



# Semantic Shifts

Fréjus - Destremau  
12-23 Sept. 2022

Semantic Shifts: From lexicon to grammar. Diachronic and typological perspectives

## Plenary Talk 1

### **Semantic shifts in Asia : an areal view of HAVE and EXIST**

**Hilary Chappell - EHESS-CRLAO (UMR 8563 du CNRS)**

This paper discusses the expression of possession and existence on both lexical and clausal levels in Asian languages

The main diachronic sources of HAVE verbs are first treated, as well as their relation to EXIST verbs and copulae. Next, the synchronic patterns of areal polysemy, created by the semantic domains of copular, locative, existential and possessive verbs are briefly outlined as a prelude to the discussion of possessive and existential constructions in Asia. The aim is to demonstrate how the syncretism which has arisen may be handled in a close semantic analysis of the shifts which HAVE and EXIST can undergo, and the motivation this provides for syntactic reanalysis.

Lastly, we argue for the importance of elaborating the rather unembellished component of semantics found in studies of syntactic typology and grammaticalization frameworks.

#### *Reference*

- Chappell, Hilary & Shanshan Lü. 2022. A semantic typology of location, existence, possession and copular verbs: polysemy sharing in Mainland East and Southeast Asia. *Linguistics: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Language Sciences*. 60.1: 1-82. (2022)  
<https://doi.org/10.1515/ling-2021-0219>