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Focus in Modern Eastern Armenian

Modern Eastern Armenian is a SOV language. The inflected verb however can also occupy the second position, according to the well-known V2 typology. In these cases, the interpretation of the phrase preceding the verb is obligatorily a focused one. The V2 word order is found both with contrastive focus and informational focus, for instance in question-answering contexts. V3 – or V4 etc – orders are also possible, provided that the phrases preceding the focused one are base generated in the left periphery of the clause. We will also discuss the interaction of focus with indefinites and describe the properties of stress in the various focus conditions.