

Cross-linguistic patterns in the encoding of three-participant events (Teilprojekt Monash University)

Initiative: Dokumentation bedrohter Sprachen (beendet)

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Laufzeit: 3 Jahre

Projekt-Website: <http://3pant.s3-website-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/#/project/home>

This project investigates the encoding of events with three participants, such as transfer events (e.g. GIVE, SEND) or communication events (e.g. ASK, TELL) in a number of unrelated languages. The expression of three-participant events shows a high degree of constructional variation, both cross-linguistically and within individual languages, and thus presents challenging problems for linguistic typology and theory. In contrast to previous research on this topic, this project will take a text-based approach, drawing directly on data from several DoBeS corpora and collaborating with the respective language experts with a focus on the Pacific-rim area. This makes it possible to address not only questions regarding the inventory of encoding strategies used to express three-participant events in different languages, but also to analyse the frequency of those strategies in actual use. At the same time, the project will contribute to the typological research on basic valence orientation (e.g. a language's preference for either valence-increasing or valence-reducing mechanisms) by investigating possible correlations with preferences in the encoding of three-participant events.

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