

Typological and formal perspectives on ditransitives and the PCC

In this talk, I review recent work on case and agreement alignment in ditransitive constructions and on the person case constraint (or PCC). These topics have been the subject of much formal and typological literature which provides different perspectives on how these phenomena can be analysed and what underlies them. I will focus on two recent papers, Bárány (2024) on alignment in ditransitives and Deal (2024) on the PCC. Both Deal's and Bárány's models are successful in explaining attested patterns across different languages, but they rely on some very different assumptions about the syntactic processes involved. I will address the differences in these analyses and explore some of their respective predictions, surveying aspects of the typology and variation of the person–case constraint and ditransitive constructions. These papers will serve as case studies showing how formal syntax and typological research can be combined fruitfully and lead to novel insights in both sub-fields.

References

- Bárány, András. 2024. Case and agreement alignment in ditransitive constructions: a typological gap and its explanation. *Language* 100(3). 385–432. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1353/lan.2024.a937184>.
- Deal, Amy Rose. 2024. Current models of Agree. In James Crippen, Rose-Marie Déchaine & Hermann Keupdijo (eds.), *Move and Agree: Towards a formal typology*. John Benjamins. to appear.