How much null structure in the CP? On the relation between syntax and discourse in emphatic constructions.

One of the central problems concerning the interface between syntax and pragmatics is how much of the context is actually represented syntactically. I will first consider phenomena that are known to be typical of embedded clauses, which will be shown to surface in main clauses in specific contexts, suggesting that there might be some null main clause selecting what looks like an embedded clause. I will present a couple of these cases, both concerning interrogative clauses in Italian dialects and demonstrate that an analysis in terms of a null main clause embedding the embedded structure is not viable, which shows that the interface between pragmatic and syntax is not as simple as one might think. I will then take into account emphatic affirmation and negation structures where I will show that there is indeed a certain amount of null structure located in the CP area. I will present the claim made in Poletto and Zanuttini (2013) and Poletto and Garzonio (2015) that the CP layer of emphatic constructions contains a null copy of the sentence which is emphatically denied or asserted. Syntactic tests like compatibility with wh-items, hanging topics, clitic left dislocated items, focused element and the possibility of embedding will be explained through this idea of a null copy. I will then show that it is possible to spell out the null copy and examine which consequences lexical doubling has on the pragmatics of these constructions.