DIRECT OBJECT ENCODING IN ESTONIAN

ELENA KHANINA

Moscow State University

My study of direct object encoding in Estonian is based on the distinction between two types of rules defining the case of the object (nominative/genitive/partitive): syntactic rules and semantic ones.

I compare the factors controlling object encoding in main clauses and in infinitival complements. The rules prove to be the same; moreover, they ignore clause boundaries (i.e. the trigger for grammatical parameters that are realized in the subordinate clause can be in the main clause).

Nevertheless, infinitival clauses that are dependent on an NP (the idea of adopting a child) behave differently: here the rules defining the case of the infinitival object operate only within this clause. That is, nothing outside this clause can have an influence on object encoding.

In my talk I will demonstrate the relevant syntactic and semantic rules for all the above types of clauses.