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Constraining nominalizations: functional and structural factors in interaction

Based on my previous work (Malchukov 2004), I will present a model for constraining typology of transcategorial operations in general and nominalizatons in particular. The crucial concepts of the proposed Generalized Scale Model are: a) functionally based hierarchies of verbal and nominal categories, which determine susceptibility of individual categories for loss/retention in transcategorial operations; b) structural features, pertaining to the way categories are expressed morphologically, which may interfere with the hierarchy constraints; c) Generalized Scale formation as a result of integrating the hierarchies of verbal and nominal categories; d) Blocking Effects pertaining to incompatibility of verbal and nominal categories providing alternative means of encoding certain functions (e.g., sentential vs. possessive encoding of arguments), which impose additional constrains on the Generalized Scale Model. It will be further demonstrated how the proposed analysis grounded in the competing motivations approach can be reconstructed in optimality-theoretic terms (cf. Malchukov 2006). The Hierarchy Constraints are shown to arise from interaction of FUNCFAITH constraints forcing decategorization/ recategorization and LEXFAITH hedging these processes. Structural factors such as morpheme order and category cumulation can be derived from conditions on output-output correspondences (OOCs) between morphological structure of nominalizations with that of finite verbs, on the one hand, and non-derived nouns, on the other hand. Thus the outcome of nominalization processes is determined by interaction of the function-based Hierarchy Constraints and OOC-related structural constraints.

References

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