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Two Approaches to Mayan Grammar Development in CCG

This paper presents lexemic and morphemic Combinatory Categorical Grammar analyses of incorporated pronouns and ergativity markers in the Mayan language Popti'. Popti' (Grinevald Craig, 1977) is a configurational VSO language with an ergative/absolutive nominal system articulated by agreement markers and incorporated pronouns on the verb forms. There are constraints on what constituents may be raised, by focus for question-formation, out of the basic VSO constructs. One of the results of the analysis is that these raising constraints are elegantly captured with the use of CCG slash-modalities (Baldrige 2002). The other result is that a morphemic analysis can capture ergative/absolutive system, treating embedded ergative pronouns as functions on verbs which alter valence.