

Abstract:

Locative and existential predications are known to share linguistic features in many languages of the world. Although there is much research on them – both from theoretical and language-specific points of view – many problems and questions are yet unsolved. The project "Locative and existential predications in languages of the Ob-Yenisei area – Typology and information structure", funded by the German Research Association (DFG) targets some of these questions, its empirical base being corpus data from a dozen of languages (Uralic, Turkic, Tungusic, Yeniseian) of the Ob-Yenisei area. The talk introduces the project itself, provides a rough overview of locative and existential predication in the target languages and discusses two particular phenomena in more detail: (1) non-core strategies for expressing locative and existential predication and (2) "existential takeover" patterns, i.e. existential items used in locative predication.