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Visual Linguistics: Fundamentals of Visualizing Language Data (Abstract)

Diagrams have an important role in linguistic research: On the one hand they visualize results of mostly quantitative analyses in an effective way, e.g. using bar charts, plots etc. On the other hand visualizations allow the exploration of data. They then are more a scientific tool comparable to a microscope than a mean of communication. In addition to these uses, diagrams also visualize complex ideas and concepts.

From a diagrammatic point of view, very basic forms of diagrams are important means to transform and shape data, in the case of linguistics: often text. This transformations lead to new perspectives on the data and are indeed the key of constituting the object of research. In my talk I will present the basic forms of diagrams playing an important role in linguistics and will show the impact they have on linguistic research.