Abstract

Since the pioneering paper by Emenau (1956) there have been many attempts (cf. Masica 1976; 2001; Ebert 2001; Southworth 2005 among many others) to select areal features which are shared among languages spoken in South Asia. However there has been little consent on the number of such features and the possible direction of their spread. Modern Indo-Aryan scholarship represents rather an isogloss-oriented approach which takes into consideration a wider distribution of a feature and a smaller region displaying high density of shared structural traits. In such a ‘restricted’ approach, linguistic areas are perceived as outcomes of an intersection of isoglosses (Masica 2001; Matras 2009). In this paper I am going to focus on select isoglosses, namely agreement patterns which have emerged during the NIA period, differential object marking and the development of the obligative pattern. It seems that corpus based research on the distribution of nominative, non-nominative and mixed patterns shall give a more accurate picture of the formation of micro linguistic areas within IA.