

Thinking comparatively and diachronically – A comparative case study

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The topic of this talk is the comparative diachronic morphosyntax of *think* in English, Icelandic, Swedish, and, in particular, Faroese. First, I give an overview of the morphosyntactic properties of the verb in the older languages and then a comparison of their development through to the modern languages. Of particular interest here are the case marking patterns that we find and the changes that occur between the older and modern languages. In addition, I give an overview of the syntactic properties and complementation patterns of the verb *think* and how these properties change across time – complement types such as *that*-clauses, non-finite clauses, and small clauses. The Faroese verb *tykja* and its cognates in Old Swedish and Middle English show a common and relatively cross-linguistically unusual case marking pattern where the experiencer argument is marked with dative case and accusative case marking occurs on the subject of a small clause/non-finite complement. The languages differ in interesting ways with respect to case-marking patterns and the syntax of the constructions exhibiting this pattern in addition to their diachronic development. The final part of the paper provides a brief overview of the final outcomes of diachronic change with respect to the verb *think* across the languages considered here.