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*Agreement Asymmetries*

Joint work with Nofar Rimon

In Colloquial Hebrew, unaccusative verbs may fail to exhibit  $\phi$ -agreement with their subject, when the latter is postverbal, but not when it is preverbal. Agreement asymmetries have been approached in distinct ways in the literature (e.g., Aoun, Benmamoun and Sportiche 1999, Ackema and Neeleman 2003, 2012, Benmamoun and Lorimor 2006 regarding Standard Arabic, and Preminger 2009 regarding Colloquial Hebrew). We report results of three acceptability judgment experiments, and assess existing approaches to the phenomenon. Discussing the role of case, we argue that lack of  $\phi$ -agreement with a postverbal internal subject is developing in colloquial Hebrew due to loss of nominative case in the internal argument position. This is liable to occur in languages that do not morphologically mark nominative. Hebrew existential and possessive constructions had undergone a parallel process in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.