
Flagging-drop Typology and Contact-Induced Change

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This study deals with the typology of flagging-drop characteristics and its relevance on word order variation in the languages of Northwest Iran with focus on Target semantic roles. Target is a cover term for the semantic roles of physical and metaphorical Goals of MOTION, CAUSE-MOTION, SHOW and LOOK verbs, Recipients of GIVE verbs, Addressees of SAY verbs, as well as Resultant-states of CHANGE-of-STATE verbs that share the same adpositions or cases and they have the tendency to appear in postverbal position (Asadpour 2021, 2022). The data in this study include a corpora of monologue narrative free speech from published sources (Kıral 2001; Khan 2008; Öpengin 2016) and personal fieldwork. Considering the position of Targets and various types of flagging forms, the questions are whether the preference postverbal bare Targets, i.e. Targets without any marking in the sample languages of Northwestern Iran such as Armenian, Azeri Turkic, Jewish Neo-Aramaic, Mukri Kurdish, and Northeastern Kurdish are due to contact-induced change or internal language development. Does the position of constituents and more specifically the Target trigger the choice of flagging such as full or reduced flagging as well as bare? Or is there a preference for a specific type of flagging in either of the positions? In general and based on the results, three stages can be defined for possibility of change in this morphological marking. Stage I is considered to be the early stage of change in the type of flagging, i.e. full flagging, stage II is considered to be change in progress, i.e. reduced flagging and stage III is considered to be an established phase, i.e. no flagging (bare).

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