

Abstract Pavel Ozerov: From Information Structure to interactional structuring of information:
“information-structural” phenomena in Burmese

This talk will present an alternative approach to the study of Information Structure, building on previous literature (e.g. Behrens 2012, Matic' and Wedgwood 2013) and own research. It will argue for the study of diverse, mostly interactional functions as underlying factors for a range of information-structural interpretations. After an introductory critical discussion and theoretical arguments for the proposed approach, I will present several case studies of presumable information-structural phenomena in Burmese that upon closer examination turn out to have a different function and usage. Specifically, they directly relate to interactional phenomena such as stance-taking, intersubjective alignment and discourse-management. Finally, I will provide a tentative outline for alternative perspectives on the cross-linguistic theoretical study of these phenomena.

References:

- Behrens, Leila. 2012. “Evidentiality, Modality, Focus and Other Puzzles: Some Reflections on Metadiscourse and Typology.” In Schalley Andrea C. (ed.), *Practical Theories and Empirical Practice: A Linguistic Perspective*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 185–244
- Matic', Dejan, and Daniel Wedgwood. 2013. “The Meanings of Focus: The Significance of an Interpretation-Based Category in Cross-Linguistic Analysis.” *Journal of Linguistics* 49 (1): 127–163