

**C2: The historical development of sentence types in Indo-European and Non-Indo-European languages:** Descriptive and typological investigations of sentence types / Sentence types and information structure in a historical perspective

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The diachronic subproject is concerned with the historical development of sentence types in various Indo-European and Non-Indo-European languages, with a special focus on the interrelationship of sentence types and sentence structures with information structure (in terms of oppositions such as topic – comment, topic – focus, or theme – rheme). On the basis of the observation that the structure of sentences may be influenced by the informational content they contain to a different extent in different languages and that the regulations concerned may change thoroughly in the history of languages, both typological investigations of the tendencies to be observed and general investigations of the underlying mechanisms are envisaged here. The various syntactical phenomena to be accounted for comprise, among others, rules of word ordering, cleft constructions, the use of particles, and case variation.

Among other topics that are to be investigated in a diachronic perspective within the given framework we may name the structuring of questions vs. declarative sentences (with a focus on ancient Indo-European languages), the distinction of “preventive” and “inhibitive” sentences (“negative imperatives”, both in Indo-European and Non-Indo-European languages), and the structure and development of “question-like” conditional sentences without conjunctions (the type of *Kommt die DM, bleiben wir*).

As many of the phenomena named above have not been studied in detail for languages other than German or English so far, investigations may have to start with a thorough descriptive analysis of one or several languages. Languages under concern are Celtic languages, Indo-Iranian languages, Caucasian languages, and others.