

October 25: Main Conference

INVITED SPEAKER 3

What Do Genitive Subjects Tell Us About Adnominal Clauses?

Peter Sells

SOAS, University of London

Abstract

The syntax of adnominal clauses shows interesting differences from main clause syntax, in a variety of languages; I use the term 'adnominal clause' to refer to both relative clauses and noun-complement clauses. One notable feature of languages of Eurasia from Turkey to Japan is that adnominal clauses show the possibility for genitive subjects, though few enforce genitive as an absolute requirement. In this paper I will present data from a variety of languages, laying out a typology of adnominal clauses with genitive subjects, and providing an analysis in terms of Lexical-Functional Grammar which illuminates the similarities and differences of the various constructions that we find.