THREE TAKES ON GRAMMATICAL RELATIONS:
A VIEW FROM THE LANGUAGES
OF EUROPE AND NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA.

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The view that GRs are not primitive notions but rather are identifiable in terms of restricted neutralization of semantic and pragmatic relations lies at the heart of the typologies of GRs developed by Kibrik (1997, 2001), Dik (1997 and earlier work) and Van Valin & La Polla (1997 and earlier work). Despite their common point of departure the three typologies differ substantially in regard to the level at which GRs are posited (the language vs. the construction), the range of GRs recognised (potentially three by Kibrik, two by Dik and one by Van Valin & La Polla) and the nature of the neutralization taken to define the GRs. In this talk we will compare the above three approaches to GRs focusing first on the role of voice alternations in determining the presence of GRs in a language and then on the role of morpho-syntactic alignment in determining the subtypes of GRs posited. The differences between the three approaches will be illustrated on the basis of the GRs that each identifies in a range of languages from the Indo-European, Uralic, Tungusic, Mongolic and Turkic families. The talk will conclude with a consideration of the descriptive and typological value of the three classifications of GRs under discussion.

REFERENCES


