Puzzle: Lithuanian –si– appears in two positions in the verbal complex

After the root in the presence of a prefix

(13) Mes matome-s
weŋweŋ NEG-PRF-refl
“We see each other/ourselves.”

Before the root in the presence of a prefix

(14) Mes ne-pa-si-matome
weŋweŋ NEG-PRF-refl
“We didn’t meet up.”

Solution: –si– is an argument that must move out of the VP in the presence of an overt quantificational prefix

PREVIOUS ANALYSES

Nevis and Joseph (1992): –si– is a Wagermagn affix

Historically a second position clitic (like in Slavic languages) that was realanalyzed as an affix.

Issues: Not always second position, cf. (14)

Slim evidence for two lexical prefixes


→si- in a Subword left adjointed at Morphology to verbal complex undergoes Local Dislocation with the first Subword

Issue: –si- doesn’t appear after the left-most Subword (15)

(15) te-ne-at-si-tinka
nieko, kas iškirstų jus RSTR-NEG-PRF-REFL-happen-s nothing that divide you ‘let nothing happen that could divide you.’

(2010: 24)

REFERENCES


Neves & Joseph (1992):

weŋweŋ NEG-PRF-refl happen-NEG something that divide you ‘let nothing happen that could divide you.’

(2010: 24)

CONTACT

Allison Germain
germain@uw.edu