

Book Notice submission

Datives and other cases: Between argument structure and event structure. Studies in Language Companion Series 75
Edited by Daniel Hole, André Meinunger, Werner Abraham.

Category: Book notice

Word count: 535

Date: 5 June 2007

Reviewed by: Cathryn Donohue

Affiliation: University of Nevada, Reno

Snail mail: Department of English /098
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-0098 USA

Email: donohue@unr.edu

Datives and other cases: Between argument structure and event structure.

Ed. by DANIEL HOLE, ANDRÉ MEINUNGER, and WERNER ABRAHAM. (Studies in Language Companion Series 75.) Amsterdam, John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2006. Pp. 381. ISBN: 90-272-3085-4. \$156 US (Hb)

This collection of papers grew out of a workshop organized by HOLE and MEINUNGER held in conjunction with the 26th German Linguistics Society (DGfS) Annual Meeting in 2004, with the aim of presenting the latest research on datives and morphologically, functionally, or semantically similar cases, regardless of theoretical persuasions. The collection nicely reflects this goal and provides an excellent overview of datives, especially in German.

The volume is divided into three sections. The first section is the introduction by ABRAHAM (3–46) who provides an comprehensive overview of recent work on datives, particularly in German, surveying different research foci and contemporary analyses.

The second section consists of seven papers focussing on datives in Germanic. MCFADDEN (49–77) proposes that dative case assignment in German and Icelandic is generated under [Spec, ApplicativeP]. Contra inherent case assignment in a GB/PP approach, here morphological case is said to interpret the output of the syntax. Similarly, MCINTYRE (185–212) compares datives in German with the subjects of *have* in English, proposing an analysis that treats them as such: as inherently case-marked specifiers of an applicative light verb. Another related work is by MEINUNGER (79–101)

who, contra the popular view that there are three types of ditransitive verbs in German, proposes that there is a universal hierarchy of arguments [SU[IO[DO[PP (V)]]]] to account for these data. COOK (141–184) presents an alternative explanation for the different unmarked orders of datives (as verb-distal or verb-close) in German ditransitives within LFG's Lexical Mapping Theory. Rather than attempting to unify the data, she claims that the different orders result from different conceptual structures.

BRANDT (103–139) investigates syntactic parallels between double-object and experiencer datives in German (or *cipients*), unifying them in a semantic analysis. FLEISCHER (213–238) analyzes the alignment of dative case and 'indirect objects' in a range of German(ic) dialects/languages focussing on the case of relative pronouns. SCHMITZ (239–268) discusses the acquisition of German dative case by monolingual German children and German children bilingual with French or Italian. The bilingual data challenge common assumptions about the acquisition of dative case, but she accounts for it nicely by appealing to both the complexity of the German case system and the influence of the Romance language.

The final section presents research on datives 'beyond Germanic'. KALLULLI (271–300) examines data with unaccusative morphology from a number of Indo-European languages, proposing that the passive, anticausative and middle constructions all result from suppression of a feature in *v*. KRIVOKAPIĆ (301–329) explores the syntax and semantics of datives in adjectival constructions in Serbian, *vis-à-vis* bare predicative constructions,

analyzing them within Kennedy's (1997) general theory of the semantics of adjectives. The final paper was not originally presented at the workshop but is an excellent addition to the volume. BISANG (331–381) ventures outside Indo-European investigating the reasons for the occasional asymmetry of subjects and objects in Chinese and Japanese and the mapping of arguments to grammatical roles in Tagalog, noting primary causes other than semantic roles and argumenthood, noting problems his analyses may pose for current theoretical frameworks.

While greater space could have been devoted to non-Germanic languages, the volume is coherent, well edited and a valuable resource for those working on dative case, empirically or theoretically, from a syntactic or semantic perspective.

[CATHRYN DONOHUE, *University of Nevada, Reno*]

Cathryn Donohue
Department of English/098
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-0098 USA
Email: donohue@unr.edu