

Cognate objects in Arabic

A structural and functional analysis of data from the Qur'an and from Modern Written Arabic

Empirical studies on cognate objects (further CO/COs) in different languages show that CO-constructions form a heterogeneous group both in terms of their syntax and their semantics (cf. [Pereltsvaig \(2002\)](#) on Hebrew, [Nakajima \(2006\)](#) and [Kim & Lim \(2012\)](#) on English, [Glaude & Zribi-Hertz \(2014\)](#) on Haitian Creole, and [Akkuş & Öztürk \(2017\)](#) on Sason Arabic).

It has been pointed out that in contrast to earlier approaches, COs cannot be considered either only as arguments or exclusively as adjuncts (for COs as arguments in English and French cf. [Macfarland \(1995\)](#), in English and Japanese cf. [Matsumoto \(1996\)](#) and for COs as adjuncts in English cf. [Jones \(1988\)](#), in English and German cf. [Moltmann \(1989\)](#)). The question of the status of COs as arguments or adjuncts is accompanied by the discussion whether only intransitive verbs enter CO-constructions and if among the intransitive verbs only unergative verbs or also unaccusative verbs license COs (cf. [Levin & Hovav \(1995\)](#), [Nakajima \(2006\)](#)).

[Pereltsvaig \(2002\)](#) and [Kim & Lim \(2012\)](#) (i.a.) argue that both approaches (COs as arguments vs. adjuncts) are compatible by adopting two types of COs ((a) 'arguments' or 'referential-COs' vs. (b) 'adjuncts' or 'eventive-COs') and claim that languages differ in whether they allow only CO-type (a) or both.

In my talk I will discuss the syntactic and semantic properties of COs based on data from Qur'an (Classical Arabic) and from Modern Written Arabic (cf. [Badawi et al. \(2004\)](#), [Ryding \(2005\)](#) (i.a.)) and argue that (i) in (Classical and Modern Written) Arabic both types of CO-constructions ((a) and (b)) occur with unergative, unaccusative and transitive verbs, (ii) in a CO-construction the nominal head of the CO needs not be etymologically related to the lexical predicate of the construction; rather nominal derivations of other semantically similar verbs can also occur as the head of the CO, and (iii) diachronically in Arabic 'eventive-COs' ([Kim & Lim 2012: 33](#)) represent a productive path for the lexicalization of adverbs (from an accusative-marked (verbal)noun as head of the CO to an adverb with a fossilized accusative-marking).

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