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Comparatives, equatives and numerals: Evidence from Czech and Vietnamese

Abstract

The talk focuses on differential constructions like John is two times older than Mary in Czech and Vietnamese. Basic empirical generalization is that while both event (twice) and degree (twofold) numerals are acceptable in the differential slot of comparatives and equatives in Vietnamese, only event numerals are ok in Czech equatives (both types of numerals are acceptable as differentials of Czech comparatives though). The analysis builds on Rett's theory of quantity words like many, much as degree modifiers and on Doetjes's approach to frequency adverbs.

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