

## Reflexivity in Ancient Indo-European Languages

Reflexivity is a coreference relation between subject-like arguments and other arguments within the same syntactic domain. This domain may be a sentence, as in *John saw himself in the mirror*, but it may also be a noun phrase, as in *John's pictures of himself*. To mark coreference between the subject and the object, many languages use special markers like the medium or a special set of pronouns, often clitics. Outside of subject-object coreference, reflexive pronouns are used.

Reflexivity and the way it is expressed in language relate to various aspects of linguistic structure widely discussed in contemporary linguistics:

- Morphology-syntax interface: Reflexivity can be expressed morphologically (the IE medium), but also syntactically. In many languages, different ways of expressing reflexivity compete and often coexist. In Greek, e.g., so-called introverted reflexives are typically marked by the medium, whereas extroverted reflexives are expressed by reflexive pronouns. Russian uses a reflexive marker *-sja* on the verb or the pronouns *sebjja*, similarly German *sich* and *sich selbst*. Reflexivity may even be marked by compounding as in English *self-destruct*.
- Phonology-morphosyntax interface: Reflexive markers tend to have quite unusual formal features positioning them in between affixes and clitics. Lithuanian *si* is again an instructive example, see e.g. *žiurėti-s* vs. *pa-si-žiurėti*. In Albanian, the reflexive marker *-u-* is prefixed to the verb stem (*-u-hap-*), but, in the imperative, inserted between the verb stem and the ending of the 2nd plural as, e.g., in *hap-u-ni!*
- Binding: Reflexives are typically used under rather strict binding conditions. In ancient IE languages, however, the use of reflexive pronouns is less restricted. This points to an intermediate stage in a well-known grammaticalization path from emphatic anaphoric pronoun to true reflexive. Reflexives can also be used as logophors, as e.g. in Icelandic. In special contexts, reflexives may be used outside their binding contexts (*Anything else for yourself today?*), while at the same time anaphoric pronouns can be used instead of reflexive ones (*I'll get me a beer.*). The scope of reflexives and possessive reflexives may differ: In some languages reflexives are restricted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> person (e.g. Latin), in others there is no such restriction (e.g. Russian).
- Syntax-semantics interface and argument-linking: Reflexives may be used to denote reciprocity and passive semantics, but the coexpression is constrained in various ways. They can be used as autocausatives or anticausatives and they may even be completely desemantized (inherent reflexives, deponents). In many IE languages, they compete with canonical passives.

- Pragmatics: The distribution of unmarked and intensive reflexives is often governed by pragmatic factors.
- Diachrony: Ways of expressing reflexivity change over time (e.g. loss of the medium, rise of proper reflexive pronouns). Reflexive markers may spread to other functions (e.g. impersonal reflexives). As in other domains, change is driven by cognitive prerequisites and by speaker-hearer interaction.
- Contact: Reflexive constructions may bear signals of areal diffusion, suggesting that they are susceptible to contact driven change.
- Typology: The means to express reflexivity as well as the scope of reflexive constructions differ across languages in a non-arbitrary way. With both the medium voice and reflexives usually restricted to 3<sup>rd</sup> person reference ancient IE languages form a type sui generis whose structural properties and whose relation to other language types constrains the possibility space for change.

We invite talks addressing any of the topics mentioned above. We are interested both in the semantics of reflexivity and in the formal means of expressing it, both in synchronic variation and in diachronic development.

The conference languages are English, French, and German.

Please send your abstracts to [fachtagung2020@ivs.uzh.ch](mailto:fachtagung2020@ivs.uzh.ch) until December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. The header of your mail should contain the name of the workshop and the title of your talk.