

“The evolution of differential Object Marking in Spanish”

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Bossong (1985) coins the concept of "differentiated object marking" ("differentielle Objektmarkierung") or DOM for the observation that the direct object in various languages may be marked or not. Cross-linguistically, there are at least three parameters that determine if the direct object is marked or not (Bossong 1985, 3-8, who refers to Thomson 1912): (i) animacy, (ii) referential categories, and (iii) information structure ("topicality"). In this paper we discuss first the parameters that determine DOM in Iberian Spanish and some Southamerican variants of Spanish. Secondly, we discuss the way these parameters interact asking whether the interaction corresponds to what can be observed in the diachronic development of Iberian Spanish.