

# SLE Workshop on Referential Hierarchies in Alignment Typology: Topics for discussion

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## Hierarchical alignment

Is there such a thing as hierarchical alignment?

- Haude & Keller; Guildea: **YES**, defined as  $\{\text{ARG}_{[\textit{highest}]}\}$  or  $\{\text{ARG}_{[\textit{lowest}]}\}$  (cf. Bickel 2010:408 [Handbook of Typology])
- Witzlack-Makarevich et al.: **NO**, side-effects of a much larger phenomenon: sensitivity to co-argument properties (reference) and voice (direct/inverse) (also cf. Siewierska and van Lier on ditransitives)

## The nature of hierarchies

Are hierarchies ...

- parts of grammars, as per most statements in descriptive grammars and in, say, OT modeling?
- functional principles operating over time (Diedrichsen and much earlier functionalist literature)?
- nothing but low-level analogy effects (e.g. treating some third persons like SAP because they are ontologically similar), as in usage-based theories?
  - cf. Cysouw cell extensions in complex paradigms giving rise to “inverse” systems

## The nature of hierarchies, *cont'd*

- Arkadiev: gender-based splits doesn't easily fit into hierarchies (e.g. Jingulu). Cf. Diedrichsen's exceptions in German →
  - what if there are more language-specific splits of this kind?
  - still assume a universal hierarchy?

### **The nature of hierarchies, *cont'd***

- Fauconnier: binary feature oppositions ( $\pm$ animate for A and O,  $\pm$ focal for A,  $\pm$ definite for O), instead of one single universal hierarchy

### **Multifactorial vs. simple effects**

- Brown & Fedden on AGR: Teiwa (animacy) vs. Kamang and Abui (also volitionality and specificity)
- Zúñiga on CASE (and AGR): Zumaia Basque ( $\pm$ human) vs. Spanish (also specificity and topicality)

→ any systematic differences between CASE and AGR?

### **Lexical factors**

**lexical** factors intervening (Brown and Fedden on Teiwa)

- cf. Siewierska & van Lier: many lexical effects on ref. effects and alignment in ditransitives
- But lexical classes and verb meanings may be an important source for the development of differential P treatment (though perhaps not differential A treatment)
- cf. Fauconnier: hierarchies for A  $\neq$  hierarchies for O

### **Slots**

Can there be hierarchical competition without slot constraints?

- Guillaume, Jansen, Schackow, Siewierska & van Lier: effect connected to slot constraint
- Witzlack-Makarevich et al.: all rankings computed *per agreement slot*
- Relation to other positional constraints?

Another question about slots: segmental identity of A and P ( $\prec$  segmental identity of A and G) but positional difference (Zúñiga)