Revising the Interclausal Relations Hierarchy: 1984-2023

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The Interclausal Relations Hierarchy [IRH] is a key component of the RRG theory of complex sentences. It consists of two hierarchies: the Interclausal Syntactic Relations Hierarchy and the Interclausal Semantic Relations Hierarchy. Inspired by Silverstein (1976) and Givón (1980) and originally put forth in Foley & Van Valin (1984), the IRH seeks to capture the insight that the closer the semantic relation between the units in a complex sentence is, the tighter the syntactic bond between them will be. Since its introduction in 1984, the IRH has been refined and expanded in subsequent work, e.g. Ohori (2001), Guerrero (2006, 2009), Van Valin (2005). The purpose of this talk is to offer an overview of the history of the IRH and to propose a further refinement of the IRH, one which involves a new elaboration and formalization of the relations in the Interclausal Semantic Relations Hierarchy and their interaction with the relations in the Interclausal Syntactic Relations Hierarchy.