

Mapping Halkomelem grammatical relations*

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Abstract

Mapping theory, which adds a level of morphosyntactic argument structure to the theory of relational grammar, provides a means for capturing cross-linguistic generalizations heretofore uncharacterizable in "classic" RG. This paper develops a mapping theory treatment of several voice phenomena — applicatives, antipassives, reflexives, and passives — with special reference to data from Halkomelem Salish. The mapping analysis is shown to be better than the "classic" RG analysis in several respects.

1. Relational profiles

Research in relational grammar has yielded much new and interesting information about morphosyntax in the world's languages. The RG view of universal grammar consists of an elaborated list of possible constructions (e.g. passives, unaccusatives, advancements to object) and combinations thereof (e.g. 3-to-2-to-1 advancement), as constrained by universal "laws" (e.g. the *stratal uniqueness law*).¹ Grammars of individual languages detail each construction or combination in terms of the relevant (morpho)syntactic rules of the language (e.g. word order, agreement, relativization). Heretofore, RG has made little attempt to "predict" the array of constructions found in a language and thus has garnered criticism from practitioners of more "explanatory" theories, such as government/binding.² However, I show in Gerdts (i.p.) that the constructions available in the grammar of a language are not random, but rather form a systematic pattern, a *relational profile*.

One thing that is quickly apparent to the reader of any RG treatment of a language is that some relational concepts are much more central to the grammar of that language than others. Take Halkomelem (a Salish language of British Columbia), for example. Rules of the grammar pivot