In this talk, we present our analysis which enables us to delineate two clear cut categories of non-core datives in Modern Hebrew, based on whether or not the datival expression contributes to truth condition (Bar-Asher Siegal and Boneh 2014, Bar-Asher Siegal and Boneh 2015).

Truth conditional non-core datives denote an additional participant in a different eventuality than the one denoted by the proposition without the dative, and there is a causal relation between the two eventualities. We term this type the Affected Dative (AD), and show that this category is a cover term for so called possessor datives, bene-/maleficiaries and psychologically affected participants often termed ethical datives. Non-truth conditional datives, on the other hand, are shown to function as a discourse management device, hence they are termed Discursive Datives (DDs). This type of dative is restricted to the speech event participants and is only felicitous when the asserted proposition is not part of generalizations and norms holding in the conversational common ground, thus marking a particular type of unexpectedness.

We rely on interpretation in various linguistic contexts to demonstrate the AD's contribution to truth conditions, and lack thereof of the DD. In particular, we focus on negated non-core dative constructions to bring out this crucial difference.

Negation will also reveal itself as an effective tool to neatly tease apart core datives from ADs. We show that while both core datives and ADs denote event participants, the latter pattern like cause and purpose adjuncts, whereas the former are arguments.

Furthermore, in the presentation, we will discuss the ramifications of this analysis for the discussion concerning the process in which these constructions evolve, and specifically regarding the origin of the relevant constructions in Modern Hebrew ((Berman 1982, Zeldes 2013, Linzen 2014, Bar-Asher Siegal and Boneh 2015, Linzen 2015)
Selected references


