

Transitivity in Turkish

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Turkic languages including Turkish have agglutinative morphology and suffixing, which has been called Altaic type by Japanese linguists (Kamei, Kono & Chino (eds.) 1995). Although there are some exceptions, it forms the one-to-one relationship between morphology and function. In this presentation, I am concerned with the verbal derivation in Turkish, comparing with old Turkic (Orkhun script) and some other Turkic languages spoken in Central Asia. I especially examine the direction of verbal derivation of transitives and intransitives and try to count transitive and intransitive verbs found in a representative Turkish-Japanese dictionary and employed statistical analyses for the results. In conclusion, contrary to previous analyses (e.g. Haspelmath (1993), Nichols, Peterson & Barnes (2004)), the number of pairs of Turkish verbs, which derives from Transitives to Intransitives are almost the same as those of Intransitives to Transitives.