

## Applicativizing preverbs in Germanic: German and English case studies

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When addressing German word groups like *besetzen*, *ersetzen*, *versetzen*, and *zersetzen*, as well as those like English *sit down*, *sit up*, *sit in*, and *sit out*, the single-language literature normally (and understandably) brings morphological and semantic issues to center stage. When dealing with clauses headed by verbs with preverbs like the German prefixes and the English particles in the lists above, the comparative literature —especially typological research— often even restricts its focus to (admittedly interesting) questions of spatial and aspectual semantics. For a book chapter to appear in January 2024, however, I joined forces with colleagues from Russia and Hungary in order to survey morphological, semantic, and also syntactic characteristics of valency-changing preverbs in several European languages where such markers feature prominently. For this specific talk, I zoom in on two particularly noteworthy Germanic applicative prefixes that we discuss in that chapter, namely German *be-* (e.g. *auf etwas achten* vs. *etwas beachten*) and English *out-* (e.g. *ride out* / *outride a storm* and *ride a horse better than someone* vs. *outride someone*).