Change of state and the co-event conflation pattern: The case of unselected object constructions

In this talk I deal with the typological variation involved in the realm of verbal argument structure in the light of a formal distinction between incorporation and conflation processes. In particular, following Talmy’s (1991, 2000) well-known typological distinction between “verb-framed languages” and “satellite-framed languages”, it will be shown that his “co-event conflation pattern” can be dealt with by using the formal notion of conflation provided by Mateu (2012). Special attention will be paid to the formation of so-called “unselected object constructions” like the ones exemplified in (1), which can be taken as evidence for (neo)constructionist approaches to argument structure (cf. Goldberg [1995] with Marantz [2005, 2013], Ramchand [2008] or Acedo-Matellán [2010], i.a.): e.g., cf. so-called “strong” resultatives like (1a), resultative V-V compounds in Chinese like (1b), verb-particle constructions like (1c), or constructions with a resultative prefix like Germ. (1d) or Lat. (1e), among others.

(1)  
a. The dog barked the chickens awake.  
b. Lisi ba shoujuan ku-shi-le. (Chinese)  
   Lisi BA handkerchief cry-wet-LE  
   ‘Lisi cried the handkerchief wet.’  
c. John worked his debts off.  
d. Er vergärtnerte sein gesamtes Vermögen. (German)  
   he VER(away)-gardener-ed his whole fortune  
   ‘In gardening, he used up all his fortune.’
e. Serpentes putamina extussiunt. (Latin)
snakes shells out-cough
‘Snakes cough the egg shells out.’

Selected references

Studierende und andere Interessierte sind herzlich willkommen.