languages, clitics become more specific and choose the verb as their only possible host
- both verb adjacency constraints are ranked higher than the alignment constraints
- this applies to all Modern Romance languages, including EP
- eventually, there are two different outcomes:
- in all Modern Romance languages (except EP), clitics are now base-generated in I° only

Results: EP

- European Portuguese (& Asturian, etc.) show a “special” development:
- in their evolution, there is evidence for a state represented here by Old French (III)
- the next evolutionary step separated them from the other Romance languages:
- clitics are still base-generated in C° in unmarked main clauses

Discussion and summary

Results: the grammatical change



Discussion and summary

Results

- all the evolutionary steps represented here by different Romance languages can be observed in the evolution of one specific Romance language:
- e.g. Spanish: Old Spanish (I), *siglo-de-oro* Spanish (III), Modern Spanish (IV)
- for some languages, the early steps are not documented, e.g. the earliest Old French texts show step III already

Discussion and summary

Results: the grammatical change

