

Bare nouns and incorporation in Mongolian

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The topic of this talk is the incorporation of bare nouns in Mongolian. I will use the syntactic and semantic criteria for incorporation proposed in the literature in order to show that bare nouns in Mongolian are pseudo-incorporated, and thus comparable to bare nouns in Hindi.

First, I will use the criterion of anaphoric dependencies in order to show that there is a relation between the discourse transparency of bare nouns and their animacy – the higher in animacy the higher in discourse transparency. Secondly, I will show that despite being semantically incorporated, bare nouns are not syntactically incorporated. Finally, I will suggest that differential object marking and semantic incorporation are mirror images in the sense that (i) differential object marking decreases with decreasing animacy, whereas (ii) semantic incorporation increases with decreasing animacy.