

European Summer School in Linguistic Typology

September 2016

Helen de HOOP

Conflicting constraints and linguistic diversity: patterns of optimization

The course has its basis in a combination of *formal* semantics in the analysis of the principles that govern the interpretation of language and communication with the *empirical* enterprise of identifying cross-linguistic patterns and generalizations. Whereas Optimality Theory in general is known to be fit for typological analysis, more recently the use of *bidirectional* optimization has been discovered to account for cross-linguistic data. The bidirectional optimization approach seems to be a new and promising way to deal with typological data especially for linguistic categories that are neither purely syntactic nor purely semantic but capture elements of both, such as differential case marking, pronoun reference, and tense, aspect, and modality. These are the topics that will be addressed in this course..