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Superparticles

Wann? 30.10.2017, 16.15-17.45 Uhr

Wo? Dorotheenstr. 65, Raum 5.57

Abstract

This talk concerns the nature of two kinds of logical particles that feature in a wide range of logical expressions. Since two thirds of world's languages use such multi-functional particles to express several meanings, I will suggest a universal analysis of these two types of particles and show their behaviour in Slavonic Indo-European more generally. The core desideratum is to unify not the semantic and syntactic distribution of the contextual incarnations of the two kinds of particles. Syntactic unification is achieved by focusing on a morphologically rich collection of ancient (and modern) Indo-European languages, which—through their morphology—reveal otherwise silent syntactic material that we fail to find in a language like Japanese. The silent syntax we uncover by examining such languages makes us consider, among other things, to a syntactically—and semantically—neutral concept of /junction/, which is structurally (compositionally) the foundation underlying the systems of /con/junction and /dis/junction.