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SEMINARIO

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Indirect intransitivity

This talk offers a cross-linguistic study of indirect transitivity marking, understood as the coding of transitivity on adverbials, inflectional verbal markers or syntactically dependent predicates. Two types of indirect transitivity marking are identified: transitivity harmony and transitivity-based allomorphy. Transitivity harmony refers to cases where two predicates are required to match their transitivity in a multi-predicate construction. Transitivity-based allomorphy is found in morphemes whose realization is determined by the transitivity of the predicate they appear with. Indirect transitivity marking is attested all over the world and no significant differences are found regarding the overall distribution of transitivity harmony and transitivity-based allomorphy. Languages often exhibit only one type of indirect transitivity marking (often in a reduced list of constructions). Transitivity-based allomorphy often diachronically develops from transitivity harmony, but also from other sources, such as nominalized constructions and argument indexing paradigms.