Constraining typology of nominalizations

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<<Abstract>>

The talk addresses the question whether there is any order in which verbal categories are lost and nominal categories acquired in transcategorial processes such as nominalization. Based on my previous work, I will present a model for constraining typology of transcategorial operations in general and nominalizatons in particular. The crucial concepts of the proposed Generalized Scale Model are: a) functionally based hierarchies of verbal and nominal categories as assumed in the functional literature (Bybee, Van Valin, and others), which determine susceptibility of individual categories for loss/retention in transcategorial operations; b) structural features, pertaining to the way categories are expressed morphologically, which may interfere with the hierarchy constraints; c) Generalized Scale formation as a result of integrating the hierarchies of verbal and nominal categories. The predictions of this model are tested against a sample of languages. The analysis is grounded in the functional-typological tradition (work by Comrie, Koptjevskaja-Tamm and others on the typology of nominalizations), but is also broadly compatible with functionally-oriented optimality-theoretic approaches.