

Andrea Scala, State University of Milan

*Differential object marking in Armenian: synchronic and diachronic considerations*

Old and modern Armenian present a differential object marking system, that is the object of a transitive verb is marked in different ways according with the value of one or more parameters. In old Armenian object is marked if definite, unmarked if indefinite, whereas modern Armenian (especially Eastern Armenian, but the phenomenon is not unknown to the Western dialects) shows a rather complex differential marking according prevalently with the degree of animacy of the object, but conditioned also by other parameters (e. g. semantic features of the verb). The paper will discuss some aspects of these systems from a synchronic and from a diachronic point of view.