"Areality and borrowability: pronouns in the Macro-Sudan Belt"

Areal linguistics and language contact theory follow distinct research agendas but stand in a dynamic relationship. In language contact theory, the importance of contact intensity and historical sociolinguistic parameters is much stressed since Thomason and Kaufman (1988). However, borrowability and, more recently, linguistic constraints on borrowing morphology, are likewise much researched topics in contact linguistics. Regarding areal features in the Macro-Sudan belt (Güldemann 2007), there is quite some conflict between these two perspectives and the relevance of contact intensity. The presentation contrasts borrowing scales with areal features of pronominal systems focusing on logophoric and intransitive copy-pronouns by (a) an areal (language geographical) approach to feature exploration including the distributions of sub-properties by R ('spatstat'), (b) a discussion of PAT- vs. MAT-borrowing (see Gardani 2020) in pronominal paradigms, conceptual transfer and restructuring of pronominal systems and (c) a discussion of residual parameters in the "contact-likelihood" model.

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