

Applicative Constructions in Northern Michif

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Cross-linguistically, applicative constructions serve as one means of increasing the valency of a verb, introducing one or more additional arguments to its basic meaning. While widely attested across Algonquian languages, such constructions have been the subject of relatively little dedicated research, and, consequently, are rarely featured in typological studies of applicativization. This study seeks to contribute to both descriptive and typological research in this area by considering the semantic and syntactic properties of one such applicative marker, *-amaw*, in Northern Michif, a variety of Michif (ISO 639-3: *crg*) spoken in northern Saskatchewan, Canada. Cognate constructions have been analyzed in Cree (Wolfart 1973), Nishnaabemwin (Valentine 2001), and other varieties of Michif (Bakker 1997) as both benefactives and generalized applicatives. Drawing on consultations with multiple speakers from Île-à-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan, this paper demonstrates that this construction introduces objects that can occupy a range of semantic roles, including but not limited to that of beneficiary. On the basis of this analysis, this paper further aims to situate these findings within a wider typological context, proposing revisions to current typologies of applicatives to adequately capture the properties of constructions whose semantic roles are determined by situational context rather than solely by the semantics of the verb. (201 words)

References

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