

A Different Perspective on Control

Sandy Chung – UCSC

Thanks to the work of Idan Landau, Barbara Stiebels, and others, quite a lot is now known about the elements of complement control across languages, including the range of control predicates and the types of complement clauses involved, the (lexical and/or syntactic) restrictions on the controller, and the (syntactic) restrictions on the controllee. In various works published since 2000, Landau has advanced a further set of empirical correlations that relate the meaning of the higher control predicate—whether it is an attitude verb—to other distributional properties of control—notably, whether partial control is allowed. These correlations have formed the basis for theorizing by him and others about the syntax and semantics of control. This talk explores the unusually liberal system of control in Chamorro, an Austronesian language of the Mariana Islands. I show that Landau’s correlations do not hold in Chamorro. Instead, control in this language employs the familiar elements but puts them together in what seems, from an Indo-European perspective, to be an atypical way. The results highlight the attractiveness of a stripped-down view of control in universal grammar.