

The article on adverbial clause combining in spoken Latgalian is well-embedded in the literature on the analysis of spoken language in the functional and typological tradition. It contains many interesting observations and confirms the idea of Halliday, Biber and others that spoken language, when studied in broader contexts and genres than just informal conversations, shows syntactic and prosodic complexity that reflect the complexity of its semantics and pragmatics, for example sermons, narratives, political speeches.

The paper is publishable but the analysis would be more convincing if the prosodic aspect in its interaction with syntax, would receive a more systematic and more prominent treatment. Since the author refers to the PRAAT program, which generates and exports nice graphs of intonation contours, one wonders why intonational aspects are loosely described in a paper that addresses the nature and complexity of spoken language. For example, the very interesting, even intriguing discussion of asyndetic clause combining patterns with past participles would have benefitted from a few PRAAT graphs, as supporting evidence for the claims made.

The other aspect that could have been discussed more elaborately and systematically is the way in which thematic continuity and thematic discontinuity at the level of the discourse in Latgalian narratives of the corpus translates into prosodic and syntactic coding of clause combining. Typologically, the literature on these aspects is rich, ever since the 1980s and 1990s (e.g. Givón, *Syntax*, part II). In some parts of the world the relation between thematic (dis)continuity in spoken narratives and the prosody and syntax of clause combining is rather transparent (e.g. referential continuity and sequential action continuity and its coding in switch reference and temporality morphology in clause chaining languages of the Amazons and Melanesia) and may well provide illuminating comparative-typological 'models' for the Latgalian encoding of thematic (dis)continuity in spoken narratives. The author gives very nice examples of conditions of high referential and sequential action continuity that look a lot like canonical clause chaining languages in terms of their coding mechanism, e.g. Latgalian example (6) where a past participle construction is used in the "coordinate-dependent" fashion of clause chaining languages in conditions of high referential and sequential continuity of a series of clauses: they use morphologically less finite or (partially) dependent verb forms that are chained into non-coordinate sequences of prosodically integrated clause chains.

In sum, publishable as is but the author could make more of her/his rich data if the prosodic and the thematic (dis)continuity perspectives were given a more prominent place in the article. The interesting Latgalian findings would also be better hooked up with the typological literature.