

Viktor Köhlich: The Japanese DP from a Macro-, Meso- and Micro-Perspective

This talk presents the main findings of my PhD project in which I derive a structure of the Japanese DP and its internal modifiers as part of the research program cartography. I start out by presenting the DP structure I have derived on the basis of Japanese and which I argue to bear cross-linguistic validity. This DP structure can integrate direct as well as indirect modifiers and account for the freedom of ordering in Japanese.

I then dedicate a discussion to both types of modifiers as well as to the morphological elements Japanese modifiers co-occur with. I argue that they are either instances of a syntactic head which licenses modification, or part of a tripartite structure involving two kinds of copula and a tense marker.

My aim is to emphasize the validity of the cartographic assumptions by showcasing their applicability to a language outside the Indo-European cosmos, but at the same time to point out in which ways Japanese forces us to rethink many previously made assumptions and allows for their refinement and a better understanding of the DP in cross-linguistic perspective.