

still poorly understood. In a massively cross-linguistic study based on parallel texts I have investigated restrictives across a stratified sample from 121 language families and isolates in translations of the New Testament (Mayer & Cysouw 2014). Major findings are that restriction plays an important role in discourse and that the use of restrictives exhibits hemispheric differences with the Pacific and the Afro-Eurasian linguistic hemispheres reflecting partly different usage patterns. Like other kinds of particles and clitics, restrictives tend to have very high text frequency in languages of the Americas and New Guinea. Benjamin Lee Whorf, a pioneer in pointing out fundamental differences between languages of the Old and the New World, has called them “tensors”, “...a special part of speech” that “denotes only intensity, tendency, duration, and sequence” (Whorf 1939). The high text frequency of restrictives in many languages of the Pacific hemisphere seems to have formal correlates, such as morphological (bound) expression and double exponence.

Selected references

- Borin, Lars, Markus Forsberg, Johan Roxendal. 2012. Korp – the corpus infrastructure of Språkbanken, in *Proceedings of LREC 2012*, 474–478. Istanbul: ELRA.
- Holvoet, Axel. 2019. Minor grams in Baltic. *Baltic Linguistics* 10. 7–20.
- Mithun, Marianne & Elizabeth Ali. 1996. The Elaboration of Aspectual Categories: Central Alaskan Yup’ik. *Folia Linguistica* 30. 1–2: 111–127.
- Mayer, Thomas & Cysouw, Michael. 2014. Creating a massively parallel Bible corpus. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC)*, Reykjavik, 3158–3163.
- Nau, Nicole. 2019. The Latvian continuative construction *runāt vienā runāšanā* ‘talk in one talking’=‘keep talking’. *Baltic Linguistics* 10. 21–63.
- Waldenfels, Ruprecht von. 2012. ParaSol: introduction to a Slavic parallel corpus. *Prace Filologiczne* 63, 293–302.
- Whorf, Benjamin Lee. 1939. The relation of habitual thought and behavior to language. In L. Spier, A. I. Hallowell & S. S. Newman (eds.), *Language, culture and personality, Essays in memory of Edward Sapir*, 75–93. Menasha, WI: Sapir Memorial Publication Fund.