Organizing the Hunt for Special and Minor Sentence Types
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Typological surveys (König and Siemund 2007; 2013; Sadock and Zwicky 1985) have found it convenient to distinguish between major and minor sentence types, counting declaratives, interrogatives, and imperatives among the former, and exclamatives and optatives among the latter. In addition, subtypes such as prohibitives, forming special imperatives by the addition of negation, have been identified. This talk will focus on the question as to what structure or "logic" (if any) organizes the field of major and minor as well as general and special types. This will involve reflecting on taxonomies of illocution types (e.g., Searle and Vanderveken 1985; Zaefferer 2001; Zaefferer 2007) and formal proposals for the structure of clausal peripheries (e.g., Rizzi 1997; Speas and Tenny 2003).