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Unmarked resultatives in Abaza (Northwest Caucasian) and the typology of passive lability

“Passive lability”, whereby the passive construction does not have any specific verbal marking, is a phenomenon best known from the Mande language family in Africa, although it is also attested in other languages of the world. In this talk I discuss the peculiar objective resultative construction in Abaza, a polysynthetic Northwest Caucasian language, and investigate the degree of its similarity to the cross-linguistic prototype of the passive. Given that the Abaza resultative is morphologically unmarked, I argue that it can be considered an instance of passive lability. I also propose a tentative typology of passive lability based on the parameters of productivity, Aktionsart and the possibility of agent expression.