

# Co-variance as a foundation of constructions

On the concept of concord

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This article examines the concept of concord, or agreement, with special focus on its internal and external syntactic structure and the functional status of concord in syntactic constructions. Contrary to tradition, and mainstream modern theory, I describe concord as a symmetrical relation in which two (or more) morphological selections must be identical, viz. co-variance in a strict sense, and are mutually dependent on each other. It is argued that concord can be the crucial component which the establishment of a specific construction is entirely dependent on. A distinction is introduced between *essential concord*, which functions as the necessary underpinning of a syntactic whole, and *conditioned concord*, which is induced by the syntactic context as a frame. Examples are drawn mainly from Danish, but also from Latin and Old Icelandic. Essential concord in Danish is found in the so-called Concord Construction (CC), e.g. *hun sidder og læser* 'she is reading' (lit. she sits and reads). In the CC, two verbs are semantically fused thereby forming one complex predicate, and this is marked by identical morphological selections in the tense, mood and non-finite paradigms. The analysis of dependency relations on different levels of the concord relation plays a pivotal role, in particular the distinction between unidirectional dependency (hypotaxis) and interdependency (catataxis). The article concludes that concord is by definition internally constructed on the basis of interdependency, while its external dependency relations may vary.