

Syntax from the bottom up: elicitation, corpus data, and thick descriptions

George Aaron Broadwell
Eide Elling Professor of Linguistic Anthropology
University of Florida

October 1, 2015, 4pm

This talk describes the intersection of descriptive and theoretical work on Copala Triqui, an indigenous language of Mexico. Copala Triqui has a cross-linguistically rare type of control, known as copy control. In copy control, the subject of a control verb is typically present in the matrix clause and repeated in the subordinate clause, e.g.

Me rá Juán que-ne'en Juán libró.
Want Juan pot-read Juan book
'Juan wants to read the book.'

The combination of corpus and elicited data gives a deeper understanding of the syntax of control in this language, and the changes in this system over the last fifty years