

The Development of Indirect Object Agreement in Berber: Beyond nominal hierarchies

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Agreement is often the endpoint of extending clitic doubling to less definite/animate cases. Berber has diversely conditioned Indirect Object CD, in one case yielding inflectional agreement. Corpus frequency comparison shows that low Def/Anim IOs are less often doubled. But most IOs are DefAnim, and argument structure accounts for far more of the variation: in most varieties, all PP IOs of “say” are doubled. This illustrates a less known agreement cycle, starting (like Givón's) with topic shift.