

MA PREDICATION 2023-24

MA elective, Semester I

Prerequisites: Syntax A, Syntax B, knowledge of the basics of the lexicon-syntax interface

Hours: Wednesdays, 14:00 – 18:00

Lecturer: Tova Rapoport

Office: Room 74-518; Office hours by appointment.

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Please e-mail me your questions by the evening before your meeting.

All correspondence in English, please.

In this course, we review theories of predication, examining syntactic and thematic analyses of both primary and secondary predication constructions.

Throughout the semester, we use what we learn to investigate the properties of predication constructions cross-linguistically, focussing on the Arabic and Hebrew data provided by you.

Requirements

The course consists of readings and discussion. Students are expected to prepare the readings for each class, present when scheduled, and to actively participate in class discussion.

Participation is therefore required. (The usual rules apply.)

Also, review the file Class Rules on Moodle, noting in particular that cell phones are not allowed (face-up) in class.

Each student will choose a topic (to be approved), collect relevant data in their native language (original and/or published), and compile a list of relevant references. The result, together with your observations and the basis of your analysis, will be presented in class, accompanied by a professional-level handout or presentation.

Based on the presentation and the comments made by your colleagues, as well as your continued research, each student will write a final paper (10-15 double-spaced pages), making use of the theoretical tools assembled during the semester.

Grading

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| (1) Critical article responses/reports – written or oral | 15% |
| (2) Final course paper and presentation: | |
| a. Proposal | 5% |
| b. Outline, including annotated bibliography | 10% |
| c. Class presentation, including handout/ppt | 15% |
| d. Final (original research) paper | 50% |
| (3) Obligatory participation | 5% |

- The presentation grade includes your participation at your colleagues' presentations.
- We will work out a schedule of presentations during the semester.

Partial Bibliography

We begin with a review of theories of predication and its structural representation, taking as our starting point several debates.

Williams, Edwin. 1980. Predication. *Linguistic Inquiry* 11:203–238.

Williams, Edwin. 1983. Against small clauses. *Linguistic Inquiry*.14: 287-308.

Stowell, Tim. 1983. Subjects across categories. *The Linguistic Review*. 285-312.

On predication structure:

Bowers, John. 1993. The syntax of predication. *Linguistic Inquiry* 24. 591–656.

Matushansky, Ora. 2019. Against the PredP Theory of Small Clauses. *Linguistic Inquiry* 50(1): 63-104.

Irimia, Monica and Tova Rapoport. 2022. "The Nature of a Predicate: The Case of Depictives." In Proceedings of the 2021 Meeting of the Canadian Linguistic Association.

Then, an example of making use of a predication analysis: predication and PPs.

We continue with an examination of thematic and structural analyses of secondary predication constructions.

Rapoport, Tova. 1999. Structure, Aspect, and the Predicate. *Language* 75: 653–676.

Himmelman, Nikolaus P. and Eva F. Schultze-Berndt. 2005a. Issues in the syntax and semantics of participant-oriented adjuncts: an introduction. In Himmelman, Nikolaus P. and Eva F. Schultze-Berndt (eds.), *Secondary Predication and Adverbial Modification: The typology of depictives*. 1-67. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rapoport, T. and A. Zarka. 2021. "False resultatives: The interaction of agreement and creation in Northern Galilee Levantine Arabic." *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 6(1): 19. 1–22. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.1274>

If you find an article (on your own language, for instance) that interests you, let me know and we will add it to the list.