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**UNIVERSITÄT
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Berner Zirkel für Sprachwissenschaft
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Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern
18:15 h, Raum F005

Philosophisch-historische Fakultät
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Two cases of the antipassive/causative polysemy

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Abstract

This presentation aims to show and explain two different cases in two languages in which a same marker is used both for antipassivization and causativization processes.

The first case is represented by the marker *-(a)gan* in Mocoví, a Guaycuruan language spoken between Chaco and Santa Fe provinces in Argentina and the second case is from Nivacle, a Mataguayan language spoken in Paraguay and Argentina, in which the marker *vanca-* can also be used both for antipassivization and for causativization.

I will try to explain these non-prototypical uses of the valency markers *-(a)gan* and *vanca-* considering the differences and similarities between both cases. Based on comparisons with daughter languages and on linguistic reconstructions, the source of these markers will be explored and two different evolutionary pathways will be proposed (from causative to antipassive in Mocoví, and from antipassive to causative in Nivacle) with, in both reanalysis, subject agentivity and argument demotion as key features. The bridging contexts motivating these diachronic changes will be hypothesized, and the importance of light verb constructions and of restrictions on argument number will also be discussed in order to explain these two different patterns of polysemy.