

Icelandic passives and middles and the structure of v

In this talk, I analyze Icelandic eventive passives, adjectival passives, and middle constructions in terms of a decomposition of verbal structure into morphological and semantically motivated components. The result is that what is often called "v" in recent literature is decomposed into component parts. Rather than a single head denoting causation, assigning accusative case, introducing the external argument, providing verbal categorial features, hosting successive-cyclic wh-movement, and triggering phrasal spell-out, I suggest that there is a rich internal structure to v and that each of these functions can be localized differently.