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EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Jazyková rozmanitost a komunikace

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Prof. Ad Neeleman
University College, University of London

18 February, 2013, 15:00 room 16 (KAP16/3,46)

Person Features
and Cross-linguistic Patterns of Syncretism

Topic (joint work with Peter Ackema, University of Edinburgh):

"In this presentation I will develop an analysis of person based on the following core assumptions.

-Person features represent functions that operate on an initial set of possible discourse referents, or on the output of other person functions.

-There are two such person features, one shared by first and second person, the other shared by second and third person.

-Rules that operate on features are sensitive to the order in which the functions represented by person features apply.

The main results of the proposed theory are:

(a) an explanation of the typological inventory of persons (first, second and third in the singular; first inclusive, first exclusive, second and third in the plural);

(b) an explanation of the typological observation that syncretism between first and third person is much rarer than syncretism between either 1st and 2nd, or 2nd and 3rd person (see Baerman et al. 2005, Baerman and Brown 2011).

If there is time, I will discuss Dutch as a case study. In this language there are two person endings that arrange themselves in such a way that there is a 2-3 syncretism in the regular case, a 1-2 syncretism under subject-verb inversion, and an optional 1-3 syncretism with a particular lexical class of verbs (modals).

The paper will appear in *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* later this year."

19 February, 2013, 11:30 room 16 (KAP16/3,46)

Greenberg's Universal Nr. 20

Greenberg's (1963) Universal 20 : "When any or all of the items (demonstrative, numeral, and descriptive adjective) precede the noun, they are always found in that order. If they follow, the order is either the same or its exact opposite."