

Clause-hood, Finiteness, and Subordination of Converbs: a Cross-linguistic Survey

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This talk aims to reconsider three notions that have evoked long-standing controversies in linguistic theory: clause-hood, finiteness, and subordination. These notions are abundantly used in modern linguistics, but are hard to capture and define. Since they were mainly developed in the studies of Indo-European languages, linguists often find it difficult to apply them to descriptions of more 'exotic' languages. Converbs in Asian languages are good examples (see Bickel 1998). This study examines the clause-hood of converbal clauses, the finiteness of converbs, and the subordinate status of converbal clauses, by focusing on Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Nanai (Tungusic), and Turkish, all of which make active use of converbs and converbal clauses.

Bickel, Balthasar 1998. Review article: Converbs in cross-linguistic perspective. *Linguistic Typology* 2(3): 81-397.