

## **Title: A typology of connective (copula) constructions**

Category: either oral or poster

The term *connective constructions* is used to describe the syntactic processes that establish a connection between two non verbal units, forming a complete predicate, and semantically serving to the attribution of a quality, membership or identification. The connective constructions cross-linguistically can be presented as follows:

1. Direct connection:  
    between non-verbal units (distinct from the adjectival constructions through word order, case marking, prosody, etc.).
2. Connection via a non-verbal unit:
  - 2.1. with low lexical meaning;
  - 2.2. with full lexical meaning.
3. Connection via a verb:
  - 3.1. via a connective verb: a type “to be” or “to seem” verb or a verb with full lexical meaning but highly used for connective constructions;
  - 3.2. via a non-connective verb: not specialized for connective constructions.

This is a revised typology, following a pilot study on 11 languages (studied in an extensive way and in a unified framework by their language specialists), extended here to a sample of 60 languages.

This typology differs from previous works for various reasons:

- a/ It includes the full-lexical verbs. The reason is that a non-connective verb usually presents a change of meaning when used in a connective construction.
- b/ Transitive connective constructions are taken into account, thus making invalid a definition of connective constructions as the opposite to the “transitive and intransitive constructions”.
- c/ This typology also takes into account means that are rarely discussed in connective constructions, such as prosody for cases where it is the only relevant factor (cf. 1).

As known, the means used for the copula constructions can be specialized but are more frequently polyfunctional (e.g. verb copulas can be auxiliaries, connective constructions can be used for comparison, location, possession, etc). For this reason, the frequency and the constraints of those processes in their connective uses have also been taken into consideration in the present study.

A typological questionnaire has also been elaborated following this framework.