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Differential case-marking in Ecuadorian Siona

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Stellingen

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Differential case-marking (DCM) in Ecuadorean Siona

te verdedigen op dinsdag 30 juni aan het Universiteit Leiden door

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1. Given the diverse animacy-related effects observed in Siona DCM, the notion that animacy is a single, cross-linguistically valid factor in DCM patterns is too simplistic.
(This dissertation, Chapter 3)
2. Although Tukanoan differential object-marking is often claimed to be conditioned primarily by specificity, this generalization does not obtain for Western Tukanoan.
(This dissertation, Chapters 3, 4)
3. Although all Siona DCM patterns are conditioned by similar factors, the observed proportion of marking alternatives varies considerably for each pattern in naturalistic texts.
(This dissertation, Chapter 5)
4. Even though patterns of question-answer congruence are often treated as a monolithic heuristic in the syntax literature, Siona data show that this view is too simple.
(This dissertation, Chapter 6)
5. Contrary to what is suggested in the literature, systematic DCM patterns are not restricted to the grammatical subject and (in)direct objects in Western Tukanoan languages, but also occur with locations and spatial goals.
6. Despite the dominant conception of the ambiguity avoidance function of DCM as the usage of case-marking to distinguish the subject from the direct object in the sentence, this is not the only ambiguity avoidance strategy involving DCM.
7. Although the literature generally recognizes two formal families of DCM patterns — i.e., (i) overt case-marking vs. zero-marking, and (ii) two overt case-markers, these patterns may co-exist in a given language.
8. Linguists describing and analyzing complex phenomena should place more weight on gathering corroborating evidence, combining diverse methodologies.
9. Most linguists consider the 1970's and 80's to be the beginning of the scholarly study of DCM phenomena; however earlier grammatical traditions should not be so readily discarded.
10. Field linguists should take notes by hand while recording elicitations, and then type out the notes within a few days.
11. Whether its doing art or playing music a little everyday, using your creative brain makes you a better scientist.