

Internal-external splits: what they tell us

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Lexemes may be split *internally*, by various phenomena (suppletion, periphrasis, defectivity, deponency, and so on). If we take an abstract enough view, we can establish a canonical typology of the possible splits, independently of the phenomena which induce them. In addition, there are lexemes whose *external* requirements are split; for instance, they govern different cases according to “their own” tense-aspect-mood, or according to the number or part of speech of the governee. Again, a typology of these splits has been proposed. And for both typologies I undertake a substruction. I then take the next step, in attempting a typology of the possible *relations between internal and external splits*. That is, we ask whether an internal split (induced, for instance, by suppletion) will correlate with external split in government or agreement. This is not straightforward: we need to wary of spurious relationships. But the clear instances include some which prove highly significant for what they tell us about how featural information is specified.