

Transitivity, valency and voice

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5x1h15

This course offers a discussion of the notions that can be used to describe the way languages organize the encoding of the relationship between verbs and their arguments, and an overview of the variation and regularities observed across the world's languages in this domain. The course is organized as follows:

The topic of the first class is **Transitive coding and other verbal predicative constructions (alignment)**: the notion of basic transitive construction; languages with more than one basic transitive construction (direct/inverse systems, symmetric voice systems); the formal characteristics of the basic transitive construction; alignment and the Obligatory Coding Principle; transitive coding and the lexicon (bivalent verbs with an extended intransitive construction, monovalent verbs with a transitive construction).

The topic of the second class is **Valency-decreasing derivations**: passive; antipassive; middle (reflexive, reciprocal, autocausative, anticausative); multifunction valency-decreasing derivations.

The topic of the third class is **Valency-increasing derivations**: causative; applicative (semantically specialized applicatives, multifunction applicatives, non-canonical applicatives); the causative-applicative syncretism.

The topic of the fourth class is **Lability and other morphologically uncoded valency alternations**: lability and pseudo-lability; A-lability; P-lability (anticausative lability, passive lability); other types of morphologically uncoded valency alternations.

The topic of the fifth class is **Incorporation and transitivity**: incorporation as a morphological operation; argument incorporation; possessive incorporation; modifying incorporation; classificatory incorporation..

Recommended readings

1st class

Haspelmath, Martin. 2015. 'Transitivity prominence'. In Andrej Malchukov and Bernard Comrie (eds.), *Valency Classes in the World's Languages*, Vol. 1. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.. 131-147.

- Haspelmath, Martin & Iren Hartmann. 2015. 'Comparing verbal valency across languages'. In Andrej L. Malchukov & Bernard Comrie (eds.), *Valency classes in the world's languages: A comparative handbook*, vol. 1. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. 41–71.
- Nichols Johanna, David Peterson, and Jonathan Barnes. 2004. 'Transitivizing and detransitivizing languages'. *Linguistic Typology* 8. 149–211.
- Tsunoda, Tasaku. 1999. 'Transitivity'. In Brown, K. & J. Miller (éds.), *Concise encyclopedia of grammatical categories*. 383-391. Oxford : Elsevier.

2nd class

- Dixon, R.M.W. & Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. 2000. 'Introduction'. In Dixon, R.M.W. & Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (eds.), *Changing Valency: Case Studies in Transitivity*. Cambridge University Press.1–28.
- Haspelmath, Martin & Thomas Müller-Bardey. 'Valency change'. In Booij, Geert & Lehmann, Christian & Mugdan, Joachim (eds.), *Morphology: A Handbook on Inflection and Word Formation*. Vol. 2. (Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft) Berlin: de Gruyter. 1130-1145.
- Keenan, Edward & Matthew Dryer. 'Passive in the world's languages'. In Timothy Shopen (ed.), *Language typology and syntactic description*, vol. 1, 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press. 325-361
- Lichtenberk, F. 1999. 'Reflexives and reciprocals'. In Brown K. & J. Miller (éds.), *Concise encyclopedia of grammatical categories*. 313-319. Oxford : Elsevier.

3rd class

- Dixon, R.M.W. & Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. 2000. 'Introduction'. In Dixon, R.M.W. & Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (eds.), *Changing Valency: Case Studies in Transitivity*. Cambridge University Press.1–28.
- Haspelmath, Martin & Thomas Müller-Bardey. 'Valency change'. In Booij, Geert & Lehmann, Christian & Mugdan, Joachim (eds.), *Morphology: A Handbook on Inflection and Word Formation*. Vol. 2. (Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft) Berlin: de Gruyter. 1130-1145.

4th class

- Creissels, Denis. 2014. 'P-lability and radical P-alignment'. *Linguistics* 52(4). 911-944.
- Letuchiy, Alexander. 2009. 'Towards a typology of labile verbs': Lability vs. derivation. In Alexandre Arkhipov & Patience Epps (eds.), *New challenges in typology: Transcending the borders and refining the distinctions*. 223–244. Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

5th class

- de Reuse, W. J. M. 1999. Noun incorporation. Dans Brown K. & J. Miller (éds.), *Concise encyclopedia of grammatical categories*. 252-258. Oxford : Elsevier.
- Mithun, Marianne. (1984). The evolution of noun incorporation. *Language* 60(4). 847-895.
- Mithun, Marianne. (1986). On the nature of noun incorporation. *Language* 62(1). 32-38