Title: Cross-linguistic Research on “Verbals” (The 1st meeting)

Date/Time: 11 May 2013 (Sat.) 10:30-17:00

Venue: Room 306 (Multimedia Seminar Room), ILCAA
Language: Japanese

1. Yasuhiro YAMAKOSHI (ILCAA Joint Researcher / Sapporo Gakuin University)
“Aims and plans of the project”

2. Fuyuki EBATA (ILCAA Joint Researcher / Niigata University)
“Sakha (Yakut) verbal inflectional forms and their syntactic function”

Sakha verbal inflectional forms are traditionally divided into three classes: finite verbs, participles, and converbs. It is very salient in Sakha that this classification is strongly related to the syntactic functions of these classes. Some participles may appear as the predicate of a main clause, which is the only case to which the relation between form and function does not apply. Sakha participles can contain verbal grammatical categories such as polarity, tense, and person/number; Sakha converbs also exhibit polarity and person/number. Compared with these inflectional forms, deverbal nouns have fewer verbal properties; specifically, they cannot contain polarity or person/number, although they can retain the valency of the base verb.

3. Yasuhiro YAMAKOSHI (ILCAA Joint Researcher / Sapporo Gakuin University)
“On the function of ‘participles’ in Buryat”

Traditionally, the verbal inflection of the Mongolic languages, including Buryat, has been classified into three inflectional classes: finite verbs, participles (in other words, “verbal nouns”), and converbs. Each class has a particular syntactic function. Finite verbs appear as predicates of main clauses, participles mainly appear as predicates of nominal and adjectival clauses, and converbs appear as predicates of adverbial clauses. However, this classification may be unsuitable. It is because some participles also appear as predicates of adverbial clauses. These function seems to be similar to that of adjectives, which can modify both nouns and verbs. However,
Participles are different from adjectives. When a participle is used as the predicate of an adverbial clause, it always appears with some enclitical particles, which do not appear with adjectives that modify verbs. Therefore, we cannot define participles as inflectional V → A transposition, as suggested by Haspelmath and Sims (2010).

4. Iku NAGASAKI (ILCAA Joint Researcher / NINJAL)
“Verbal inflection in Kolyma Yukaghir: Functions and morphology of participles”
This presentation aims to describe the morphology and functions of verb inflectional forms in Kolyma Yukaghir. It also discusses the grammatical characteristics of Kolyma Yukaghir participles and examines the difference between participles and deverbal derivatives. The main points of this paper are as follows:

(1) Verb forms in Kolyma Yukaghir can be divided into three types according to their syntactic functions: finite forms, participles, and converbs. Although the finite forms, the converbs, and one of the participles (the JE-participle) are monofunctional, two of the participles, the ME-participle and the L-participle, are multifunctional. The ME-participle can be used in adjectival and main clauses, and the L-Participle can be used in adjectival, nominal, and main clauses.
(2) The distinction between participles and deverbal derivatives cannot always be made by the preservation of the argument structures. Indeed, they have clear differences in the possibilities for marking some verbal categories (person/number of the subject, tense, and evidentiality).
(3) The three participles also vary in the possibilities for marking verbal categories. The ME-participle is formally similar to finite forms. The L-participle exhibits similarities to finite forms and nouns. The JE-participle is similar to the converbs, in that the two forms show few verbal characteristics.

5. Reiko ASO (ILCAA Joint Researcher)
“Participles in Hateruma (Yaeyama Ryukyuan): Functions of Plain Forms and Cliticized Forms”
In Hateruma, each plain form of verbs corresponds to each syntactic function, that is, a predicate of the main clause, adnominal clause, or adverbial clause. Therefore, it seems that each form can be classified as finite, participle, and converb. However, this is not the case when some clitics attach to a certain participle, called “bare participle” in this paper. This paper provides a description of verb forms and its functions, distinguishing plain verb forms from verbs with clitics to show that some clitics provide bare participles with new functions. The author suggests that in Hateruma, the practice
of classifying verbs in terms of correspondence between forms and functions needs further discussion especially for participles, since the syntactic functions of bare participles cannot be determined simply from plain verb forms.