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Typology and Interlingual/Intralingual Comparison

(1) What "units" can be established "between" the basic , universal "Morpheme" and "Sentence"? The scala "morpheme - word - clause - sentence" which is known from inflectional and other languages is one among more possibilities. Comparison of neighbouring members of such scale fitting upon one language as well as comparison of such scales among different languages prompts not only questions such as (2) What are the elementary means for structuring non-elementary signs? and (3) Which combinations of these elementary means can occur? but also (4) Where and/or how can be these combinations placed on the Morpheme-Sentence scale. Question (4) is shown to be a more specific wording of No (1). In the framework given by (4) the problem of typological homogenity and heterogenity will be discussed.

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A Typology of Complementizer Meanings

Languages use complementizers to signal certain modality meanings, as can be seen from the following English examples:
1) Bach remembered that/whether he played at noon (was popular)
2) Bach remembered to/whether to play at noon (?to be popular)

In each sentence, the propositional content is the same (Bach's remembering about playing at noon). However, the complementizers signal differences in the meanings of each complement. In (1), the finite that complement is about the expected truth of the proposition, while the finite whether complement is about its questioned truth. In (2), the nonfinite to complement is about the expected performance of a controllable act, while the nonfinite whether to is about its questioned performance. These latter two complement types are incongruous with "being popular" because it is not easily interpreted as a controllable act.

Languages like English and Basque use complementizers to distinguish between: (a) truth considerations (Eng. that and whether) and considerations about controllable acts (Eng. to and whether to) on the one hand, and (b) expected truth or action (Eng. that and to) and questioned truth or action (Eng. whether and whether to) on the other hand. Thai (waa/háy) uses them for (a), and Korean (kes/ci) uses them for (b). Furthermore, Basque (-elako/-ela), Thai (thîi/wâa), Japanese (koto/to), and Korean (kes/ko/ki) distinguish between different degrees of expected truth, and Korean, different degrees of expected action.

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Causative and passive in some languages of India

Work on structural typology carried out in Leningrad has brought to light a variety of synchronic and diachronic links between causative and passive constructions. In this paper it will be argued that, while in many languages passivization and causativization are achieved through changes in the grammatical relations (subject demotion, object promotion), such does not appear to be the case in certain languages of the Indian subcontinent. In Sinhalese for instance, active, passive and causative sentences differ in case-marking but the basic syntactic relations remain the same. In these languages it may be said that in the active the subject noun phrase has control over the action, in the passive it has no control, while in the causative it exercises control through a powerless 'intermediate agent'.

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Типологические универсалии и дистрибуция маркированности в языках мира

Несмотря на выделение определенных языковых типов, существуют общие для них закономерности, ярче проявляющиеся в диахронии, чем в синхронии. Методически необходимо: а) установить общие законы, присущие языкам данного типа, и б) охарактеризовать черты, специфические для систем отдельных языков. Черты аналитизма наблюдаются как во флективных, так и в агглютинативных языках, изменение словосочетаний в сторону их превращения в устойчивые лексикализованные комплексы, так же как и грамматизация отдельных видов словосочетаний существуют во всех языках мира. Однако удельный вес преобразованных синтаксических конструкций обусловлен внутренними законами данного языка и подлежит ведению частных типологий. Например, субъектнообъектные отношения отражены в строе предложения типологически различных языков в соответствии с морфологической структурой глагольных и именных классов, присущей данному языку.