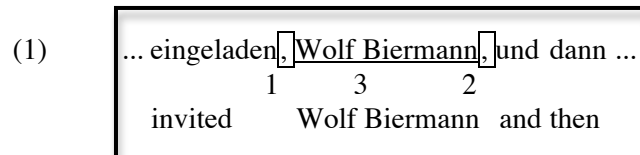


A 'syntagmatic category' – vocative in Standard German

Patrizia Noel (University of Bamberg)

Vocatives are usually defined as part of a nominal paradigm, most frequently as case or as a syncretic “mismatch”. In this paper, a syntagmatic perspective on vocatives as part of secondary syntax is argued for.

Taking an onomasiological perspective on vocative structures in general and in Standard German in particular, three phases are examined: 1) the phase signalling the beginning the vocative structure, 2) the phase signalling the ending of the vocative structure, 3) the phase in between these two phases:



Norbert Lammert hatte Sie eingeladen, Wolf Biermann, und dann auch daran erinnert, dass Sie eigentlich nicht zum Reden, sondern zum Singen im Deutschen Bundestag sind.

(‘Norbert Lammert has invited you, Wolf Biermann, and has then reminded you that you were in the Deutschen Bundestag not for talking but for singing.’) http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/biermann-ein-dichter-muss-immer-etwas-weitergehen.694.de.html?dram:article_id=302611

Each phase is analysed in terms of its syntactic, phonological, and pragmatic characteristics. Since German vocative structures are identifiable in language use only, the question turns up to which degree phase 1-3 have to be distinctively marked. It is demonstrated that the marking of the phases signalling this syntagmatic category can either be an economic solution or a solution leading to pragmatic enrichment.

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