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Man-impersonals and definiteness in Standard Albanian and Balkan South Slavic

A. Siewierska (2011:70) puts Albanian as well as South Slavic languages to the periphery of man-impersonal zone, where man-impersonals may be used only generically (“in non-assertive, irrealis contexts where the referent of the subject corresponds to anybody or some unspecified group of individuals”, *Ibidem*, 62). To express agent in man-impersonal constructions, these languages apply the words *njeri* ‘man’ and *čovjek* ‘man’, that morphologically are treated as nouns. As such, they can attach definite and indefinite articles, or be used without articles at all. In the presentation, I will attempt to interpret the strategies of applying definiteness to human impersonals in Standard Albanian and Balkan South Slavic from semantic and structural point of view.

Bibliography

Siewierska, Anna. 2011. Overlap and complementarity in reference impersonals. *Man*-constructions vs. third person plural impersonals in the languages of Europe. In Malchukov, Andrej & Siewierska, Anna (eds.). *Impersonal Constructions. A cross-linguistic perspective*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 57–89.