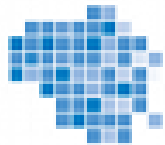


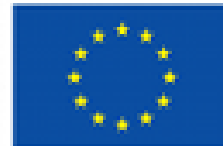
The VARGReB project: Summing-up and Outlook

Nicole Nau (VU & UAM)

*Argument Realization and Clausal
Architecture in Baltic, Salos 2015*



MOKSLAS • EKONOMIKA • SĄJLAUDA



EUROPOS SĄJUNGA
EUROPOS SAJUNGA FONDAS

Kuriame Lietuvos ateitį

Structure of this talk

- The project (very short introduction)
- Topics and phenomena (long, but not exhaustive presentation, including topics dealt with and ideas for further research)
- Approaches and methods (a bit sketchy as I will run out of time)

Examples, if not indicated otherwise, come from the parallel corpus lila (www.korpuss.lv/lila), often taken from the introductions to Volume 1 and 2

The project

VARGReB = Valency, Argument Realization
and Grammatical Relations in Baltic

Vilnius University, 01.10.2012-30.09.2015

„The aim of this international research project is to bundle the efforts of scholars from Lithuania and other countries in advancing theoretically and typologically informed research into the Baltic languages.”

Three volumes of articles, published by
John Benjamins, Amsterdam

- Volume 1 (2014)
Grammatical relations and the non-canonical marking of arguments in Baltic
- Volume 2 (2015, in press)
Voice and argument structure in Baltic
- Volume 3 (2015, forthcoming)
Argument realization in Baltic

(all volumes edited and introduced
by Axel Holvoet & Nicole Nau)

What is interesting in the Baltic languages (regarding our topics)?

- Case marking
 - Clearly distinct morphological cases (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, locative; instrumental; + vocative)
 - Grammatical vs. semantic cases?
 - **Case alternations within one language** (according to various parameters)
 - Differences in case choice between Latvian and Lithuanian

Different
argument
marking in
Latvian and
Lithuanian

Holvoet &
Nau, Vol. 1

(1) ‘turn (into)’ Latvian original: locative

Vēj-š, kas jau bija pārvērties īst-ā
wind-NOM.SG what.NOM PTC be.PST.3 turn.PPA.M.SG real-LOC.SG
vētr-ā,
storm-LOC.SG

Lithuanian translation: instrumental

Vėj-as, jau spėjęs virsti tikr-a
wind-NOM.SG PTC be_in_time.PPA.M.SG turn.INF real-INS.SG.F
vėtr-a
storm-INS.SG

‘The wind, which had already turned into a real storm’

(2) ‘fall in love’ Lithuanian original: accusative

ji į-si-mylėjo tok-į akinuot-q student-q
she PFX-RFL-love.PST.3 such-ACC.SG bespectacled.ACC.SG student-ACC.SG

Latvian translation: locative

viņa ie-mīlējās tād-ā brillāin-ā student-ā.
she PFX-love.RFL.PST.3 such-LOC.SG bespectacled.LOC.SG student-LOC.SG
‘she fell in love with a certain bespectacled student’

Case alternations in one language

(differential/variable/alternative argument marking)

- genitive vs. nominative
- genitive vs. accusative
- genitive vs. instrumental
- dative vs. accusative
- dative vs. nominative
- accusative vs. nominative
- ...?

Accusative ~ genitive for negated objects in Latvian (Holvoet & Nau, Vol. 1)

Quote of a spoken utterance in different written media

- (10) *Prasīb-ai par man-u demisij-u*
request-DAT.SG for my-ACC.SG resignation-ACC.SG
ne-redzu nevien-u pamatot-u argument-u
NEG-see.PRS.1SG no.one-ACC.SG reasonable-ACC.SG.M argument-ACC.SG
'I don't see any reasonable argument for the request of my resignation.'⁶
- (11) *Prasīb-ai par demisij-u*
request-DAT.SG for resignation-ACC.SG
ne-redzu nevien-a racionāl-a argument-a
NEG-see.PRS.1SG no.one-GEN.SG reasonable-GEN.SG.M argument-GEN.SG
'I don't see any reasonable argument for the request of [my] resignation.'⁷

Genitive ~ instrumental (Lithuanian; Wiemer & Žeimantienė, Vol. 3)

- (1) *Kai kuri-uos gėrim-us gamintoj-ai prisotin-a vitamin-o / vitamin-u C.*
some-ACC.PL beverage-ACC.PL producer-NOM.PL enrich-PRS.3 vitamin-GEN/ -INS C
'Producers enrich some of their beverages **with vitamine C.**' (LKVJŽ, sub verbo)
- (2a) *Šeiminink-ės nustat-ė stal-us valgi-ais.*
housewife-NOM.PL put_on-PST.3 table-ACC.PL dish-INS.PL
'The housewives put the tables (full) **with food.**' (LKVJŽ, sub verbo)
- (2b) *Žmon-a pristat-ė kambar-į gėli-ų.*
wife-NOM.SG put_full-PST.3 room-ACC flower-GEN.PL
'The wife filled the room **with flowers.**' (LKVJŽ, sub verbo)

Dative ~ accusative (Latvian; Holvoet & Nau, Vol. 1)

- (20) *es ne-spēju saprast cilvēkus,*
1SG.NOM NEG-be.able.PRS.1SG understand.INF human-ACC.PL
kas sit sun-i
who.NOM hit.PRS.3 dog-ACC.SG
'I am unable to understand people who beat a dog'
(<http://www.sapforums.lv/index.php?t=46747>)

- (21) *Man šokēja tas, ka*
1SG.DAT shock DEM.NOM.SG.M that
sit sun-im, kur-š rej...
hit.PRS.3 dog-DAT.SG which-NOM.SG.M bark.PRS.3
'I was shocked [to read] that [people] beat a dog that barks...'
(<http://www.calis.lv/forums/tema/18153059-ka-palidzet-bailigam-tramigam-sunim/1/>)

What is interesting in the Baltic languages (regarding our topics)?

- Marking and identification of subjects / grammatical relations
 - What is a subject?
 - How can the highest ranking argument be marked (if not with the nominative)?
 - Are nominative marked arguments subjects?
 - Which arguments have properties typically associated with subjects (or with direct objects)?

Genitive marking and the problem of subjecthood (Lithuanian; Holvoet & Nau, Vol. 1)

- (39) *Filharmonij-oje knibždėjo įvairiausi-ų žmoni-ų.*
philharmonic-LOC.SG swarm.PST.3 various-GEN.PL people-GEN.PL
'The concert hall was swarming with all kinds of people.'
(from Lenartaitė-Gotaučienė, this volume)
- (40) *Mūsų Lietuv-oje yra įvairiausių žmonių [...]*
our Lithuania-LOC be.PRS.3 various-GEN.PL people-GEN.PL
'There are all kinds of people in this Lithuania of ours...'
<http://www.asirpsichologija.lt/index.php?id=470&category=4>

Datives may behave like subjects

Causative construction (Latvian; Nau & Holvoet, Vol. 2)

Latvian (constructed examples)

- (24) *bērn-am ļoti kut*
child-DAT.SG very tickle.PRS.3
'the child is very ticklish'
- (25) *māt-e kut-ina bērn-u*
mother-NOM.SG tickle-CAUS.PRS.3 child-ACC.SG
'mother tickles the child'

... or like direct objects (Lithuanian;
Anderson, Vol. 2)

(1) Oblique passive:

a. *Jon-as vadovauj-a fabrik-ui.*

Jonas(M)-NOM manage-PRS.3 factory(M)-DAT

‘Jonas manages the factory.’

(1) b. *Fabrik-as buv-o Jon-o vadovauj-am-as.*

factory(M)-NOM.SG AUX-PST.3 Jonas-GEN manage-PPRA-NOM.SG.M

‘The factory was managed by Jonas.’

Nominatives that are not subjects (but neither objects?)

The Latvian debitive construction (Holvoet & Grzybowska, Vol. 1)

(6) *Man jā-dzer ūden-s.*
1SG.DAT DEB-drink water-NOM
'I must drink water.'

(7) *Man tevi jā-brīdina.*
1SG.DAT 2SG.ACC DEB-warn
'I must warn you.'

(Colloquial Latvian; Seržant & Taperte, Vol. 3)

*Pusdienlaikā Sandra mūs aizveda paēst, labi, ka
viņa mums varēja ieteikt,*

k-as	<i>ir</i>	<i>garšīgs</i>	<i>un</i>
WH-NOM	be.PRS.3	tasty-NOM.SG.M	and

k-o	<i>mums</i>	<i>obligāti</i>	<i>jā-noprovē.</i>
WH-ACC	1PL.DAT	obligatorily	DEB-try

‘At lunch time, Sandra took us to a restaurant; [it was] good that she could advise us on what is tasty and what we had to try at all means.’

Marking of core arguments: Our contributions (Vol. 1)

Ilja Seržant: *The independent partitive genitive in Lithuanian*

Peter Arkadiev: *Case and word order in Lithuanian infinitival clauses revisited*

Nicole Nau: *Differential object marking in Latgalian*

B. Wiemer & V. Bjarnadóttir (1): *On the non-canonical marking of the highest-ranking argument in Lithuanian and Icelandic: Steps toward a database*

And forthcoming in Vol. 3

- Axel Holvoet: *Baltic and Slavonic pain verb constructions*
- Peter Arkadiev: *The long-distance object genitive of negation in Lithuanian*
- Ilja Seržant: *Nominative case in Baltic in a typological perspective*

Problems of subjecthood: Our contributions (Vol. 1)

- Axel Holvoet & Marta Grzybowska: *Non-canonical grammatical relations in a modal construction: The Latvian debitive*
- Kristina Lenartaitė-Gotaučiienė: *Alternations in argument realization and problematic cases of subjecthood in Lithuanian*
- Rolandas Mikulskas: *Subjecthood in specificational copular constructions in Lithuanian*

Variation in argument marking: forthcoming in Vol. 3

- Ilya Seržant & Jana Taperte: *Differential argument marking in the Latvian debitive: a diachronic and synchronic multi-variate analysis*
- Björn Wiemer & Vaiva Žeimantienė: *Contexts for the choice of genitive vs. instrumental in contemporary Lithuanian*
- Natalia Zaika : *Inessive/illative alternations in Lithuanian and elsewhere*

What is interesting in the Baltic languages (regarding our topics)?

- Argument marking in non-finite constructions (with converbs, infinitives, nominalizations)
- Valency-changing derivational morphology
- Various uses of the reflexive marker
- The passive family

Passive constructions in Baltic

(Nau & Holvoet, vol. 2)

	Lithuanian	Latvian
'be' + t-participle	<i>yra rašytas</i>	<i>ir rakstīts</i>
'be' + m-participle	<i>yra rašomas</i>	–
AUX2 + t-participle	–	<i> tiek rakstīts</i>