

36804. Subjects Typology & Theory

Prof. Yehuda N. Falk

2008–9 (תשס"ט)

We will examine typological issues relating to the grammatical function “subject” and develop a theory of subjecthood within a general theory of grammatical functions. Among the topics to be discussed: the subject as the expression of an argument, the relational hierarchy, subjects and anaphora, subjects in multi-clausal constructions, syntactic ergativity, and the universality of the subject.

Course Outline

Semester A

1. Subjects
 - a. What is a “Subject”
 - b. Properties of Subjects
2. Typology
 - a. Ergativity
 - b. Subject Properties in “Mixed-Subject” Languages
3. The Most Prominent Argument
 - a. Argument Mapping: Inverse Mapping theories
 - b. Argument Mapping: Against Inverse Mapping
 - c. Predicted Properties
4. Pivot
 - a. Dixon’s concept
 - b. Van Valin and LaPolla’s concept
 - c. Falk’s concept

Semester B

5. “Wh Movement” Constructions
6. Control and Raising Constructions
7. Universality of “Subject”
8. Principles and Parameters

Course requirements

Term project

Seminar paper (student option)

Teacher information

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Course: <http://pluto.mscc.huji.ac.il/~msyfalk/Subjects/>