

The Case of Source and Goal: What Determines Case in German Spatial PPs

Abstract

In this talk I argue, following important observations by J. Zwarts (2005, 2006), that accusative marking in spatial adpositional phrases is closely linked to the notion 'extent' or, more generally, to delimiting measure phrases, which quite generally take the accusative case. It conjectures that the accusative case that shows up in GOAL-PPs, but not in SOURCE-PPS, is due to an implied measure phrase. Finally, I suggest that the dative case that characterizes purely locative PPs and SOURCE-PPS is not a governed case at all but the manifestation of the default case in oblique domains.