

Zorica Puškar
(ZAS Berlin)

The representation of gender on pronouns

Wann? 21.01.2019, 16.15-17.45 Uhr

Wo? Dorotheenstr. 65, Raum 5.57

Abstract

In this talk I will develop a proposal on the form, locus and function of gender features on pronouns. Under the feature geometry approach, gender is argued to be represented by an articulated internal structure, which allows for differentiation between grammatical (formal) and natural (semantic) gender. I will argue that the two kinds of gender occupy different position in the pronoun's structure, natural gender being lower than grammatical gender. The structural difference and position are argued to have consequences for pronominal morphology (3rd-person pronouns resemble nouns in their base and the extended projection, but differ from them in lacking the lexical root, which equates them to 1st- and 2nd-person pronouns). I also discuss how the presence of low natural gender on local-person pronouns accounts for their syntactic behaviour manifested in their ability to control gender agreement.