

Phil Branigan (Memorial University) - Cavalier head-movement and verbal morphology in Slavic and Algonquian grammars and the structure of parametric variation

Word formation in both Slavic and Algonquian languages involves rich prefixation patterns, which display similar grammatical characteristics. I show that in both language families, the morphosyntactic derivations of prefixed verb forms include two types of operations which violate the Head Movement Constraint. One is multiple head-movement; the other, long head-movement. In Russian (Slavic), the interaction of these ‘cavalier’ head-movement operations explains Pesetsky's (1979) ‘bracketing paradox’, among other things. In Innu-aimûn (Algonquian), the generation of large verb clusters is a result.

Slavic and Algonquian grammars differ in the extent to which cavalier head-movement pervades the grammatical system: in Russian, it occurs primarily in the sentential *mittelfeld* (between *v* and the left periphery); in Innu-aimûn, it occurs in almost every syntactic domain. This difference raises the question how children determine the range of cavalier head-movement in their language from the PLD. I discuss how a parametrised formulation of the HMC enables the LAD to constrain such movement more in Slavic and less in Algonquian.