PARAMETERISING GERMANIC DITRANSITIVE VARIATION

Hezekiah Akiva Bacovcin

A DISSERTATION

in

Linguistics

Presented to the Faculties of the University of Pennsylvania in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

2016

Supervisor of Dissertation

_____

Anthony Kroch, Professor of Linguistics

Graduate Group Chairperson

_____

Rolf Noyer, Associate Professor of Linguistics

Dissertation committee
David Embick, Professor of Linguistics
William Haddican, Associate Professor of Linguistics, CUNY
Julie Legate, Professor of Linguistics
Don Ringe, Professor of Linguistics

PARAMETERISING GERMANIC DITRANSITIVE VARIATION:

A HISTORICAL-COMPARATIVE STUDY

COPYRIGHT

2016

Hezekiah Akiva Bacovcin

Acknowledgements

Thanks, y'all!

ABSTRACT

PARAMETERISING GERMANIC DITRANSITIVE VARIATION:

A HISTORICAL-COMPARATIVE STUDY

Hezekiah Akiva Bacovcin

Anthony Kroch

This dissertation has three main contributions: a new proposal for analysing ditransitive alternations in languages like English, a new proposal for how locality and case interact in passivisation, and an example of how historical and comparative data can be used in developing syntactic analyses. While the use of comparative data has become increasingly common, usage data from historical corpora is still rarely used in argumentation in theoretical syntax. This dissertation gives an example of how such usage data can decisively distinguish between theories which are both viable on the basis of synchronic data alone.

Contents

Acknowledgements iii

Abstract iv

Contents v

List of Tables vii

List of Figures viii

I Introduction 1

1 Introduction 2

2 Germanic Languages 3

3 Ditransitives 4

II Case and Scrambling 5

4 Germanic Word Orders 6

5 Germanic Recipient Marking 7

6 English Dative Shift **8**

III Passive Locality 9

7 Locality **10**

8 Ditransitive Passives **11**

IV Conclusions 12

9 Formal Implementation **13**

10 Historical Implications **14**

11 Conclusions and Further Implications **15**

List of Tables

List of Figures

Part I

Introduction

Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 2

Germanic Languages

Chapter 3

Ditransitives

Part II

Case and Scrambling

Chapter 4

Germanic Word Orders

Chapter 5

Germanic Recipient Marking

Chapter 6

English Dative Shift

Part III

Passive Locality

Chapter 7

Locality

Chapter 8

Ditransitive Passives

Part IV

Conclusions

Chapter 9

Formal Implementation

Chapter 10

Historical Implications

Chapter 11

Conclusions and Further Implications