A. **Plenary speakers**

### Proximization Theory: Conceptual Foundations and Empirical Fields

**Piotr Cap**  
(University of Łódź)

This paper outlines a new theory (“proximization theory”; cf. Cap 2013) in the area of political/public legitimization discourse. Located at the intersection of Pragmatics, Cognitive Linguistics and Critical Discourse Studies, the theory reveals the many ways in which the imagining of closeness and remoteness can be manipulated in the political/public sphere and bound up with fear, security and conflict. Specifically, it demonstrates that legitimization of consequential political/public policies, such as interventionist (military) campaigns, is best accomplished by forced construals of virtual external threats encroaching upon the speaker and her audience’s home territory. The construals, which proceed along spatial, temporal and axiological lines, are forced by the strategic deployment of lexico-grammatical choices drawn from the three domains. I illustrate this proposal in the in-depth analysis of the 2001-2010 US discourse of the War-on-Terror. In addition, I point the way to a seemingly broad range of further applications in the important public policy discourses of today, such as those dealing with the urgent issues of the environment, technology and health.


### Un-Cartesian Universal Grammar.  
How Language Creates the Human Mind

**Elisabeth Leiss**  
(Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

Cartesian linguistics (including Chomsky’s approach as well as cognitivism in the footsteps of Piaget) defines language as a more or less perfect medium for expressing our thoughts. We will develop another model of UG, where language is conceived as an instrument that imprints thoughts into our mind (Leiss 2009/2012). In Un-Cartesian terms, there is a clearly defined functional demarcation line between the functions of grammar and of the lexicon. The strict functional division between the domains of grammar and lexicon will be designed in accordance with the mereological approach of Modistic UG and presented as an important step out of the crisis of UG-approaches, currently attacked by Construction Grammar and similar approaches that are anti-universalist and lexicalist in their design. It will be demonstrated that the all-pervasive part-whole structure of language creates a “memory effect” as it optimizes episodic memory and restructures categorization in inventing semantic memory (sapiens-specific categorization in contrast to animal categorization). These optimized memory systems have the side-effect that they enable humans to translate subjective experience into a code that can be shared with other minds (see Givón 2005). It can be shared even with one’s own mind, which can be split up into a speaker and a viewer of a situation. This awareness of one’s own mind is proposed to be the intrinsic quality of meta-linguistic abilities. Thus, language will be defined as memorizing system (“Merk-System” according to Herder). Language is defined as a tool whose lexical-semantic component translates the unclassified infinite number of perceptual features into a classifiable finite number of conceptual, semantic features (“Merk-Male” in German) that are shared inter-subjectively by the members of a linguistic community. Thus, semantic concepts translate subjective experience located in place and time into intersubjective knowledge, which is void of a place-time-index, thus enabling the exchange of knowledge with other minds. As concepts do not refer, they have to be invested with reference. This referentialization of knowledge is achieved by the component of grammatical semantics. Grammar encodes the speaker’s perspectives and thus anchors or re-anchors concepts in time and place, thus enabling sapiens-specific episodic memory. The communication of knowledge (common ground/semantic memory) invested with shared perspectives (shared minds/episodic memory) is the very essence of sapiens’ language. These shared minds add up to a mental superorganism, i.e. externalized and connected brains that are
inducing cultural and technological evolution. We hold, in accordance with Leroi-Gourhan (1964-1965) that the language-driven symbolic sapiens-mind accelerates the pace of biologically-driven evolution (slow evolution) by replacing it by language-driven evolution (fast evolution).

References:

**Segmenting spoken corpora in lesser-described languages:**
**new perspectives for the structural analysis of speech.**

Amina Mettouchi
(EPHE, Paris and CNRS Llacen)

As a result of the generalization of text-to-sound indexing in the gathering and constitution of spoken corpora in lesser-described languages, the issue of speech segmentation has acquired new significance. Pioneering studies exploring the nature of speech units were conducted by discourse and conversation analysts, such as Chafe, DuBois, Local and others. In a different framework, hypotheses regarding the phonology/prosody or the syntax/prosody mappings were elaborated by formal linguists, Pierrehumbert or Selkirk among others. All those studies and the subsequent rich body of publications have paved the way for systematic empirical investigations of the relationships between various levels of segmentation or constituency, which are now made easier thanks to the text-to-sound indexing of spoken corpora.

Spoken corpora in lesser-described languages contain several features that make them potentially amenable to empirical analysis: (a) text-to-sound indexation, (b) the delimitation of several levels of annotation and (c) searchability. Text-to-sound indexation raises the issue of transcription: phonetic vs. morphophonological vs. orthographic. Annotation requires that forms be given labels; this in turn gives renewed urgency to the issue of the delimitation of linguistic forms. Finally, searchability entails systematicity of representation and annotation.

Underlying those various issues is the basic question of segmentation: how do we chunk the spoken continuum of speech in the language we are working on? This question can be done away with by an arbitrary decision (using orthographic transcription, and chunking between pauses above 300 ms for instance). But it can also be considered, especially for lesser-described languages where linguists usually start from scratch, as a way to address the question of the language-internal nature of different types of constituents, and their interaction. Viewed in this perspective, it is relevant at several levels. At the level of transcription, the delimitation of words is a challenge. How this question is answered depends on the perspective which is chosen: grammar, prosody, phonology, lexicon, etc. Again at the level of transcription, the delimitation of larger units (phrases, clauses, paragraphs, intonation units...) is not straightforward, and depends on the criteria that are chosen: prosodic, syntactic, pragmatic..., etc. At the level of annotation, the delimitation of forms (morphemes and constructions) is perhaps the greatest challenge, and is addressed by investigation methods such as contrastive and complementary distribution, among others.

In my talk, drawing on the work I have carried out in the area of sound-aligned spoken corpora in lesser-described languages (in particular within the CorpAfroAs project), I will show how systematic segmentation of speech into non-aprioristic, formally defined units can be relevant for the analysis of languages.

In order to achieve that goal, I will first review the literature on the delimitation of units of speech, at various levels: words (prosodic, phonological, grammatical), syntactic phrases, clauses, sentences, prosodic phrases, intonation units, periods, paratones. I will then zoom in on the segmentation of Kabyle (Berber) textual data into intonation units, and its interaction with the linear ordering of morphosyntactic constituents. The work I have carried out in this area has made it possible to discover some properties of Kabyle that had not hitherto been identified or described, with respect to the
coding of information structure and the domain of grammatical relations: (a) subject and object roles are computable only
in some information structure constructions, themselves defined by prosodic boundaries, morphological marking, and
linear ordering of constituents; (b) only some types of prepositional phrases are separated from the verb by a prosodic
boundary – those which belong to the semantic valency of the verb.

Such empirical investigations of the way various levels of segmentation (prosodic, morphophonological, syntactic,
...) interact are important for the study of lesser-described languages as complex systems: beyond the inventory of forms
and the identification of their functions, it is now easier, thanks to recent technical advances, to use systematically
segmented and annotated sound-aligned texts in order to investigate in greater depth the syntactic organization of speech
as well as the dynamics of discourse.

CorpafrOAs transcription and annotation: http://corpafrOas.tge-adonis.fr/

Formal and Functional Explanations: New Perspective on an Old Debate

Ian Roberts
(Downing College, University of Cambridge)

As discussed by Newmeyer (1998), the debate between “formal” and “functional” approaches to explanation in linguistics
has a long pedigree, and in some respects the two perspectives may seem almost irreconcilable. Here I suggest that, taking
seriously certain aspects of Chomsky’s Minimalist Programme and, in particular, building on ongoing work proposing non-
UG-specified, emergent parameter hierarchies (Roberts 2011, and work collected at http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/dtal/research/recos), it becomes apparent that the old dichotomy is a false one. There is a
small, irreducible formal core to Universal Grammar (Merge and a schema for formal features) which interfaces with
aspects of cognition which are related to the functional aspects of language (expression/communication of thought and
action). Both aspects of this “broad” design of language are required in order to account for almost any linguistic
phenomenon of interest, and so the old debate dissolves simply into the question of which aspect of the overall design
(form or function) is of most immediate interest for researcher; no real issue of substance hinges on
the issue. I will illustrate this by arguing, following Biberauer, Holmberg, Sheehan & Roberts (2009) and Biberauer, Roberts & Sheehan
(2013) that this kind of approach to cross-linguistic variation offers a suitably restrictive theory of the nature and limits of
syntactic variation. My focus is one aspect of the proposed parametric hierarchies, the so-called Mafioso Effect by which
certain formal parametric options are simply ‘irresistible’ for broadly functional reasons.
B. All abstracts (poster, general and workshop sessions)

Discourse-based rise of positive qualifiers from intensified indefinite quantifiers.

Adámková, Petra  
(Palacký Univerzity Olomouc)

This usage-based study examines the influence of specific discourse characteristics on a context-induced change in the diachronic development of the positive-qualification functioning. It is a semantic shift containing following stages: quantifier > intensifier > (emotionally charged) evaluation of quality > adjective of quality. The completed process is signalized by derivation, in the Czech language it is specifically suffixation. In this study I intend to explain certain mechanisms of formation of positive qualification from intensified quantification.

The described phenomenon is substantially present in the language of teenagers who gather at Internet chat forums. Strong need to share opinions, short emotive addresses and positive expressive evaluation are typical for chat communication. I analyzed material from the Czech web, mainly chat entries and comments to photographs. I focused of the expressions hafo (from original German Handvoll: handful > Czech hafo([ec]: a bunch of) and mrtě (forest litter) that originally functioned as nominal quantifiers:

1. Intensified indefinite quantifier:

Mám hafo/mrtě kamarádů/filmů.  
I have    bunch (intens. indef. quant.)/forest litter (intens. indef. quant.) friends/movies.  
I have a lot of friends/movies.

In transitive constructions and/or used with singular, these intensifiers non-specifically strengthen lexical meaning. Since the categorical status of these expressions is unclear (ø morphological marking [petrified in Acc.sg./pl.]; semantically depletive [intensity +]), they incline both to NP and to VP (noun modifier/verb modifier) and create ambiguous constructions (compare for example 1a and 1b):

1a. Intensifier (adj. ø morphol. marking):  
Mám hafo/mrtě kamarády/filmy.  
I have [bunch.intens.adj./forest.litter.intens.adj. friends/movies]  
I have real friends/movies. (emotionally charged)

1b. Intensifier (adv. ø morphol. marking):  
Mám hafo/mrtě kamarády/filmy.  
[I have bunch.intens.adv./forest.litter.intens.adv] friends/movies  
I really have friends/movies. (emotionally charged)

Even though it is an emotionally charged intensification, while evaluating it is used as neutral. The character of intensification is controlled by semantic properties of the modified lexeme, by meaning of the utterance and by pragmatic features of the situation. The intensifiers appear predominantly in positively assessing, emotionally charged constructions. Their co-appearance with negative assessment is very rare. Intensifiers gradually adopt the function of positive assessment. Such assessments syntactically function as noun modifiers (see for example 1a.1.) or interjections (see 1a2.):

1a.1. Evaluation of quality (adj. ø morphol. marking):  
Ona je moje hafo kamarádka!  
she is my bunch.qual.adj. friend  
She is a very (good) friend of mine! (emotionally charged)

1a.2. Evaluative interjection:  
Hafo!  
bunch.interj.  
Great!
Language users who do not communicate in this discourse find the constructions completely incomprehensible, both grammatically and semantically. The process is completed by formation of qualification adjectives (through derivation) that confirms semantic and morphologic-syntactic stability of these expressions (see for example 1a.1a.):

1a.1a. Evaluative adjective (morphol. marked):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To byl</th>
<th>hafový</th>
<th>vikend!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It was</td>
<td>a very good</td>
<td>weekend!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it was</td>
<td>bunch.qual.adj.</td>
<td>weekend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I deem that the speed of the shift depends on the extent of expressivity of the discourse and that the absorbed meaning proportionally reflects semantic differentiation of individual contexts. I suppose that the phenomenon might function as a language universal in typologically identical discourses.

**Semantic convergence in the Lower Volta Basin (West Africa).**

Ameka, Felix
(Leiden University)

The Lower Volta Basin, with its languages belonging to different subgroups of the Kwa family, has been described as a convergence zone (Ellis 1984). The languages are geographically contiguous and there is social contact, often of asymmetrical nature, among the different groups. The spread of loanwords from and via the dominant lingua francae (Akan, Ewe, Ga) into smaller languages in the area as well as some of the shared grammatical patterns have been noted (e.g. author 2006). Both Ewe and Ga have also borrowed from Akan, the language of an erstwhile hegemonic group in the area.

In this paper I examine the convergence in the area of semantics. I explore the following lexicalisation patterns across the languages:

(a) the coding of disintegration of objects into 'SMASH BREAK' i.e. leading to complete fracture of the object, and 'SNAP BREAK', or 'FULCRUM BREAK', i.e. the snapping of an object at a point along the fulcrum, e.g. a stick (Majid and Bowerman 2007);

(b) the coding of OPENING situations distinguished as to whether the separation is internally caused or some external force is applied to bring about the separation. These are mirrored in the lexicalisation of bringing parts of an object together to block access, i.e. CLOSING events. The application of the ‘opening’ and ‘closing’ predicates to body parts provide important clues to their semantics.

Furthermore, various idiomatic structures which manifest similar underlying semantic templates are investigated, for example, those related to the expression of concepts such as ‘believe’, based on receiving something and perceiving or experiencing it; ‘begin’, based on making contact with the base; ‘suffer’, based on coming into contact with something unspecified; and ‘speak a language well’, based on consuming salt or water from a local river.

Another shared pattern discussed is body image constructions for expressing feelings in the body such as ‘perceive in the body’ for emotion; ‘eye red’ for ‘jealousy, covetousness, seriousness, etc.’ ‘head strong’ for ‘wickedness, stubbornness’ etc.

Diffused routine formulae are also investigated. Some of these involve a replicated pattern such as ‘I take off your hat’ for expressing deference. Others are forms that are copied across the languages. For instance the expression ayekoo used even in Ghanaian English for complimenting and congratulating someone on good work done probably originates from Ga (Kropp Dakubu 1981).

Parallels in the semantic structures across the languages show convergence which may be due to genetic relations or contact. However clusters of semantic-pattern divergences will point to networks of contact among the languages. For instance given a difference in the pattern of the expression of ‘believe’ in Akan (lit. get something /someone eat ) and Ewe (lit get something or someone perceive), the other languages which show the former pattern will be shown to have been in contact with Akan while those that show the latter pattern would be shown to have been in contact with Ewe. Thus the patterns of divergence within a convergence zone can help us understand the history of contact among lexicons.
References

Polarity and agreement: conflicting values in the use of yes/no particles in Italian L2.

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(Universitá di Torino)

Discourse particles of polarity as yes/no allow an easy management of the talk-in-interaction and occur since early stages of L2 acquisition (Perdue 1993; Andorno 2008, Bernini 1996, 2000 for Italian L2). However, problems can arise in their use, especially in replies to negative questions or assertions, because of cross-linguistic differences in the main value encoded in their semantics: either the (positive/negative) truth value the speaker attributes to the proposition in his answer; or the agreement/disagreement with the truth value conveyed by the proposition in the question (Moravsik 1971, Pope 1976, Sadock/Zwicky 1985, Farkas/Bruce 2010; Akiyama 1992, Choi 1991; Kitagawa 1980, Morris-Jones 1999, Sorjonen 2001). Moreover, systems sharing similar semantic models (“polarity” or “agreement” oriented) can differ in the number of particles lexicalizing specific values, e.g. Italian sì/no vs. French oui/non/si. As pragmatic transfer has been proved to affect L2 discourse (Gass 1992, Matras, 1998, Myers-Scotton 2002), cross-linguistic differences may account for both the imperfect mastery of the particles and potential misunderstandings in interlanguage conversations.

Among romance languages, the Italian sì/no particles are generally considered as polarity oriented (Bernini 1995), but the actual behaviour of Italian native speakers has never been verified by specific corpus studies. Our research investigates the use of sì/no in Italian by native speakers and by L2 speakers with different L1s, both similar (French, Spanish, German, Polish) and distant (Turkish, Chinese, Mongolian) from the expected mainly polarity-oriented Italian system.

The data have been gathered through two interactional tasks (an interview and a Map Task); informants have to react to both positive and negative questions and assertions, which convey different degrees of expectation for a negative reply (Bublitz 1981, Koshik 2005), as in the following examples.

(1) /NATIVE SPEAKER/ non l’avete studiato? /CHINESE LEARNER/ sì
   Haven’t you studied it?
   Yes (meaning ”We haven’t studied it”, instead of the target “no”).

(2) /NATIVE SPEAKER/ e non era inglese /MONGOLIAN LEARNER/ no
   and he [the professor] wasn’t English
   No (meaning ”He was English”, instead of the target “sì”).

The main research questions are, as for both Italian L1 and L2:

- do speakers conform to the expected polarity-oriented model in their use of sì/no in replies?
- do discourse strategies, such as the use of further discourse particles (infatti, ma) and expansions, play a role in the expression of agreement and polarity value in replies?
- do different kinds of speech acts (“open” or conducive questions, confirmation checks, corrective assertions… ) induce a different selection of particles in replies?

As for Italian L2:

- to what extent do L2 speakers transfer L1 principles in the use of L2 particles?

First results suggest that native speakers mainly follow a polarity oriented model, but also show that replying to negative answers and assertions involves a set of (lexical, prosodic) strategies in order to avoid misunderstandings. Learners often
fail to use these strategies, and this can lead to communication breakdown, especially when cross-linguistic influence of the L1 agreement-oriented system arises.

References


Impersonal passives in Romance and Slavic: Contact effects in the Balkans.

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Parameter theory provides individual grammars with predetermined universal choices, some of which are so fundamental as to affects all kinds of linguistic phenomena. Such Macro-Parameters come close to capturing the "genius" of a language, defining a language type (Baker 1996). But in well-defined linguistic areas, a certain feature may come to be shared among neighboring languages that are typologically distinct, resulting in unexpected feature combinations. I will show that the distribution of impersonal passives in the Balkans represent a case in which language contact comes into conflict with Parameter Theory. Impersonal passives are illustrated by the Standard Serbocroatian examples in (1). In these sentences, marked by the presence of a reflexive pronoun (glossed as SE), the agent is interpreted as an arbitrary human actor (Bidwell 1965-6, Djordjević 1988). They can be formed with transitive verbs like EAT (1a), or with intransitive verbs like SLEEP (1b).

When the verb is transitive, the patient (i.e. the canonical object) can bear nominative case, as in (1). However, in the Čakavian dialect of Serbocroatian (Houtzagers 1985, Kalsbeek 1998), the patient retains accusative case, as (2) shows

(1) a. *Jede se samo bela riba.*

b. *Qvde se dobro spava.*
One only eats white fish (NOM)’

‘One sleeps well here.’

(2) Se stavi nuter juhu

‘One puts in the rennet (ACC).’

I will refer to the argument that alternates in case as the "pivot". Romanian and Bulgarian, like Standard Serbocroatian, allowing only nominative pivots. In general, nominative-pivot languages restrict impersonal passives of intransitive predicates to unergatives like SLEEP, as in (1b). Thus, in Romanian, impersonal passives of copulatives like (3a) are disallowed (Dobrovie-Sorin 1994). This is not so in accusative-pivot languages. There is some evidence from the Čakavian dialect that points in this direction, as in (3b) (Kalsbeek 1998).

(3) a. *Nu se este niciodată mulțumit.

‘One is never satisfied.’

b. i se je stalo odzát va cr'evke

‘and one would stand at the back of the church.’

Cinque’s (1988) Parameter Theory account provides two types of impersonal SE. Argument SE absorbs an external semantic role, allowing the patient to receive nominative case. Since argument SE cannot absorb an internal role, the reflexive clitic cannot occur with unaccusatives, copulatives, or periphrastic passives. Non-argument SE, on the other hand, licenses an arbitrary pro in subject position, without absorbing a semantic role. If there is a pivot, it remains in object position, receives accusative case. Since proarb can also be an internal argument, unaccusative verbs (and similar predicates) can combine with non-argument SE. Nominative-pivot languages have argument SE, while accusative-pivot languages have non-argumental SE. But the Balkans provide a two-way exception to this prediction. Impersonal passives of unaccusatives like DIE are found in Standard Serbocroatian (4a), in spite of the fact that this is a nominative-pivot language (Djordjević 1988). In Slovene, on the other hand, impersonal passives of unaccusatives are disallowed (4b), even though Slovene has accusative pivots.

(4) a. Umiralo se za otadžbinu.

‘One died for their country.’

b. *Od časa do časa se je kaznovano od prijateljev

‘From time to time one is punished by friends.’

I suggest an areal explanation. Except for Čakavian, the areal features of impersonal passives in the Balkans are nominative pivots and unergative intransitives only. This results in a typologically coherent area. However, the features of the Čakavian impersonal passive "leak" into neighboring languages in a selective way: accusative pivots into Slovene, unaccusative intransitives into the impersonal passives of Standard Serbocroatian. An areal account, then, provides a better explanation for the (illusory) clustering of features found across impersonal passives than Parameter Theory, raising the question of how predictive formal principles of grammar are when dealing with language contact (Joseph 2001).

Existence-to-possession: evidence from “two” Basque verbs.

Ariztimuño, Borja
(University of the Basque Country)

The conceptual relation between existential and possessive domains is well-established in typological studies (Croft 2002, Heine 1997). In several cases, it is possible to draw a diachronic line that leads to a quite common evolutionary path of existence/copula/location-to-possession (Heine and Kuteva 2002).

In the case of the Basque language we find, historically, various verbs for these concepts: izar ‘to be’ and edun ‘to have’ are autonomous as well as auxiliary verbs, whereas the reconstructed *edin ‘to be(come)’ and *ezan ‘to have, obtain?’ are only auxiliaries today. However, the original meaning of the latter is either recorded in old written data (*edin) or partially reconstructed (*ezan). Along with these verbs there is another one that is worth mentioning, eduki ‘to keep, hold’ (and dialectally ‘to have’), which originally was a ditransitive partner of the abovementioned edun ‘to have’, with the so-called “dative flag” -ki.

The first four verbs are in a roughly complementary distribution in their use as auxiliaries: izar ‘intransitive realis’, *edin ‘intransitive irrealis’, *eduk ‘transitive realis’, *ezan ‘transitive irrealis’. There is yet an intersection between izar and
edun, whereby non-finite forms of the verb ‘to be’ (izan) are used also as transitive, with the meaning ‘to have’, in western and central dialects. This occurs from the earliest attestations (ca. 16th c.); although at that time there still existed the form eun ‘to have’. In the easternmost part of the Basque territory the participial form of the verb ‘to have’ is ukan, which is usually explained as a more recent back-formation from conjugated forms of eduki, such as daukat ‘I keep it’ ← ‘I have it for somebody’ (Trask 1981).

In this way, although being historically a dialectal trait, I pose that the use of izan as transitive is not strictly an innovation, but reminiscent of an old, common stage of the paradigm of this verb, in which it might have developed a dative-construction that eventually underwent morphological leveling in accord with the common ergative-absolutive pattern in Basque. In support of this statement, I retake the diachronic analysis of the ergative and dative agreement by Oregi (1974), who considered the morphological coincidence of their suffixes, and I give a new interpretation to the transitive auxiliary *ezan, which can be argued to be etymologically related with the intransitive izan (Fig. 1). For that purpose, we have to bear in mind that the paradigm of *ezan has a striking variation in the present tense vowel (–a/-e-) throughout all the dialects, which may be due to the addition of a prefixed dative flag (cf. dagit ‘I do [something]’ vs. degit ‘It does [something] for me’). Indeed, the prefix i- of the non-finite form (izan) would be a trace of the evolution held in this proposal.

**Fig. 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE I</th>
<th>STAGE II</th>
<th>STAGE III</th>
<th>STAGE IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>intr. *e-zan</td>
<td>intr. *e-zen</td>
<td>intr. *ezan</td>
<td>intr. izan (‘to be’, [intr. realis aux.’])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat. *(e)-ji-izan → trans. *(e)izan</td>
<td>trans. izan (non-finite ‘to have’ / finite ‘irrealis tr. aux.’)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References

Perfect and negation in Lithuanian vs. Standard Average European.

Arkadiiev, Peter
(Institute of Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Sholokhov Moscow State University for the Humanities)

Theoretically, two mutual scope relation between perfect and negation are possible (McCawley 1999, de Swart & Molendijk 1999):

NEG > PERF: ‘a past situation V is not currently relevant’ (“upper” negation)
PERF > NEG: ‘a past situation not-V is currently relevant’ (“lower” negation)

In most European languages which have perfect as a separate grammatical category distinct from (perfective) past, e.g. in English (with minor exceptions), Bulgarian and Spanish, there is only one morphosyntactic position of negation in the verbal domain, covering both the upper and the lower interpretations, cf. ex. (1) and (2):

NEG > PERF
(1) a. English: *I have not worked for the State Security.*
    b. Bulgarian: *Ne sâm rabotil za Dâržavna Sigurnost.* ‘id.’

PERF > NEG
(2) a. English: *I have not slept for four days.*
    b. Bulgarian: *Ne sâm spal ot četiri dni.* ‘id.’
Ex. (2) is roughly paraphrasable as “I am in a state resulting from not sleeping for four days”.

A different situation is observed in Lithuanian (Baltic). In this language the perfect consists of an active past participle of the lexical verb and the ‘be’-auxiliary and expresses resultative and experiential meanings (Geniušienė, Nedjalkov 1988). However, in contrast to Bulgarian, in Lithuanian the negative prefix ne- can attach both to the auxiliary and to the participle, thus formally distinguishing between the upper and the lower interpretations, cf. (3).

Lithuanian

(3) a. *Niekada nesu miegojės lauke*. ‘I have never slept outdoors.’ (NEG > PERF)

b. *Jau dvi dienas esu nemiegojės*. ‘I have not slept for two days already.’ (PERF > NEG)

The main goal of this paper is to provide a detailed account of the semantic and pragmatic differences between the two types of negated perfect in Lithuanian. Attention will be paid to the kinds of lexical verbs favouring the “upper” or the “lower” negation, to the interaction of negation and its position with the resultative vs. the experiential meanings of the perfect, and to the discourse factors favouring the use of each type of construction. The data comes mainly from the Corpus of Lithuanian Language (http://tekstynas.vdu.lt/) and the Internet, and native speakers’ intuition is appealed to, as well.

From an areal perspective, it can be observed that Latvian patterns with English and Bulgarian, and not with Lithuanian, banning the negation on the participle in perfect constructions and allowing the “lower” interpretation when negation attaches to the auxiliary, cf. (5).

Latvian

(5) *Visu nakti neesmu gulējis*. ‘I have not slept whole night.’

By contrast, the Belorussian and North-West Russian and Eastern Polish dialects, which have a kind of periphrastic perfect (Kuz’mina & Nemčenko 1971, Mackevič & Grinaveckienė 1993, Wiemer & Giger 2005), allow the double attachment of negation, like Lithuanian. Double position of negation in perfect constructions is also attested in various languages of Eurasia, e.g. in Nakh-Dagestanian and in Japanese. Thus, the position of negation might be treated as an areal-typological feature distinguishing the “Eastern” type of perfect from the one attested in the Western European languages.

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References


The morphology of Albanian nouns in the Albanian National Corpus: some issues of representation.

Arkhangelskiy, Timofey; Daniel, Michael; Morozova, Maria and Rusakov, Alexander  
(Higher School of Economics, Moscow and Russian Academy of Sciences)

The paper considers some issues of representation of the Albanian noun morphology in the Albanian National Corpus, being developed by the team from Saint-Petersburg and Moscow. The Albanian corpus employs the experience of other corpora, such as the Russian National Corpus (Plungian 2005, 2009) and the Eastern Armenian National Corpus (Daniel et al. 2009).

The first batch of issues is related to the development of lexical morphological markup for the Corpus, which in some instances requires the reinterpretation and changes to the “traditional” model of the Albanian grammar description (Buchholz, Fiedler 1987). Some changes were made on the ground of a range of theoretical preconditions and/or practical targets such as providing the opportunities for refined search to the users and creating the background linguistic model of the Albanian morphology that is “understandable” for the parser and allows to minimize the parsing error rate.

For example, the noun cases tagset was enriched with a tag abl2 (ablative 2), marking a specific ablative indefinite plural form ending in -sh (1). Along with the said formal characteristic, the decision to add “ablative 2” into the case marking tagset of the Albanian corpus was influenced by the specific functionality of this form: predominantly non-prepositional use; use in NPs with non-referential possessor (2).

(1) \textit{prej fshatra-sh} = \textit{prej fshatra-ve}  
\begin{array}{l}
\text{from village-PL.ABL2 = from village-PL.ABL} \\
\text{‘from villages’}
\end{array}

(2) \textit{lesh dele-sh}  
\begin{array}{l}
\text{wool sheep-PL.ABL2} \\
\text{‘sheep wool’}
\end{array}

The second group involves the issues related to the representation of variation that is typical for the colloquial Albanian and for the Albanian dialects (the further development plans include the creation of dialectal subcorpus). They include the development of special tags marking the dialectality and non-standardness of grammatical patterns or word forms, which are formally different from the standard ones (stem variation, case forms variation, etc.), as well as the issues of lemmatization: the variants can be treated as belonging to different lemmas (for example, forms with alternative prefixes: \textit{clodhje // shlodhje} ‘rest’) or to a single lemma, for example, \textit{ujë // ujti} ‘water’ (Gjinari 2007). In the last case the variants can be lemmatized as standard and dialectal respectively, the dialectal lemma containing a kind of “lexical reference” pointing to the standard one. As a result, dialectal word forms belonging to the lemma \textit{ujtë} will be easily found by a search by the standard lemma \textit{ujë}. At the same time the user still keeps the opportunity to search for either the standard or the dialectal variant separately.

Such kind of language features, although differing from the existing standard, as well as from the tradition of the Albanian grammar description, should be considered while expanding the grammatical wordlist and the text collection. This approach meets the main aim pursued by the creators of the Albanian National Corpus, which is the clear and coherent representation of all possible lexical variants and grammatical patterns in their regional and social variety, reflecting the usage of Albanian in oral and written communication.

References


What’s in a name? Ideologies and linguistic development in the North.

Arnason, Kristjan
(University of Iceland)

Among the names used in medieval texts to refer to Nordic varieties and the written norm are the Danish tongue (dönsktunga) and the Norwegian tongue (norræna) (Karker 1977, Hagland 1984). Although most of the texts were written in Iceland, the term Icelandic or the Icelandic tongue (îslenska or îslensktunga) does not occur until the 15th or 16th century. In modern scholarly work, the terms Old Norse, Old Icelandic (forníslenska), Old Norwegian (gammelnorsk), Old Danish (gammeldansk) and Old Swedish (fornsvenska) are familiar, and not surprisingly, the term gammelnorsk and forníslesenka tend to be used respectively by Norwegian and Icelandic scholars to refer to the same idiom, the west-nordic written norm of the Icelandic and kings’ sagas, also used in Orkney in the high middle ages. At the University of Iceland old and modern Icelandic have down to the present been looked on as one field of study (îslenska, îslenskt mál). And according to folk linguistics, there are no (social or geographic) dialects in Iceland. In the rest of Scandinavia, notably including the Faeroes, there is no such sense of unity, and folk linguistics and linguistic culture acknowledges dialectal diversity, much in the same way as the rest of Europe (Auer 2005).

I want to discuss how this relates to linguistic development in the area, in particular the North-West. On the one hand I will ask to what extent the labelling of linguistic varieties is justified by formal differences or sameness, and to what extent the functional demands and ideologies behind the naming conventions have an effect on formal development and elaboration. I will maintain that the “ideology” of applying labels to different idioms can have a unifying effect through standardisation and levelling, and through language planning (Haugen 1966, Ottósson 1987, Jahr 1989, Arnason 2003). But purism and preservationist ideology can also have a diversifying effect, when applied to dialects, since e.g. Norwegian speakers have been known to try to speak a “pure dialect” (ren dialekt). But on the whole, normal laws of linguistic development are the main forces active in the history of the languages, as I will illustrate with some examples from Icelandic, Faroese and West Norwegian.

References
Twisted by the norm – Serbian verb trebati ‘should’.

Arsenijevic, Boban and Simonovic, Marko
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While all the standards emerging from Serbo-Croatian are based on the relatively homogeneous Neo-Štokavian group of dialects, each of them bears certain idiosyncrasies, which are often results of normative interventions.

A case at hand is the modal verb trebati „should“ (for a recent overview, see Kordić, 2002: 175-190). Serbian standard trebati is different from all other modals, both in standard Serbian and other related standards, in two ways. First, Serbian trebati is not allowed to display any phi-features. Second, whereas other modals can take either an infinitive complement or the da+present construction, trebati is only allowed with the latter.

(1) Ti možeš da ideš/ići. grammatical in all standards
    You can go.
    „You can go."

(2) Ti može da ideš/ići. bad in all standards
    You can go.
    „You can go."

(3) Ti trebaš da ideš/ići. out in Serb., grammatical in Bos/Cro.
    You should.2Sg da go.2Sg/go.Inf
    „You should go."

(4) Ti treba da ideš/*ići. grammatical in Serb., out in Bos/Cro.
    You should.3Sg da go.2Sg/go.Inf
    „You should go."

As its primary meaning is a weak deontic necessity, we argue that this verb was subject to a politeness restriction in Serbian: its impersonal, expletive use, which is grammatical in all varieties, was stylistically preferred to the use of the personal version with the roughly some meaning.

(5) Treba da ti ideš kući.
    should da you go.2Sg home
    „You should go home."

Serbian prescriptivists turned this preference into a prescriptive rule, formulated as a filter at the level of morphological forms („no finite forms of trebati“). This resulted in a set of undefined grammatical domains. For instance, a relative clause with a singular neuter subject (6) will be the same in all varieties, because the phi-features projected by the nouns dijete happen to be the same as the ones in impersonal clauses and no form violates the Serbian filter.

(6) dijete koje je trebalo da stigne
    wine which.N.SG Aux.SG should.N.SG da arrive.SG
    „The child which was supposed to arrive."

However, for the same clause in plural, neither of the two possibilities is fully acceptable: the impersonal one (7) because the relative clause has a subject, and the personal one (8) because it violates the filter.

(7) djeca koja je trebalo da stignu
    children which.N.SG Aux.SG should.N.SG da arrive.PL
    in Serb: in Bos/Cro: out
    ""
Our paper discusses five theoretically interesting consequences of this intervention:

1) topicalization and focalization structures moving the embedded subject into the impersonal matrix clause as the underlying structure of the ‘personal-impersonal’ uses.
2) the derivation of the hypercorrect forms (7), which actually involves the personal derivation (8) followed by the application of a phi-feature erasure operation.
3) syntactic lacunas emerging in contexts (such as relative clauses of the type (7) and (8)),
4) semantic lacunas emerging from the fact that the personal use has a weak implication that the modality originates in the subject of the modal.
5) strong grammaticality judgments of adult Serbian speakers which include the filter.

References

A Quantitative Diagnosis of the North/South Linguistic Boundary in California English.

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California’s geographical north-south midway point lies just below the city of San Jose. However, the distinction between ‘NorCal’ and ‘SoCal’ does not coincide with the geographical halfway line. In fact, the boundary between Northern and Southern California is debated in popular culture. This is even more relevant because of the well-established NorCal and SoCal rivalry (Smith 2011).

The results of the regional lexical variation survey of California English presented in this paper address the debate in linguistic terms through a quantitative analysis of written newspaper texts.

Traditional methods of data collection, which include linguistic interviews and questionnaires, would not allow a sufficient data gathering for a lexical dialect survey. Therefore, a new method of data collection based on web searches restricted to the websites of newspaper from cities across a region of interest has been developed, which returns large quantities of lexical data (Grieve and Asnaghi 2011, Grieve et al. submitted).

A list of 334 Californian newspapers from 274 Californian cities was collected, together with a list of 45 word alternations for analysis such as mesa/butte, buddy/pal, and car/automobile, choosing variables from previous dialectology studies (e.g. Vaux 2003, Kurath 1949, Cassidy 1985-2002, Grieve et al. 2011). Moreover, the regionally distributed use of the expressions ‘NorCa’ and ‘SoCa’ has been analyzed.

After data collection, the proportions of the raw individual results were calculated and mapped. Local spatial autocorrelation statistics was used to identify underlying patterns of regional linguistic variation (Ord and Getis 1995, Grieve 2011). Finally, the results were subjected to multivariate analyses to identify common patterns of regional linguistic variation. Additional cultural and historical explanations for the assessed linguistic boundary as well as results from previous linguistic research (e.g. Zelinsky 1973, Bright 1971, Bucholtz et al. 2007, Bucholtz et al. 2008) are provided.

References
La syntaxe balkanique. Aspects typologiques et diachroniques.

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1. Dans les domaines linguistiques proches que sont la linguistique balkanique et l'eurolinguistique (Reiter 1991), les objets de recherche recouvrent deux classes typologiques de langues: l'union linguistique balkanique (ULB) et l'union linguistique européenne (SAE). Les méthodes utilisées ainsi que les approches d'étude se recoupent. Bien que l'eurolinguistique soit née au sein de la linguistique balkanique, l'ULB est considérée comme constituante de la SAE, à sa périphérie. Les similitudes et les différences entre les « balkanismes » et les « européismes » peuvent être décrites comme suit.

Les européismes, comme les balkanismes, se manifestent au niveau syntaxique et touchent certaines catégories grammaticales; les européismes (comme les balkanismes) sont, en général, des néologismes (Haspelmath 2001).

Les balkanismes de plus recouvrent des types communs à tous les niveaux des langues balkaniques, mais les similitudes d'ordre morphologique sont particulièrement remarquables dans le cas de l'ULB. Parmi les balkanismes, on trouve également des archaïsmes.

L'union linguistique, étant un groupe aréal et typologique par définition, convient au mieux à l'application des méthodes typologiques et aréales. Ceci vaut tant pour la SAE que pour l'ULB. Mais il est à noter que cette dernière recouvre à la méthode comparative et historique pour atteindre un résultat satisfaisant dans la recherche des origines convergentes de certaines balkanismes; l'application des critères diachroniques à la typologie mène vers une typologie diachronique (Assenova 1990).

Après avoir étudié depuis longtemps les balkanismes, l'idée s'est fait jour depuis un certain temps qu'on rencontre ceux-ci partout en Europe et qu'on peut donc les considérer comme européismes. Mais le présent rapport se fonde sur la conviction que l'ULB présente « un phénomène unique d'éléments non-uniques » (Цивьян 1989).

2. La plupart des similitudes entre les langues balkaniques sont d'ordre syntaxique: il est notoire qu'après le lexique, c'est le niveau syntaxique qui résiste le moins au processus des contacts entre les langues. Bien qu'elles soient les plus nombreuses, les similitudes syntaxiques ne déterminent pas l'existence (ou la non-existence) de l'union linguistique, mais il n'existe pas de l'union linguistique sans similitudes syntaxiques.

L'importance de la syntaxe pour la formation d'un groupe des langues convergentes se manifeste au niveau de la morphologie: une bonne partie des balkanismes, tels que les formes du future et du conditionnel, ainsi que l'article défini, sont apparus comme des syntagmes qui, par la suite ont été morphologisés. Dans les cas restreints du bilinguisme actuel aux Balkans, la sensibilité de la syntaxe est observable en état d'action.

3. Mais il ne suffit pas d'analyser le rapprochement ou l'identité des phénomènes sur lesquels se concentrent la linguistique balkanique ou l'eurolinguistique (ou encore la géolinguistique), “it is essential to note similarities in function, even where
there are no similarities in form” (Joseph 1983): dans les langues balkaniques, ce sont les fonctions distinctives de l'article défini, qu’il soit postposé ou préposé, l’universalité du subjonctif analytique, apte à agir dans les domaines des autres modes, la nécessité de l'expression de l'évidentiel par des moyens grammaticalisés, etc. qui seront examinés dans le rapport.

**Countability and gender in modern Dutch.**

Audring, Jenny  
(University of Amsterdam)

Modern Dutch has a mismatching gender system: nouns distinguish two genders, pronouns three. As a result, speakers are uncertain which pronoun to use with which noun. In colloquial speech, an ingenious solution has emerged. This solution makes use of the count-mass distinction: masculine gender has come to be associated with countable, neuter gender with uncountable referents (Audring 2006, 2009).

1) *Waar ligt de pen/ het boek?* – Wacht, ik pak ‘m voor je.  
*Where is the pencil/the book? – Wait, I’ll get it (lit. him) for you.*

2) *Als je melk/ water kookt mag ‘t niet te heet worden.*  
*‘When you’re boiling milk/water it shouldn’t get too hot.*

This spontaneous resemanticization poses interesting problems for the theory of morphosyntax. First off, the question arises where the link between gender and countability comes from. While such links have been claimed for other languages (Vogel 2000, Matasović 2004, Siemund 2008), no language has a gender system entirely based upon countability. Such a language, if it existed, it would be problematic theoretically, as nouns are typically flexible with regard to countability, while gender is regarded as an invariant lexical feature.

Secondly, the side-by-side existence of the new semantic genders of Dutch and the traditional syntactic gender system leads to massive variety in gender agreement. Such variety is usually associated with exceptional nouns called “hybrids”, the standard example being the German noun *Mädchen* ‘girl’.

3) *Das Mädchen kommt morgen zurück, wenn es/sie wieder gesund ist.*  
*‘The girl will come back tomorrow when she’s feeling better.’*

Hybridity usually arises from conflicts between the natural gender of persons and the grammatical gender of person nouns. The count-mass distinction, however, permeates the entire noun vocabulary. For Dutch, this means that every neuter count noun and every common mass noun is a potential hybrid: a massive number of hybrid nouns.

Third, the flexibility of nouns between a count or a mass reading has the consequence that many nouns are hybrids only some of the time. This poses theoretical difficulties for a model in which hybridity is considered a lexical property of nouns.

In this talk, I will discuss the unique data situation of Dutch as well as the three theoretical problems. I will propose a solution in terms of a pronominal view of gender agreement and the Hierarchy of Individuation (after Sasse 1993).

**References**


Anaphoricity and polarity of "dynamic" spatial PPs: two properties of motion constructions, in the light of verb semantics.

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(CLLE-ERSS)

This contribution will tackle two important aspects of the interactions between (intransitive or “indirect” transitive) motion verbs and spatial PPs in French (Aurnague 2008, 2011, Boons et al. 1976, Borillo 1998, Guillet 1990, Vandeloise 1987). First, we will recall the main notions we use in order to characterize motion predicates –change of basic locative relation (Boons 1987) and change of placement– and we will show how these notions combine within the semantic content of the verbs denoting a motion in the strict sense (as opposed to verbs of manner of motion; Talmy 1985, 2000). Then, we will concentrate on the possibility, for the various verbs, of appearing in implicit landmark constructions (i.e. constructions in which the landmark or locating entity involved in the process is not expressed: 1-5; Cornish 1999) and it will appear that these constructions largely depend on the spatio-temporal structure of the verbs (in particular, on whether this structure is centred or not on the change of relation) and on various other factors –deixis/perspective point (Fillmore 1975), world knowledge, typing of the landmark.

(1) Il est parti une nuit… en coupant simplement à la cisaille les deux rangs de barbelés de l’enceinte de son oflag
(R. Abellio, Heureux les pacifiques, 1946)
‘He left one night… by simply clipping through the two rows of barbed wire of his oflag’s fence’

(2) Au deuxième [coup de revolver], il y a eu des cris, un blessé, et tout le monde s’est enfui
(A. Camus, La Peste, 1947)
‘At the second [gun shot], there were cries, an injured person, and everybody ran away’

(3) L’homme est sorti, et lentement s’est éloigné
(M. Genevoix, Ceux de 14, 1950)
‘The man went out, and slowly moved away’

(4) Djala, qui est venu hier ?
(P. Louys, Aphrodite, 1896)
‘Djala, who came yesterday?’

(5) Alors le maire est arrivé et il a fait trois grands saluts de tout le corps
(M. Barrès, Mes cahiers, t. 1, 1898)
‘Then the mayor arrived and he made three big bows with his whole body’

In a third step, we will examine the association of verbs and PPs with opposite polarities, which turns out to be in close correlation with the existence of an implicit use of the verb (compare (6) with (1), (7) with (4), (8) with *Max est allé and (9) with *Max a abouti).

(6) notre cher président du conseil, aussitôt après sa chute, est parti à la Sierra avec un fusil...
(A. Malraux, L’Espoir, 1937)
‘our dear prime minister, straight after his fall, left for the Sierra with a gun...’

(7) il est venu de Rennes avec moi
(Villiers de L’Isle-Adam, Contes cruels, 1883)
‘He came from Rennes with me’

(8) *Max est allé de la cuisine
‘Max went from the kitchen’

(9) *Max a abouti du carrefour
‘Max ended up from the crossroads’

In conclusion, we will emphasize the asymmetries/dissymmetries between initial and final changes of relation and placement (Lakusta and Landau 2005, Regier and Zheng 2007) revealed by the two constructions studied and will relate them to other
facets of the asymmetry of motion descriptions in French.

References

Borrowing of apudlocative flagging in Georgian and other languages of the Caucasus.

Authier, Gilles; Michael Daniel & Hélène Gérardin
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Apudlocative may be proposed as a cover term for “the coding of spatial relations with human landmarks” (Luraghi, in Kittilä, Västi and Ylikoski 2011) or rather any flagging device (adposition or case) denoting exclusively location near a human person. The presence of a dedicated apudlocative flagging device is an areal feature extending over most of the Eastern Caucasus.

We propose to show that the category has spread across families represented in the area, from East Caucasian to Tat (Iranian) to Georgian (South Caucasian).

In East-Caucasian languages, cases systems are notoriously large, due to the presence, in most of the languages of this family, of a special locative subparadigm which combines at least to morphemes, denoting location and orientation (cf. Comrie 1997) as opposed to ‘grammatical cases’. But the border between both domains is not clear-cut, as spatial cases tend to acquire grammatical functions. And some functions, for instance apudlocative, can be expressed by a case morphologically integrated in the locative subparadigm, or be part of the non-integrated grammatical cases, or be expressed by a postposition: while locative cases are cognate in all branches of the family (Alekseev 1997), there is no apulocative case marker reconstructible for proto-East Caucasian. What’s more, some instances of ergative flagging appear to have been borrowed from another language.

In contact with East Caucasian, various dialects of Tat (Iranian) where various nouns have grammaticalized as an apudlocative preposition, have borrowed the apulocative category (Authier 2012). Various body part nouns have grammaticalised as apudlocative prepositions in different Tat languages: yan ‘side’, tan ‘body’, kinar ‘flank’ or kun ‘buttocks’.

Georgian is a South Caucasian language not genetically related to East Caucasian languages which we propose to
recognize as the origin of the apudlocative category, and with no or few contact with these. But Georgian has borrowed from Iranian – probably from a Tat outsider dialect like the one still spoken in Gombori, near Tbilisi – the use of the noun tan ‘body’ as an apudlocative marker, and turn what is in Tat a preposition into a postposition, described in Georgian grammars as a case.

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Under the radar: Normativity and unconventional syntax.

Backus, Ad and Onar Valk, Pelin
(Tilburg University)

Languages may be said to be held together by norms. Whenever we come across forms that we perceive as ungrammatical, weird, or otherwise remarkable, underlying this judgment is some comparison of the utterance with what we had expected to hear. These expectations are based on past experience. What we expect is adherence to conventions; when we hear something unconventional, the norm is breached.

While normativity probably plays a role in a wide range of human behavior, language norms may well be characterized by special features. Primarily, language is produced rapidly and often fairly automatically, and this means the norms (or conventions) must be entrenched very well, since otherwise conscious attention would be needed before they can be reproduced. Of course, cognitive activity is involved in any act of speaking, but psycholinguistic research suggests that much of this cognitive activity is beyond our conscious attention, i.e. it is ‘under the radar’. And, except perhaps for phonology, no area of language seems as much under the radar as syntax.

In our contribution, we examine syntactic change in Turkish as spoken in immigrant populations in Western Europe. Speakers are bilingual in at least Turkish and the locally dominant language, in our case Dutch. As our data from conversational recordings and acceptability judgments show, their Turkish, which we refer to as ‘NL-Turkish’ (as opposed to the ‘TR-Turkish’ of Turkey) undergoes a lot of Dutch influence; in our paper, we look at subordinate clauses. Interestingly, NL-Turkish speakers are aware of speaking a ‘deviant’ form of Turkish, and they bemoan this fact in interviews, yet seem powerless to do anything about it. Language change can be conceptualized as the competition between rival norms, in this case between a fairly immutable ‘external norm’ (i.e. how things are said in TR-Turkish) and the constantly evolving ‘internal’ norm of the speakers (i.e. what is entrenched in their idiolectal competence). In our discussion, we will first present empirical data on how large the differences are between the external TR-Turkish norm and the internal norms of our various participants, and then explore the reasons why it is especially syntax that is under the radar. Speakers are, for example, reasonably good at avoiding Dutch lexemes when their use is socially not appropriate (e.g. when talking to monolinguals). As part of this discussion, we investigate the possibly interacting contributions of high frequency (high frequency means deeper entrenchment and therefore lesser accessibility to conscious attention) and low semantic specificity (syntactic form is relatively meaningless and thus makes conscious attention harder). While we will focus on empirical data, we will entertain the hypothesis that this interaction is a design feature of language, something which would be more or less in line with usage-based approaches to linguistic theory.
Lingua Receptiva: taking the best from the norms.

Bahtina-Jantsikene, Daria
(Utrecht University)

- Bent u hier bekend?
- Well, try me!
- Eh, do you know where the ‘apotheek’ is?

The world switched on the globalization mode long time ago, yet here we are, still adjusting to an ever increasing complexity of realities, wondering how come the old norms no longer apply. Like that stranger passing on a bike, answering your Dutch phrase in English – what do you say back? Do you even know that English is not your only option? Is there multilingualism beyond English as the classical lingua franca? Imagine speaking your own language to another person and understanding theirs. They call it lingua receptiva, the multilingual mode based on receptive skills and linguistic repertoires (Rehbein, ten Thije and Verschik, 2012), knowing a language beyond the standard ‘speak L2 fluently’ definition.

The notion of receptive multilingualism, existing in one form or another for a considerable amount of time, has been largely neglected both by language users and scholars for the last two centuries. The reason is the nation state formation in the 17th – 19th centuries, shifting linguistic landscape towards monolingualism and introducing the ideal of ‘one language for one country’ (Braunmüller, 2007). From the Indian American tribes to the merchants in the Habsburg Empire in the past to Scandinavia and Switzerland as the modern hotspots of multilingual contacts, lingua receptiva (henceforth, LaRa) offers communication mode aimed at mutual understanding with the minimal effort. Recent studies indicate that people tend to remain unaware of this option, sometimes even despite being occasional users of LaRa (e.g., business communication in the border areas, Beerkens, 2010).

The current paper investigates lingua receptiva between the speakers of Estonian and Russian in Estonia. The data were collected in the experimental settings and analysed along with the participants’ socio-linguistic information (e.g., history of language acquisition, attitudes to L2) and their L2 proficiency (both measured and self-reported). The results from the 38 LaRa dialogues demonstrate that there is more to receptive competence than the L2 tests can possibly indicate. For instance, some subjects with extremely low L2 proficiency managed to establish mutual understanding in the LaRa mode and achieved communicative success; their self-assessed knowledge of the foreign language was also very low. The outcomes are used to argue that efficiency depends on more factors: it is hypothesised that mutual understanding can be reinforced by integrating all available linguistic resources (e.g., code-mixing), introducing meta-communication to monitor interaction as well as relaxing the grammaticality norms.

References

Borrowing adpositions through contact with Spanish: typological constraints?

Bakker, Dik and Hekking, Ewald
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There seem to be few constraints on the borrowing of elements from the two major lexical categories, nouns and verbs (Matras 2009:166). Potential explanations for this are the generally presumed universality of these two categories (Croft 2003:184), their prosodic prominence, and the high absolute and relative frequencies of many corresponding lexemes in
discourse. Furthermore, they often have rather transparent and concrete meanings, which contributes to their accessibility in the conceptual sense. This, however is less clear for other lexical categories, such as adjectives, which may have only a small set of representatives in both the source or the target language, if any at all. And it is even less clear for most grammatical categories, be they free or bound. Adpositions hold an intermediate position on the lexicon-to-grammar cline, both synchronically and diachronically, and as such make an interesting touchstone for the testing of hypotheses with respect to lexical and grammatical borrowing. A number of factors may play a role in the borrowing of adpositions, of which the following might be the more crucial ones. Firstly, assuming that there exist adpositions in the source language of a borrowing pair in the first place, they may or may not be present in the target language. Secondly, in either of the two languages, there may be just a few adpositions or very many, which may be occurring frequently in discourse or very infrequently. Furthermore, they may not be very grammaticalized, with a relatively long form, possibly reminiscent of the noun or verb that they are derived from, and with a rather concrete meaning. Or they may be highly grammaticalized, with a short form, and with very abstract semantics. Finally, typologically, languages may be postpositional (48.7% in Dryer 2011), prepositional (43.2%), both (4.9%), inpositional (0.7%), or there may be no adpositions at all (2.5%).

In this paper, we try to establish the extent to which the above factors play a role in the borrowing of adpositions. Our point of departure is that ‘anything goes’ in linguistic borrowing, as long as borrowers have some kind of pragmatic motivation. There might, however be typological constraints that prevent a successful transfer. E.g. we would predict that postpositional languages do not borrow prepositions, however ‘useful’ they might seem, and vice versa.

In order to test our hypothesis, we use corpora of three Native American languages, viz. Guaraní (Paraguay; SVO-free/postpositional), Quichua (Ecuador; SOV/suffixing), and Otomi (Mexico; VOS/no adpositions). Each corpus consists of around 100,000 words of spoken language, produced by 25 – 50 native speakers of different age groups, of two dialects. The three languages are in close contact with Spanish, the official language of the respective countries. As a result, all three languages have borrowed profusely from Spanish: anywhere between 15 and 20% of the tokens in the corpora are Spanish loans. The languages, however, differ considerably with respect to the amount of Spanish prepositions among these loans. The paper will seek to explain these differences in terms of the factors mentioned above. We will also check whether the borrowing behaviour is consistent over the two dialects of each language.

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A missed opportunity: the notion of "spoiled language" in historical linguistics.

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This paper attempts to shed light on the processes through which the view that the most archaic and most “original” language variety should be the exclusive basis of descriptive fieldwork elevated to the status of a principle in Uralic studies. Until the end of the 19th century, historical linguistic research was mainly based on written sources. When Uralic linguists finally began to focus on oral texts, they concentrated their work on folklore texts of the most archaic quality possible, believing that these preserve a kind of “unspoiled” and archaic state of the language and therefore would be most valuable for comparative-historical linguistics. The collectors of the texts registered whether other linguistic codes were used in everyday communication, but since the documentation or investigation of these did not fit the primary aims of the research, incomparably less attention was accorded to them (cf. Hajdú 1980: 24). The view that the most archaic and most “original” language variety had to be found and documented became elevated to the status of a principle, since any other variety represented a “spoiled” state which historical linguistics need not concern itself with.

This principle almost exclusively dominated fieldwork based research up until recent times and has been further strengthened by the fact that the languages in question are endangered and should, thus, be documented as quickly as possible before they disappear. Thus, from its self-important ideological heights, historical linguistics rejected (and mostly
still rejects, unfortunately) the documentation and description of all those varieties which, in its view, do not represent the “more original” state (whatever “more original” means). Grammatical descriptions are referring every now and then to innovations that are differing from the original properties, e.g. nouns which designate animates do not take local case anymore or there is a shift of the word stress partly due to Tatar influences in Udmurt (Csúcs 199. 279, 282), etc. but systematic descriptions of the recent spoken language (like the description of the Taimyr pidgin resulting from the contact of Russian, Nganasan, Dolgan, Evenki and Even – Хелимский 1987, Stern 2005) are rare. As if they were not the products of historical linguistic processes, as if, as a result of increasing bi- and multilingualism, amongst a myriad of grammatical code-switching, it were not new varieties that have been emerging, with their linguistic systems neither better nor worse, only different from the earlier “original” variety successfully used for communication. But, with few exceptions, this linguistic “otherness” was not studied by historical linguistics, it was excluded from its focus of investigation. In doing so, and this is the conclusion of the paper, historical linguistics deprived itself from taking the opportunity to follow the development of the language of the community in question, starting from the materials of the earliest collections as the oldest sources and up to the present. This is what I mean by a missed opportunity – missed for good.

References


Typological evidence against universal effects of referential scales on agent case marking.

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Introduction: If a language develops differential agent marking by case or adpositions, this is widely hypothesized to result from a universal effect of referential scales, such that, for example, first and second person pronoun stand a higher chance for accusative as opposed to ergative case marking. The idea was developed in the late 70s (Silverstein 1976, Moravcsik 1978, Comrie 1981, among others) and despite the lack of large-scale empirical tests, it is now widely taken to be an established finding (cf. Aissen 1999).

Methods: In this paper we subject the idea of scale effects on differential agent case marking to empirical testing against data from a large typological database with world-wide coverage. In order to do so, we consider various versions of the idea and reformulate them as testable hypotheses: On the one hand, scale effects can be understood as a universal negative correlation between the odds of overt agent case marking and scale ranks, or as an implicational universal proposing that, if a language has a split in agent case marking, this split fits a universal scale.

We interpret scale effects as making predictions about abstract markedness relations and not about overt marking patterns. The terms ‘marked’ and ‘unmarked’ thus describe which grammatical relation is structurally more constrained or specified than the other: the sets \{A\} and \{P\} are more specific than the sets \{S,P\}, \{S,A\} and \{S,A,P\}. Under this interpretation low-ranking agent arguments are predicted to be mapped into marked grammatical relations associated with \{A\} relations, while high-ranking agents are predicted to be mapped into unmarked grammatical relations associated with sets that include \{S\}, (i.e. \{S,A,P\} or \{S,A\}).

These predictions were tested using the Family Bias Method (Bickel 2011) which estimates preferences in diachronic developments within established language families, based on the synchronic results of these developments.

Results and conclusions: Of the 462 systems (435 languages) in the sample, 59 have splits on agent, i.e. differential agent marking of any kind (fitting or not fitting scales). Regardless of how one spells out the details of universal scales (e.g. first and second over third person, or pronoun over noun), we found that the probabilities of developing differential agent marking that fits a universal scale is in the same statistical ballpark as the estimated probability of developing differential
agent marking that does not fit a universal scale. What we do find, by contrast, is significant area effects: agent case-marking splits tend to have developed and spread in Eurasia and the New-Guinea/Australia (‘Sahul’) macro-areas. This suggests that any replication of scale effects across language families results from areal diffusion in repeated language contact events rather than from universal principles in grammar or cognition.

References

Binding in Chinese – anaphora and pronominals between syntax and pragmatics.

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In recent linguistic theories of the generative tradition, the description of anaphoric processes has been unified under what has been termed the ‘Binding Theory’, a proposed module of Universal Grammar (e.g. Chomsky 1981, Reinhart and Reuland 1993).

However, in Chinese, the interpretation of anaphora and pronominals does not always follow purely structural principles (cf. blocking effect: Huang 1984, Xue, Pollard & Sag 1994, Huang and Tang 1991, Xu 1993, Pan 1997, etc.). In our most recent study, it turned out that even in sentences consisting of only one clause the interpretation of Chinese anaphora depends on grammatical and pragmatic factors, the pragmatic features being [+intentionality] and [+introversion] for verbs and [+relationality] for nouns. In a sentence with positive values for each feature as in (1), ziji tends to be bound by Lilin:

(1) Ziji de nü'er bei Lilin daochu xuanxiao.
SELF POSS daughter PASS Lilin everywhere show.off
‘Self’s daughter is showed off by Lilin everywhere.’
(xuanxiao ‘show off’: [+intentional], [+introverted]; nü'er ‘daughter’: [+relational])

In contrast, in a sentence with all negative features as in (2), ziji is most likely to have disjoint interpretation.

(2) Ziji de zhutuo bei Lilin wangji-le
SELF POSS commission PASS Lilin forget-PF
‘Self's commission is forgotten by Lilin.’
(wangji ‘forget’: [-intentional], [-introverted]; zhutuo ‘commission’ [-relational])

Based on such examples, an extensive self-paced reading experiment was conducted. Three conditions were tested:

- Sentence types: simple declarative, topic and bei passives (with 4 subtypes in the case of bei through combining the verb with adverbial modifiers like ‘intentionally’) => 6 sentence types
- Pragmatic features: [+intentional], [+introverted], and [+relational] => 8 feature combinations
- Anaphor ziji vs. pronominal ta.

For each of these 96 test conditions (6 sentence types x 8 feature combinations x 2 anaphor vs. pronominal), 4 verbs were selected. Thus, the whole experiment consisted 384 test items (4 x 96) plus twice as many fillers (768 ). The test was done by 28 native speakers of Mandarin between 19 and 26 years.

In each example, the participants had to decide whether the anaphor/pronoun is coindexed with Lilin (cf. examples (1), (2)) after seeing each phrase. If binding were subject to rigid syntactic rules, the results would always be discrete, i.e., 100% [yes] with the anaphor ziji and 100% [no] with the pronoun ta. The data clearly show that this is not the case. The
ratio of [yes]/[no] judgments is subject to the following two hierarchies:

- Sentence-type hierarchy: In declarative sentences, the binding relationship between the anaphor/pronominal and the local antecedent is stronger than in topic sentences, and even much stronger than in bei sentences.
- Hierarchy within the pragmatic factors (co-referential reading of anaphora/pronominals with local antecedent vs. long-distance antecedent): Plus features > Minus features; Combination of features > Single feature; Verb features > noun feature.

In addition, the paced-reading experiment showed that the [yes]/[no] judgments differed at different positions in the clause. Thus, coindexation is an incremental phenomenon.

References

Imperative evidentiality in Innu language.

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Languages with a rich morphology, such as Innu (an Algonquian aboriginal language spoken in Northern Quebec, Canada), have contributed significantly to our knowledge in several domains of linguistics, because these languages clearly mark phenomena that may seem less obvious in more analytic languages. Innu is of particular interest in terms of imperative typology, because, in that language, the imperative is more than just a ‘grammatical mood’ (Aikhenvald, 2010: 1). It is actually part of a conjugation system, the orders, which subsume all verb paradigms found in Algonquian languages. In short, the three orders – the independent, the conjunct and the imperative – comprise various conjugations and control different types of clauses (for instance, most independent affirmative clauses and global interrogative clauses use independent order verb forms; most independent negative clauses, embedded clauses, and clauses introduced by specific particles use conjunct order verb forms). In addition, each order, including the imperative, encompasses different tenses and/or moods (or modalities) and displays various conjugations or paradigms. Morphologically, each order has a specific set of inflections, as we can see in the following examples, with first plural inclusive person (2+1): Tshitatussenan ‘We work (You and me/us)’ (independent indicative); Apu atusseiat ‘We don’t work’ (conjunct indicative); Atussetau! , ‘Let’s work!’ (imperative indicative).

Within the imperative order there are three separate paradigms, which are morphologically marked. Actually, these three paradigms are specialized imperatives, that is verbal forms used only in ‘directive’ clauses. They involve second person subjects (singular and plural), except for the indicative which also involves a first plural inclusive person (you+me/us). These imperatives occur in complementary distribution, either in terms of tense (immediate vs. delayed imperatives) or mood (indicative vs. indirect imperatives): ‘Work!’ Atusse! (imperative indicative); Atussekan! (imperative delayed); Atussemee! (imperative indirect). It is the latter that is the subject of our presentation, because that kind of imperative is less known in studies about imperatives and it seems to be cross-linguistically rare (Aikhenvald: 2010). The Innu indirect imperative is a kind of ‘absentative’ or ‘reported’ imperative (we find both meanings), but we argue that it actually expresses evidentiality, a very productive grammatical category in Innu that is also found in independent and conjunct orders (In Innu grammar, the moods marking evidentiality in independent and conjunct orders are called indirect). Indeed, there is, in that language, a parallelism among the three orders, since in each order an indicative mood is opposed to an indirect mood, the latter
representing evidentiality. The existence of evidentiality within the imperative is not as easy to demonstrate as it is with other types of structures, hence the need to study languages like Innu where that kind of grammatical category is clearly marked by morphology.

Our analysis of Innu Imperatives is based on data obtained from transcribed oral narrative texts and from direct elicitation. Both kinds of data are necessary, since canonical imperative occurrences are not frequent in narrative texts. Our approach to explain the use of imperative in Innu language is mostly descriptive and typological.

References

Using a parallel corpus in comparative Slavic aspectology.

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The importance of Aspect – (Perfective (pf) vs. Imperfective (ipf)) – as a central category of the Slavic verb is well known. Until quite recently assumptions about the nature of Slavic aspect were to a large extent based on data from aspect use in Russian. However, during the last decades it has become evident that there exist systematic differences in choosing the proper aspect between an Eastern (Russian, Belorussian, Ukrainian and Bulgarian) and a Western (Czech, Slovak, Sorbian and Slovene) group of the Slavic languages, with Polish and Serbian/Croatian as transitional areas. On the whole the Eastern group appears to have more possibilities of using ipf aspect for describing total events (achievements, complete accomplishments etc.) and these possibilities decrease towards the West. This general picture and some of the most important cases are well shown by Dickey (2000); nevertheless, detailed investigations of various specific cases are still highly necessary to make the picture more complete. In view of the number of languages involved, such research is hard to perform if it has to be based entirely on working with native informants (as is done by Dickey). For this reason it is interesting to check the possibilities of using data from parallel corpora.

The paper presents a case study based on data from the parallel corpus that the author has been developing for more than a decade. The corpus contains several parallel texts in all the main Slavic languages. i.e. the languages mentioned above but without Sorbian and plus Macedonian (which has not yet been treated by Dickey).

The case study consists of the comparison in these languages of aspect choice in past tense sentences of the kind As soon as the telephone rang he (always) would immediately take the receiver. In such cases there is an interesting conflict of two factors determining aspect choice in Slavic: on the micro level (of the individual events) there is a very prominent sense of sequentiality, which usually asks for pf, while on the macro level we have ‘unbounded repetition’, which is widely connected with ipf.

Although the number of such examples in the corpus is not very high, the pattern found is very consistent. The main East-West distinction is properly confirmed. But the material also shows some interesting properties of a number of these languages in coping with the specific conflict mentioned above. These languages systematically use means from other verbal categories and/or display differences in aspect choice between main clause and dependent clause. To properly account for these differences one has to divide the Slavic languages in no less than six groups. Such findings must certainly be taken into account when we try to define more accurately the differences in meaning of the aspects in the various Slavic languages.

The results of the case study suggest that the development of comparative Slavic aspectology could indeed profit from a more extensive use of parallel corpus data.

Reference
Same setting, different speakers: an investigation of idiolects.

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To investigate differences in the production of different speakers, the speech of several White House press secretaries taking part in press conferences is examined. An important advantage of working with this dataset is that the context of the discourse is held constant across the different samples, which consist of between 200,000 and 1,200,000 words of running text for each speaker and covers several months of press conferences. The transcripts were obtained using PHP scripts, which enabled the relevant parts of the web pages to be accessed and downloaded automatically to yield the sets of transcripts. The files were tagged for POS using the CLAWS7 tagset and for semantic tags using the USAS tagset.

Using a variety of probes, based on frequent bigrams and trigrams strings, POS tag sequences, grammatical sequences, and semantic tags, we find that inter-speaker variability is greater than the intra-speaker variability and that the frequency of use of expressions by individual speakers diverge markedly from the norm associated with multiple speakers. In other words, there are clear differences in the speech of individuals despite changes in topic and despite interactions with members of the media. One illustration of this is shown below. If we take just four very general constructions --- passive, present perfect, negation (not/n’t) and it BE ADJ to --- and use the frequency of each construction for each of the different speech samples, we can use the matrix as input into a correlation analysis (Baayen 2008: 129).

The correlation analysis clusters samples by the same speaker (indicated by the same initial letter) in same region on the two-dimensional graph. This shows the tendency of each speaker to be consistent in their use of constructions (in terms of frequency) over time, despite other discourse factors that would naturally lead to greater variability in speech patterns.

In this presentation we provide details on the nature and extent of individual differences in production routines. In addition, we explore the consequences for grammatical theory of the fact that the patterns of production by individuals differ quite markedly from the amalgamated input arising from the speech of others.

Reference
Optimizing the norm: eye dialect, spelling pronunciation and constraint re-ranking.

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When it comes to linguistic norms, no aspect of language is more explicitly regulated than orthography. Speakers are generally aware of most orthographic norms and are able to manipulate them in order to obtain specific stylistic results. A clear example is Eye Dialect (ED henceforth), namely, spelling a word in a non-standard way while still respecting its standard pronunciation (Hull Bowdre 1961). English examples are <tonite>, <sed>, <thru>, <tho>, <woz> for tonight, said, through, though, was. French examples are <koi>, <jamè>, <z’yeux> for quoi, jamais, (le)s yeux. ED is a quite conscious process, since its function is either to give the impression of non-standard speech or to result ‘cool’ and/or rebellious.

A diametrically opposite phenomenon is Spelling Pronunciation (SP) or Buben effect (Levitt 1978; Blanche-Benveniste and Cherval 1978). In this case, it is not the spelling that is made closer to the actual pronunciation, but the other way around: letters that used to be silent are given a phonetic value or are interpreted as part of a complex grapheme, e.g. in French, many final silent letters are now (optionally or compulsorily) pronounced, as in but [by ~ byt], cinq [sɛ̃ ~ sêk], août [uʃ] (formerly [u]), sens [sɔs] (formerly [sœ]). In English, several words of classical origin now contain a [θ] that was never there, as in author [ɔθə] from Latin auctor [auktor] (Neuman 2009:400). Unlike ED, SP is generally considered acceptable in all contexts.

Since ED and SP do not apply evenly throughout the lexicon, one might assume that they are haphazard, unpredictable processes, but it will be shown instead that they follow general patterns of standard orthography. In both cases, the result is a more straightforward correspondence between phonemes and graphemes.

The two phenomena will be analyzed in a framework couched in Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky 1993, cf. Song and Wiese 2010 for application to orthography). A few case studies from English and French will be considered. The difference between standard and ED spelling will be accounted for with different constraint rankings: in the standard, specific bidirectional phoneme ↔ grapheme constraints are ranked higher than general ones and the orthographic form is present in the input together with the phonological form, whereas in ED the input is only phonological and general bidirectional constraints are ranked higher than specific ones. SP is triggered by the high ranking of a constraint militating against silent letters, Dep-L. Since Faithfulness constraints block deletion, the only viable way not to violate Dep-L is to associate a corresponding phoneme to a formerly silent grapheme. Phonotactic constraints block the emergence of phonologically non-acceptable strings, so that <often> can correspond to either [ɔfn] or [ɔftn] but <know> can never correspond to *[kno].

References

Control your mood! The structure of subjunctive clauses across European languages.

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We discuss alternations between embedded subjects in obviation and control contexts. Standard approaches (Quer 2005, Farkas 1992, Dobrovie-Sorin 2001) roughly divide the world of embedded subjects in two: (obligatory) obviation generally occurs in subjunctive embedded clauses and control in infinitives.
We pose two theoretical questions, which we claim are related: a) what is the structural underpinning of subjunctive/infinitive clauses; and b) what is the status of embedded subjects in such clauses. We take obviation/control to be a diagnostic for subjunctive/infinitive-like clauses, regardless of the surface morphological marking. We account for the licensing of different kinds of embedded subjects using evidence from French (Fr), Romanian (Ro), Neapolitan (Na), Hungarian (Hu) and Croatian (Cr). The conclusions we reach should simplify control theory.

We consider clauses embedded under verbs of different classes, which systematically select either subjunctive or infinitive-type clauses cross-linguistically: directives (command), desideratives (want), purposives (strive), modals (can), implicatives (succeed) and aspectuals (begin). We make several observations:

(i) Subjunctive/infinitive distribution with these predicates is not uniform cross-linguistically. Directives, desideratives and purposives are systematically associated with the subjunctive (in non-control contexts), while modals and implicatives/aspectuals vary between infinitives and subjunctives.

(ii) Despite these apparent mood variations, all languages exhibit similar constraints on subject licensing. Directives exhibit obligatory obviation; desideratives alternate between control and subject obviation. Modals, aspectuals and implicatives only exhibit subject control, including in Cr and Ro which can introduce a subjunctive form instead of an infinitive in such contexts.

(iii) Obligatory subject-obviation property in directives resembles what is found in imperatives, which ban 1.p.sg.: in both cases, the agent that makes the command cannot direct it to him/herself. Subjunctive complements under directives contain something more in their structure, which relates them to imperatives. A clear indication for this comes from Na and Hu: under directives, Na introduces a modal-like operator similar to should, while Hu exhibits verb-particle inversion, which is also found in imperatives (Tóth 2008).

(iv) There is a distinction between different types of embedded clauses w.r.t. to Topic/Focus (Haegeman and Ürögdy 2010): in non-control (subjunctive) clauses, Topics and Foci move relatively freely to the embedded left periphery, while with modals, implicatives and aspectuals, such movements are strongly degraded.

On the basis of (i)-(iv), we propose that subjunctive/infinitive clauses across languages have different structures, with a more or less truncated left periphery. Predicates do not select subjunctive/infinitive clauses as such but clauses of different sizes. Restrictions on left peripheral phenomena in subject control-structures indicate a more truncated left periphery.

These structural differences can account for embedded subject licensing. We propose that lexical/pro subjects are not related to the same position as PRO: they are associated with a relatively high left-periphery projection-SubjP (Rizzi and Shlonsky 2007)- where they receive a referential value, whereas PRO remains lower (SpecTP). This, in turn, explains subject-control: in embedded clauses with smaller structures, SubjP is truncated and consequently the embedded subject stays under SpecTP, where it can only be anaphoric to the matrix subject. Subject control is thus related to the size of structure.

References
The system of subordination in Ossetic: influence from North-West Caucasian.

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The system of subordinate clause marking in Ossetic (Iranian > Indo-European) is characterized by the prevalence of the so-called correlative construction, where the subordinate clause is normally left-detached and contains the interrogative/relative pronoun or NP in preverbal position, and is obligatorily accompanied in the main clause by a demonstrative element (‘<<correlate>>’), which does not form a constituent with the subordinate clause. The preverbal NP and the correlate are in principle independent and can even contain different nouns (1). This construction is used not only for restrictive relative clauses1, but also for most adverbial clause types, including temporal clauses (2), locative clauses, manner clauses, and causal clauses. It is also used for most complement clause types (3). Most of the non-relative subordinate clauses in Ossetic are thus headless correlative clauses.

This system is drastically different from the systems encountered in other Iranian languages, which are characterized by the use of clause-initial subordinators for complement clauses and postnominal relative clauses (like Persian ke). Adverbial clauses are introduced either by specialized subordinators, or by the use of headed relative clauses (like Persian vaqt-i ke ‘at the time when’).

The correlative construction is absent from most New Iranian languages; in those languages where it is present, its use is limited to relative clauses. The latter situation also applies to Avestan and other ancient Indo-European languages.

A system of subordination that closely resembles that of Ossetic is the system of Circassian languages (North-West Caucasian), in particular Adyghe. Relative clauses in these languages can be both internally and externally-headed, or even contain both heads at the same time (4). The relativized argument(s) are cross-referenced on the verb by preverbal markers accompanied by the relative marker z>. The most striking similarity between the two systems is that in Adyghe, like in Ossetic, the headless relative construction is used for adverbial clauses (5) and for factive complement clauses (6). In (Gerasimov and Lander 2008), it has been argued that factive complement clauses in Adyghe involve the relativization of the <<factive argument>> of the subordinate clause.

Therefore, headless relative clauses in Adyghe, like in Ossetic, can be used for all types of subordinate clauses. Such an expansion of headless relative clauses in the domain of subordination is cross-linguistically unusual and does not appear in any languages of the Caucasus except for Ossetic and North-West Caucasian. The Ossetic system, being untypical for Iranian languages, is thus most likely a result of contact influence from neighbouring Circassian languages, even though the correlative construction itself is a feature inherited from Proto-Iranian.

Examples
(1) OSSETIC
[uɾoχ-ə] lesson-IN /sə lap:u qær-aj zard-t-ə], waj /
[wasa fadwaʒ-ə] naj:orʒ-at-am fa-zur-zaŋ-ən
DemDist misbehaver-GEN parent-PL-ALL PV-speak-FUT-1SG
‘I will speak of the parents of the misbehaving boy who spoke loudly at the lesson’

(2) [də= nəχaʂ =dan kʰa a-jqʰ-aʃt-on], wad bo-sin kod-t-on
25G.POSS speech 25G.ENCL.DAT when PV-hear-PST.TR.1SG then PV-happiness do-TR-PST.1SG
‘When I heard your voice, I became happy’

(3) [də =jə kaj bo-kod-t-aj], waj žon-an
25G.NOM 35G.ENCL.GEN COMPL PV-do-TR-PST.2SG 35GDIST.NOM know-PST.1SG
‘I know that you’ve done it’

(4) ADYGHE
Cognitive strategies in intensification of meaning (comparative study of Russian and English).

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Expressivity is one of the fundamental and obligatory features in language intimately associated with mental activity of humans. Expressivity is realized in language via a range of lexical and grammatical means among which intensifiers are particularly prominent. In our study we refer to intensifiers as adverbs of degree which reinforce the meaning of a conventionalized, or closed, set of intensifiers in languages (e.g. very, too) is complemented by intensifiers of an open-class. The latter represents a particularly dynamic semantic category of adverbs that perform multiple discursive functions and are significant in terms of social interaction (Tagliamonte 2008; Vasilieva 2007).

The present study attempts to look at open-class intensifiers in English and Russian from a cognitive perspective in order to reveal deeper mental patterns producing elements whose function is to enhance meaning and to compare the two languages in this respect. The material for the study has been drawn from spoken corpora and two reference corpora – English and Russian respectively – have been used to verify the results.

A semantically-open class of intensifiers seems to have deep cognitive roots: subjectivity and multiplicity of intensification in human mentality predefines its unrestricted realization in language (Paradis 2008). Metaphorization provides a general mechanism for functional transformation of adverbs already available in language into adverbs enhancing the meaning of adjectives.

While it is generally unproblematic to supply Russian semantic equivalents to English intensifiers, some functional gaps may occur in the two languages. For example, English manner adverb *perfectly* (= in a perfect way, manner) can also function as an intensifier modifying an adjective, e.g. *perfectly normal/clear* (= completely normal/clear). The Russian adverb *sovershenno* (*perfectly*), however, can only be used as an intensifier (e.g., *sovershenno nerazreshimaya problema*) but not as a manner adverb.

References


Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University
The semantic classes of adjectives from which open-class intensifiers are derived make up a series of patterns which enable us to reconstruct deeper cognitive motivations for intensification in language. One of the productive patterns in both English and Russian is “metaphysical force → intensification” realized by two versions: “evil force → intensification” and “blessed force → intensification”. The version with negative meaning is represented in both languages, e.g. devilishly < devil, fiendishly < fiend (English) and d’yavol’ski < d’yavol, chertovski < ch’ort (Russian). The version with positive meaning is represented by divinely < divinity, awesomely < awe (English) and bozhestvenno < Bog, angel’ski < angel (Russian). It is worth noting that awesomely appears quite wide-spread in spoken English, while Russian intensifiers in this group have very restricted collocations. Another pattern is “strong emotional impact → intensification”, for example, stunningly, horribly, terrifyingly (English) and strashno, uzhasno, oshelamitel’no (Russian). From an extralinguistic point of view the adverbs refer to the result of a corresponding emotional impact on the speaker but in language the adverbs associated with these emotions indicate a high degree of a quality.

The study which is still in progress is aimed at describing consistent underlying cognitive patterns for intensifiers in English and Russian in this way revealing cognitive strategies for intensification in the two languages which, in turn, may be related to their typological features.

Corpora
Corpus of Contemporary American English http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/

References

Picture noun reflexives in the context of different noun-types.

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According to Binding Theory, reflexives in NPs headed by the noun picture are bound locally. In (1), the subject is the local antecedent. However, if the picture NP contains a possessor, as in (2), the possessor is the local antecedent and Binding Theory predicts that the reflexive can only be bound by the possessor:

(1) Anna saw a picture of herself.
(2) Anna saw Katrina’s picture of herself.

Recent on-line studies of sentence processing (cf. e.g. Runner et al. 2003, 2006, Sturt 2003) have shown that reflexives contained in NPs are often bound to non-local antecedents (even if an antecedent is available within the NP, thus violating Binding Theory’s predictions). Critically the authors of these studies either restrict their experiments to the noun picture heading the NP, or they adopt, without further proviso, the assumption formulated in models in theoretical linguistics and psycholinguistics that other nouns behave exactly like picture in terms of binding.

We conducted a sentence verification experiment in German to test the hypothesis that, unlike result nouns, such as picture, deverbal event nouns obey according to Binding Theory’s predictions. We derived this hypothesis from the following two conjectures: German does not make use of exempt reflexives (Kiss 2001, 2012), and deverbal event nouns inherit the argument structure of the verb. We predicted that the reflexive is bound to its local antecedent if the respective head is a deverbal event noun.

We compiled sentences like (3), systematically varying the noun-type (deverbal event noun, result noun) and the sentence-type (article-sentence, possessor-sentence). To this end, we selected 17 deverbal event nouns and 17 result
nouns and created one article-sentence without a possessor and one possessor-sentence with each noun. Having no local antecedent, we expected all article sentences to be bound non-locally, as predicted by Binding Theory.

(3) a) Anna erzählte, dass Katrin das Bild von sich betrachtete.
Anna reported that Katrin looked at the picture of herself.
b) Anna erzählte, dass sie Katrins Bild von sich betrachtete.
Anna reported that she looked at Katrin’s picture of herself.

There were no differences between result nouns and deverbal event nouns in terms of binding. Independent of the noun type, participants answered about 90% of the questions compatible with Binding Theory with article-sentences, but only about 35% with possessor-sentences. Interestingly, participants responded significantly faster (by 700 ms) to article-sentences than to possessor-sentences, indicating some kind of processing difficulty for the latter sentence type. There were substantial individual differences between nouns regarding the magnitude of the processing difficulty observed for its possessor-sentence relative to its article-sentence. Interestingly, the possessor-sentence containing the noun Bild (3b) turned out to be especially difficult to process relative to (3a). However, neither the distinction between result and event nouns nor Binding Theory provides an adequate explanation for why, for any given noun, the possessor-sentences caused marked processing difficulties or not.

Our findings emphasize the importance of testing different nouns and refute the claim that reflexives in NPs all behave like reflexives in the picture NP.

References

From EPIC to EPTIC: building and using an intermodal corpus of translated and interpreted texts.

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In corpus-based translation and interpreting studies translated or interpreted texts are typically compared to source texts on the one hand, and comparable original texts in the target language on the other, most often in an attempt to identify translation / interpreting universals. In this paper we present a new resource we are currently building that extends this paradigm by joining into a single corpus translations and interpretations. EPTIC (European Parliament Translation and Interpreting Corpus) is a four-way corpus that includes simultaneous interpretations paired with their source texts, and the corresponding translations and source texts. The corpus builds on the well-known EPIC corpus (European Parliament Interpreting Corpus; Sandrelli and Bendazzoli 2005, Bendazzoli 2010), from which the transcripts of interpreted talks and their source texts were taken. The revised source texts on which the (independently produced) translated versions are based were obtained from the European Parliament website. The language combination represented in the corpus is English-Italian, and translations / interpretations in both directions are included. The corpus consists of a total of 392 texts; the bigger, English>Italian portion contains four versions of 81 texts, while the smaller Italian>English portion has four versions of each of 17 texts, for a total of about 180,000 words. The corpus was part-of-speech tagged and lemmatised.
using the TreeTagger and indexed with the Corpus WorkBench. Available metadata include speaker identity, gender and political affiliation, speech delivery type (read or impromptu), speech length and topic.

The purpose of the paper is threefold. First, it discusses EPTIC’s design, construction and annotation, focusing in particular on methodological issues such as the appropriate corpus setup for the investigation of the interface between interpreting and translation data, and technical issues such as the alignment of spoken / interpreted and written / translated texts whose source texts are only partially overlapping. Second, it compares this corpus to related intermodal resources such as the corpus constructed by Shlesinger (2009) - which includes translational and interpretational outputs of the same source text by six professional translators / interpreters - and TIC, the Translation and Interpreting Corpus created by Kajzer-Wietrzny (2012), another corpus of texts produced during the European Parliament plenary sessions, which however does not include bilingual parallel data. Finally, the paper illustrates how a corpus like EPTIC can be used to study the features of different modes of translation and the factors that influence translation universals. In particular, a case study is presented in which we investigate lexical simplification across interpreted and translated texts focusing on lexical density, frequency of common words and repetitions of core vocabulary, thus replicating for this new corpus set up the influential study carried out by Laviosa (1998) on monolingual comparable corpora of translated and non translated texts, and by Sandrelli and Bendazzoli (2005) and Kajzer-Wietrzny (2012) on monolingual comparable corpora of interpreted and non-interpreted texts.

References

From Phonotactics to Syllables. A psycho-computational approach.

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Purpose
This study aims at modeling the Italian syllabic structure by exploiting the language’s phonotactic constraints. The latter create a sort of ‘phonotactic space’ accounting for all possible syllable profiles, including the less frequent segment combinations and even seemingly illegal (but existing) ones, for which deterministic models fail to provide insightful solutions.

The approach is based on the assumption that the language-specific invariant phonotactic regularities allow the speaker to draw meaningful generalizations out of the recurring consonant clusters, yielding the emerging syllable structure.

Method
For the present purpose, a phonologically-encoded list of words (about 5,000 items) was designed, aiming at representing the various syllable types of Italian. Each segment was labeled according to two parameters: i) phonotactic context (as defined by phonemic neighborhood); ii) syllabic context (position within the syllable).

Two competing data vector representations were adopted in the simulation:
a) a *coarse-grained representation*, based on phonological natural classes: vowel, glide, liquid, nasal, fricative, stop, affricate;
b) a *fine-grained representation*, expressing the actual identity of each segment.

This sort of representation allows a double level of generalization with respect to syllable structure, respectively based on the major natural classes, and on the specific individuality of each segment within the respective class. The latter level accounts, e.g., for the different phonotactic behavior of /s/ vs. /f/ within the class of fricatives.

The model yields, for each phoneme, a mapping linear function between the phonotactic and the syllabic contexts it may appear in. The function exploits a feed-forward two-level neural network, implementing a back-error propagation protocol to minimize output errors.

For any given segment in the corpus, the system provides values between 0.0 and 1.0, defining the output in terms of intersegmental attraction, thus adhering to the spirit of Dziubalska-Kołaczyk’s (2001) proposal. Obviously, in no case did the output activation exactly reach 0.0 or 1.0, but at most approximations to the scale’s extremes.

**Results**

The model was able to generate a fairly robust syllabic “knowledge”, assigning a syllable profile to new words, capitalizing on generalizations from the training data. In particular, the model allowed to go beyond the mere sonority scale values, based on acontextual and rigid specifications for each segment, by relativizing its syllabic propensities to the actual contexts it may appear in.

One special focus of the analysis were /s/ + C clusters, notoriously a matter of debate. Another one were the rare /tl/ and /tm/ clusters. These were not included in the training set, yet the system was able to process them. The output results showed a non-deterministic behavior for some clusters, pointing towards an intermediate position between tautosyllabic and heterosyllabic status. This converges with the psycholinguistic results gathered by Bertinetto (2004), proving that the present model is cognitively faithful.

The model allows great flexibility in taking experimentally into account various sorts of phonotactic information, e.g. by hiding any given segment or segments cluster in the training phase, to observe the generalization capacity of the automaton.

**References**


**Notes on the distribution and the interpretation of the Romanian subjunctive in a Balkan perspective.**

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We examine here some aspects concerning the distribution and interpretation of the subjunctive in Romanian, a phenomenon that illustrates areal influences. Two issues are addressed.

The first one is concerned with the morpho-syntactic status of the subjunctive. We address the question of whether it is a mood by itself or a variant of the indicative. Recall the Balkan tradition (Feuillet 2012 for Bulgarian and Greek), which adopts the latter hypothesis (cf. the same exponent for both moods). Indeed, the Romanian subjunctive is formed on the present indicative (*vorbesc* ‘talk.IND.1P’ vs. *să vorbesc* ‘talk.SUBJ.1P’). However, we reject such a hypothesis, for two main reasons: first, the Romanian subjunctive displays a specific (and exclusive) marker să; second, it has specific forms for the 3rd and 6th persons (*vine* ‘come.IND.3S’ vs. *să vînă* ‘come.SUBJ.3P’).

Correlatively, we address the controversial question of the morpho-syntactic status of the subjunctive marker să, which, like *da* in Bulgarian and *na* in Greek (Monachesi 2005), should be categorized either as a complementizer (like *că*
‘that’ introducing the indicative) or as a morpheme (i.e. an affix). We show that că and să do not have the same distribution. Moreover, să displays various affix-like properties. Consequently, we consider (contra GALR 2005) that să is not a complementizer, but a morphological affix of the subjunctive (Barbu 1999).

The second issue deals with the distribution of the Romanian subjunctive in embedded and main clauses. Crucially, we will show that it has a hybrid (Romance-Balkan) behaviour. The Romanian subjunctive in embedded clauses behaves more like – though not identically to – the French subjunctive wrt the semantics of the matrix predicates (Farkas 1992, Godard to appear). On the contrary, the Romanian subjunctive in main clauses is closer to the one in Bulgarian and Greek, i.e. it appears only with the imperative and interrogative types. If both Balkan and Romance languages allow the subjunctive in imperatives (Bulg. Da vârvi po đavolite!, Gr. Na păi sto diaolo!, Rom. Să se ducă la dracu!’, Fr. Qu’il aille ou diable! ‘Let him go to hell!’), only in Balkan languages can it occur in main interrogatives (Bulg. Kâde da otida?, Gr. Pu na pao?, Rom. Unde să merg ? vs. Fr. *Où que j’aille? ‘Where should I go?’). Additionally, Romanian – like Balkan languages – systematically displays the subjunctive in main interrogatives, in order to express various pragmatic and dialogical functions. The latter has been little studied, especially from a comparative perspective, so they represent the focus of this second part of our talk.

Finally, we link the high frequency of the Romanian subjunctive in both main and embedded clauses to the loss and/or attrition of the infinitive in these languages: indeed, Romanian, contrary to French, but just like Greek, Bulgarian or Macedonian, is on the way to losing its infinitive, which it has replaced with the subjunctive: Vreau a pleca ‘I want to leaveINF’ (obsolete) vs. Vreau să plec ‘I want to leaveSUBJ’.

### A cross-linguistic comparison of death-related intensifiers:
#### evidence from English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

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From an anthropological point of view, death is a matter which pervades our daily lives, and is thus an issue of the most genuine concern for all cultures and societies worldwide. With such an impact on our routines, it comes as no surprise that it can be exploited not only as a linguistic taboo, but also as a source of intensification in language, perhaps even cross-linguistically (cf. Claridge 2011).

This paper offers a corpus-based approach to the intensifying strategy, and sets out to provide a diachronic analysis of the hyperbolic uses of several death-related intensifiers (cf. Bolinger 1972) across a number of European languages, namely English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish. In particular, the intensifiers examined are dead, mortal, and to death in English (cf. Margerie 2011), mortel and mort(e) d’ in French, tod and zu Tod(e) in German, mortal and morto/a de in Portuguese, and mortal and muerto/a de in Spanish.

The results from this cross-linguistic comparison reveal different degrees of grammaticalisation for these death-related intensifiers. Even though they all follow the common cline of development for intensifiers noted by Adamson (2000), according to which they originate in descriptive or literal meanings (cf. (1)), gradually develop subjective meanings ((2)-(3) below), and finally grammaticalise as intensifiers ((4)-(5) below), their degrees of productivity as intensifiers vary in the different languages. Thus, in some cases their descriptive meanings or their subjective/affective ones are foregrounded instead.

   ‘The others had died of hunger and of illnesses’.

2. Lequel serment nous ordonnons que soit le derrenier des troiz sermens pour la mortelle hayne qui est entre eulx. (DMF, s.v. mortel1adj.),
   ‘This one we order to be the last of the three sermons on the mortal hate between both of them’.

3. E esta era a uosa mortal pena (Corpus do Português. 1431-1443. Crónica de D. Fernando).
   ‘And this was your mortal grief’.

   ‘The others had died of hunger and of illnesses’.

(2) Lequel serment nous ordonnons que soit le derrenier des troiz sermens pour la mortelle hayne qui est entre eulx. (DMF, s.v. mortel1adj.),
   ‘This one we order to be the last of the three sermons on the mortal hate between both of them’.

(3) E esta era a uosa mortal pena (Corpus do Português. 1431-1443. Crónica de D. Fernando).
   ‘And this was your mortal grief’.
(4) And although the attainment be newer so difficult yet having him in my companye, I hope to make all things dead sure. (EEBO. 1583. Pedro de la Sierra. The second part of the Myrrore of Knighthood).


The aim pursued in this diachronic research is therefore twofold. On the one hand, it shows how these forms have evolved semantically over time. On the other, an analysis of their collocations additionally reveals interesting cross-linguistic parallels, which suggests a human need to emphasise certain domains or semantic fields for intensification purposes.

Data for the present paper are taken from EEBO, COHA, COCA and BYU-BNC for English, the DMF and FRANTEXT for French, the BG, the Kernkorpus des 20. Jahrhunderts and the Kali Corpus for German, and the Corpus do Português and Corpus del Español for Portuguese and Spanish, respectively.

Sources
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References

Gender and homophony: diachronic and synchronic aspects of Norwegian homophones with different gender.

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In Norwegian, as in some other Germanic languages, there exist homophonic words with different grammatical genders, e.g. en kar (m.) ‘fellow’ vs. et kar (n.) ‘vessel’. In these homophone pairs the difference in gender correlates with a difference in meaning. Gender variation is a well-known phenomenon in Norwegian, but usually this variation is connected to masculine and feminine forms. In such cases it does not change the meaning of the word (e.g. ei bok (f.) ‘book’ vs. en bok (m.) ‘book’), and is explained sociolinguistically (Hanssen 2010). The homophones in my data always oppose neuter to
either masculine or feminine (e.g. et yrke (n.) ‘profession’ vs. ei/en (f./m.) yrke ‘weekdays’). Both words are usually found in the same dialect, and the meaning of the word changes depending on the chosen gender (Faarlund et al. 1997: 157). Homophones with different gender are the ideal data for testing the hypotheses about the semantics of genders in Norwegian.

The main research questions in my study are:

- How did the gender differences in Norwegian homophones arise?
- Are we dealing with homonymy or polysemy?
- Does gender correlate with the meaning of the word?
- If so, is this correlation a part of the linguistic competence of the speakers?

I follow the approach that gender assignment is rule based and that “native speakers have the ability to ‘work out’ the gender of a noun” (Corbett 1991: 7). According to Corbett, there are three types of assignment criteria: semantic, morphological and phonological. The difference in gender of all homophone pairs in my material can only be explained semantically, since their form and morphology are alike.

The data was first analyzed from a diachronic perspective in order to find out how it actually happened that words with the same form have been assigned different genders. Then each homophone was coded according to its meaning to demonstrate how gender can correlate with different semantic categories. Finally, I am conducting a psycholinguistic experiment to give a wider support to the semantic findings.

The study includes 370 homophone pairs from the Norwegian Bokmål dictionary Bokmålsordboka (no homophony dictionary exists for Norwegian). The material includes both words that are originally Norwegian and loan words. The preliminary results are the following:

- Diachronic analysis has shown that homophone pairs are distributed over the following categories:
  - (a) homophones originated from two different words – 54%;
  - (b) homophones originated from the same word – 44%;
  - (c) the pair was homophonous already in Old Norse or in the foreign language of origin – 2%.
- However, according to my approach, diachronic evidence cannot play any role in gender assignment, as diachronic information is not a part of the competence of an average speaker. Synchronically only semantics could be a possible explanation for the difference in gender. The findings support the meaning of the Animacy Hierarchy (Comrie 1989: 185) for gender assignment.
- Psycholinguistic experiments are currently being run, and the results will be communicated when obtained.

References


Quirky reflexive construction in Daghestanian languages.

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Most linguists seem to agree that in reflexive constructions of accusative as well as of ergative languages the controller of the reflexive must be the most prominent argument (i.e. higher on a hierarchy of grammatical roles), whereas the reflexive pronoun itself must be a less prominent argument (Chomsky 1981, Reinhart & Reuland 1993, Dixon 1994). Similarly, it has been claimed that anaphors do not trigger agreement (Rizzi 1990, Woolford 1999). However, Daghestanian languages provide fascinating data that violate such proposed universals regarding the syntactic alignment in reflexive (and reciprocal) constructions. For instance, in Icari Dargwa there is a choice between the canonical reflexive construction for transitive
verbs (1), whereby the controller is in the ergative case (agent), and the pronoun is in the absolutive case (patient), and the unusual pattern involving a ‘reversal of grammatical roles’ (2).

(1) murad-il cinna_ca w-alXː-a=ca-w
‘Murad is earning his own living.’ (lit. ‘is feeding himself’)

(2) murad cinna_cinni w-alXː-a=ca-w
Murad[ABS] REFL.ERG m-feed:IPFV-PROG=COP-M
‘Murad is earning his own living.’ or ‘As for Murad, he is earning his own living.’

In this talk, we will first provide a descriptive account of reflexive constructions in a number of Daghestanian languages by considering parameters that determine the ‘reversal of grammatical roles’: (i) the form of the reflexive pronouns (simple vs. different types of complex pronouns), (ii) the valency type of the predicate (canonical transitive, affective, extended intransitive), (iii) the grammatical role of the controllers and the pronouns (S, A, P, experiencer, stimulus, non-canonical agent, other), and occasionally (iv) word order. Most of the data has been gathered by the authors during fieldwork in Daghestan.

In the second part we will examine previous analyses of the Daghestanian data and of quirky reflexive constructions in other languages (Anagnostopoulou & Everaert 1999, Amiridze 2003). We will show that Yamada’s (2004) proposal to analyze sentences similar to (2) as intransitive cannot be maintained. Instead, it is possible to analyze the ‘reversal of grammatical roles’ building on Ljutikova (1997). The difference between (1) and (2) must be explained through the historical development of reflexive constructions and subtle pragmatic differences. In (2) the antecedent NP behaves similar to left-dislocated NPs (e.g. it bears the unmarked case) and only the reflexive is a true argument of the predicate ‘feed’ (see the translation). This is supported by the fact that in Icari Dargwa simple reflexive pronouns are also used to establish coreference between clauses (Sumbatova & Mutalov 2003: 167-168).

The talk concludes by proving that anaphors in Daghestanian languages trigger verbal agreement in gender and number (1), but the agreement is rather different from the person agreement in familiar European languages.

References

Modelling reduplication as a canonical vs. non-canonical exponent of negation.

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Modelling reduplication as a canonical vs. non-canonical exponent of negation Negation of declarative verbal main clauses is most commonly expressed using a negative particle, with affixation of negative exponents to a verbal stem occurring as the next most frequently encountered strategy in the world’s languages (Dahl 1979, Dryer 1989, Miestamo 2005). While the
morphological expression of negation through affixation is widespread, other non-concatenative exponents of negation are comparatively rare or geographically restricted in terms of their distribution. For instance, Dryer (2011) indicates that of 1326 languages investigated for a study of minor morphological means of signaling negation, only 10 languages deviate from the dominant strategies. Unusual strategies for marking negation include tone (seven languages), infixation (two languages), and stem changes (one language). In this paper, I examine a further rare strategy used in the exponence of negation, namely reduplication.

Although (partial or total) reduplication is found in certain negative constructions in a diverse range of languages including Chepang (Tibeto-Burman), Coast Tarangan (Austronesian) and Mono (Niger-Congo), it has been claimed to be insufficient for the formation of a negative clause without some other exponent of negation present (cf. Payne 1985). This appears to be a very robust generalisation. A logical analytical consequence of such patterns is to decide whether reduplication in negative constructions ever results as a direct consequence of the neg feature value (i.e. is an exponent of negation) or whether the presence of reduplication results from morphology internal rules that do not directly realize feature values (i.e. not a canonical exponent of negation).

In this paper I demonstrate, using cases studies from Eleme (Niger-Congo) and Mikir (Tibeto-Burman) that the presence of verbal reduplication within negative predicates may require radically different morphological explanations.

(1) Eleme (own data)
   a. ǹ-si-a    b. ǹ-si-sí
      1SG-go-HAB 1SG-REDUP~go.NEG
      ‘I (usually) go.’ ‘I don’t (usually) go.’

(2) Mikir (Jeyapaul 1987:119)
   a. ne non co-bom-lo b. non ne co-bom~b-e-ian
      I now eat-CONT-NFUT now I eat-CONT~REDUP-NEG-DUR
      ‘I am eating now.’ ‘I am not eating now.’

Using realization rules formalized in a Paradigm Function Morphology approach, I develop two distinct analyses that rely on the application of phonology-sensitive morphological processes. I propose that verbal reduplication in negative predicates in Eleme is an asemantic stem formation process, such that it is not a genuine exponent of negation (i.e. not directly triggered by the presence of the feature neg). Instead, negation is indicated by tone across a reduplicated stem. Conversely in Mikir, reduplication marking negation applies to the output of rules of exponence indicating aspect. This fact indicates that reduplication is not merely a stem formation process and that reduplication is triggered by virtue of the presence of the feature value neg.

The data presented contribute to the typology of negation whilst the analysis contributes to developing a distinction between canonical and non-canonical exponence.

References
Lexical changes as response to new trends on the labour market.

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The labour market has passed through significant changes in the last decades so that nowadays we are faced with the crisis of an era characterised by economic and technological development, contracts for «indefinite» period of time (ital. contratti a tempo indeterminato), «permanent» employment contracts (ital. posti fissi) and loyalty towards an employee. In the new era flexibility and job rotation, i.e. expressions meaning the possibility of relocating employees on different job positions, have become the key words. Job rotation has become the practice due to multiplication of atypical jobs (ital. lavori atipici), while flexibility has become sophisticated synonym for precariousness (ital. precarietà). In Italy, beginning from the last decade of the XX century, the modalities of employment have changed and the gap between them and the traditional ways of employment has deepened.

Lately, while some jobs have disappeared either from the labour market or from the lexis, other jobs have remained more or less the same, but with a different nomenclature applied. For example, an Italian bidello (‘janitor’) has become operatore scolastico (‘school operator’), and afterwards assistente scolastico (‘school assistant’), while the occupations in the field of health and social welfare are expressed by the common English syntagm help professions. Furthermore, due to the constant lack of time in the modern Italian families there are more and more male baby sitters, nonni sitters (‘elder sitters’), as well as dog sitters whose job is put under the common English syntagm dog sitting or the word dog-sitteraggio adapted to Italian. There is no doubt that the new professions in Italy speak English in the first place.

Considering these facts and the need to analyse and to classify the lexical changes in the Italian language caused by the new trends in the field of employment, the goal of this paper is to collect the corpus of neologisms, to analyse and to compare them to their Croatian equivalents. The corpus will be extracted from the Italian dictionaries of new and foreign words (Adamo – Della Valle, 2003; Adamo – Della Valle, 2005; Adamo – Della Valle, 2008; De Mauro – Mancini, 2004) and from on-line work ads (www.lavoro.org), while the Croatian equivalents will be checked for in the Croatian dictionaries of new and foreign words (Brozović-Rončević et al., 1996; Anić – Goldstein, 2009; Klaić, 2012). Having compared the Italian and the Croatian neologisms in the labour market lexis, the majority of which are formed according to the English model, we will analyse their behaviour and productivity in both languages. Considering relative openness of the Italian language to foreign influences on one side, and purist orientation and hermetic tendencies of the Croatian language on the other side, our analysis and classification should confirm much greater presence of original, non adapted English terms in the Italian corpus. Also, due to the greater tendency of the Italian language to forming new words, it is to be expected that the Italian corpus will contain a certain number of exclusively Italian neologisms, which are not present in the Croatian language.

References
Left-/right asymmetries and the diachronic emergence of German adpositional constructions.

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One way of discussing the relationship between interaction and (Construction) Grammar can be to ask for the role the interactional organization of syntactic positions within clauses plays for the diachronic emergence of grammatical items. Several studies have shown, for example, that exposed clausal positions in German sentences – in particular, the pre-front field as the "left periphery" and the end field as the "right periphery" – are often occupied by linguistic items which share the feature that they are entrenched in the sense of Construction Grammar (Goldberg 1995, amongst others) and tend to be deployed as interaction-structuring devices, i.e. as large scale operators with a pragmatically driven scope that affects complex stretches of prior or follow-up talk. Examples for such constructions are discourse markers in the pre-front field (see Günthner 2000; Auer/Günthner 2005; Bücker i.pr. a, for example) and post-positioned stance markers (Auer 2006: 281), "topic tags" (Bücker i.pr. b; see also Barth-Weingarten/Couper-Kühlen 2002) and entrenched reporting frame devices (Bücker i.pr. c) in the end field.

In contrast to the vast quantity of studies which are concerned with the present-day forms and functions of discourse markers and related constructions in the pre-front and the end field, less work has been done regarding the role exposed syntactic positions play for the diachronic development of linguistic devices (but see Fried 2009 and Hilpert 2012 as regards a diachronic approach to the rise of constructions). Due to this, I would like to discuss how and for which reasons the pre-front field and the end field – two syntactically and interactionally exposed and prominent positions – can influence the diachronic development of linguistic devices. I will take the example of German constructions with "wegen" (i.e. "deswegen", "von wegen", "wegen" and so on). Referring to Auer's concept of "left-/right asymmetries" (paper given on a conference in Münster, June 2012) which emphasizes that the synchronic differences between elements in the "left" and in the "right periphery" can be linked to the overall organization of talk-in-interaction, I will show that the pre-front field and the end field can also be syntactic hosts for diachronic developments that result in the diachronic emergence of quite distinct interaction-structuring constructions. For example, the pre-front field and the end field instances of the Early New High German preposition "von wegen" 'because of' developed into at least three very different constructions which are all large scale operators with a pragmatically driven scope in present-day German, and which typically occur in informal talk-in-interaction: The pre-front field instances of "von wegen" evolved into a speech-act linking device and then into an interjection-like exclamative construction, whereas the end field instances of "von wegen" evolved into a reporting frame device (Bücker 2008, i.pr. c). This shows that a diachronic perspective on the relationship between interaction and (Construction) Grammar can contribute to a better understanding of the impact the interactional function of exposed syntactic positions can have on the diachronic emergence and development of grammatical items.

References
A semantic map approach to English articles (a, the, and Ø).

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The three structural possibilities marking a noun with an English article are a, the, and Ø (the absence of an article). Although these structural possibilities are simple, they encode a multitude of semantic and pragmatic functions, and it is these complex form-function interactions that this study explores and explains using a semantic map model (Berlin and Kay, 1969; Anderson, 1982, 1986; Pederson, 1991a, 1991b; Croft, 2001; Haspelmath, 2003; and De Haan, 2004, 2010). The study employs a functional approach to address the following research question: What are the semantic and pragmatic functions that determine English article usage?

The semantic map that is proposed contains three dimensions which were derived from the extant literature on English articles (e.g., Christophersen, 1939; Chafe, 1976; Lyons, 1977; Hawkins, 1978; Du Bois, 1980; Heim, 1982, 1983; Fox & Thompson, 1990; Rice & Prideaux, 1991; Barsalou, 1992; Lambrecht, 1994; Epstein, 1999; Berezowski, 2001; Givón, 2001, 2005; Abbott, 2001, 2011; Riley, 2007; Matushansky, 2008). I refer to these three dimensions as Grammatical Number, Referentiality, and Discourse Mode. Each of these dimensions contains a number of further semantic values or pragmatic functions – which I will label “attributes” – that are implicated in English article choice.

In order to determine which selection and arrangements of dimensions and attributes best predicts Standard American English article usage, four different versions of the basic semantic map were tested with a methodological approach that used data collected in a controlled protocol from an elicited conversational discourse. The data were coded according to a number of features involving grammatical number, referentiality, and discourse mode so that the versions could be compared.

The version that provided the most accurate predictions is used as a basis for proposing a comprehensive semantic map of Standard American English article usage that includes the following dimensions and dimensional attributes: a Grammatical Number dimension with 3 attributes (singular, plural, and uncountable); a Referentiality dimension with 11 attributes, including 7 referential attributes that describe kinds of identifiability (proper names, shared lexis, shared speech situation, frame, current discourse, identifiable to speaker only [“new reference”], and identifiable to neither speaker nor listener [non-specific]) as well as 4 non-referential attributes (categorization, general non-referential expressions, finite verb [verb-object] “noun incorporation”, and idioms); and a Discourse Mode dimension with 4 attributes (headline, immediacy, normal, and reintroducing).

This model of English articles contributes to the field of research on articles as well as to the field of English language instruction and learning. In addition, it is suggested that the methodological paradigm used to test the semantic map model may be useful as an experimental paradigm for testing semantic maps of other constructions and languages.

References

Modal habere-constructions in the Balkan context.

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We examine here the inflected and uninflected variants of the modal ina da-construction ‘habere + subjunctive clause’ in Macedonian with reference to their equivalents in other Balkan languages. The difference between the two variants lies in
the forms of *ima ‘have’: inflected forms carry person and number markers (*Imam/imaš da odam/ odiiš ‘I/you have to go’, etc...) as opposed to uninflected (*ima da odam/odiš ‘I/you shall go’, etc.). There is also a semantic difference: uninflected constructions express stronger obligation than inflected ones, while predicting a future event. We work to determine the exact meanings of these constructions and the interrelation between them.

Despite high frequency in spoken language, the construction *habere*-subjunctive clause has not received due attention in the grammars of Balkan languages. In Macedonian, Čašule (1989) and Topolińska (2000) treat these constructions as modal. Lunt (1952) and Kramer (1986) also mention *ima* as a future or a modal marker, but provide scarce explanation.

Our analysis of uninflected *ima da*-constructions (Bužarovska & Mitkovska 2011) shows that there is greater semantic variability within each formal type than previously assumed. This fact, coupled with the conclusion that their formal division into two types is not semantically fuzzy, prompts us to query the exact modal status of the inflected and uninflected *ima* in the context of typological categorizations of modality.

To explain this pattern we take into account available diachronic evidence and the fact that the precursor of *ima da*-constructions is the *habere*-infinitive construction. As a structural borrowing from Balkan Romance languages, it was used for translation of several means of expressing futurity in Greek biblical texts until the 12th century (Asenova 2002:205-211), but later was replaced by desiderative *velle*-infinitive constructions, although *habere* has survived in negated constructions. Asenova (2002:215) points out that the unequal status of the future *habere*-constructions vs. their *velle* counterparts is reflected in their dialectal and stylistic distribution: in peripheral Balkan dialects *habere*-constructions express futurity, but if both forms exist they express modality in spoken registers. Cyhun (1981:160) also believes these constructions were used for temporal-modal functions. This suggests that the presence of two rival forms in Balkan languages - *habere*-subjunctive and *velle* +subjunctive - has led to their specialization for separate non-factual domains: *velle* for future and *habere* for deontic and epistemic modality. But how these two types of modal meanings map onto the two formal variants of the *habere*-subjunctive construction in Balkan Slavic has not yet been investigated.

Research on the nature of *ima da*-constructions can be justified with three arguments. First, the reflexes of *habere*-infinitive construction have either modal or future function in other European languages, while these Macedonian constructions exhibit an overlap of modal and future semantics. Therefore, a clearer demarcation within this blend is needed. Second, it would be significant for typological research to categorize, explain and place these meanings within the modality system. Third, the areal character of these constructions also provokes interest: they are used in a relatively large territory shared by a number of different Balkan languages.

References

*All’s well what ends well: final consonant clusters in Algherese Catalan inherited nominal.*

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Introduction and data. Intermorphic final consonant clusters are generally mapped faithfully in Algherese Catalan nominals: *campo* ‘field’ /kamp/ [kāⁿp], *polp* ‘octopus’ /polp/ [pōlp]. When the plural suffix /z/ is added, the general solution is the deletion of the second segment and the regressive assimilation of the coronal place of C3: cf. *campos* ‘fields’ /kamp+zz/ [kāⁿs], *polps* ‘octopuses’ [pōlpsz] [2]. When the intermorphic final consonant cluster consists of liquid + nasal, however, some idiosyncratic phenomena are triggered. First of all, it must be noticed that, due to a historic process of lateralization of preconsonantal rhotics (cf. *mort* ‘dead MASC.’ /mɔrt/ ~ /mɔlt/ [mɔlt], *morta* ‘dead FEM.’ /mɔrt+a/ ~ /mɔlt+a/ [mɔlt+a]), which
still offers a few cases of synchronic alternations (cf. *por ‘fear’ /por/ [pór], *pors ‘fears’/por+z/ [pòls]), all preconsonantal rhotics in Algherese inherited nominals are realized as a lateral. (And thus, assuming Lexicon Optimization, from now on they are underlyingly represented as /l/, unless [ɾ] ~ [l] alternation is given.) The activity of this process, nonetheless, would have given rise to a very marked structure: a final -ln# sequence, derived from the lateralization of the rhotic followed by a coronal nasal: *forn > *foln ‘oven’. The sequence, however, is unattested in Catalan (and it also appears to be odd in other languages, like Spanish). In order for Algherese to avoid it, a process of deletion has applied, leading to a surface singleton CODA: *forn > *fol > fol ‘oven’.

The exceptional maintenance of the liquid in the derivated forms (fornet ‘oven’). The addition of the plural suffix /z/ to a liquid + coronal nasal final cluster is realized with the maintenance of the nasal deletion: forn > *foln ‘oven’. It must be noticed, however, that in these cases a /ln/ underlying form (i.e., /föln/, /föln+z/ and not just /fol/, /fol+z/) must be assumed, since the derived forms (fornet ‘oven DIM.’ /föln+et/ [fülnét]) exceptionally exhibit a word internal heterosyllabic /l.n/ cluster, an otherwise forbidden structure: cf. forn [fülnét] vs. taverna ‘bar’ [tavèna], cisterna ‘cistern’ [sistèna], ajornar [a3uná]. The addition of the plural suffix /z/ to a liquid + labial nasal final cluster triggers the appearance of an epenthetic [u], being the vowel exceptionally preserved in the singular: ferm ‘firm’ /felm/ [fèlmu], ferms /félz/ [fèlmus] (cf. fermat ‘to firm’ /felm+a+u/ [falmà]); calm ‘quiet MASC.’ /kalm/ [kàlmü], calms /kálm+z/ [kàlms] (cf. calmar ‘to calm’ /kàlm+a+u/ [kàlmá]).

Interpretation
Algherese general tendency to avoid the triconsonantal final clusters by means of deleting C2 can be easily accounted for by means of a hierarchy in which *COMPLEXCODA3 and CONTIGUITY are top-ranked:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/kamp+z/</th>
<th>CONTIG</th>
<th>*CCC</th>
<th>SHARE(PA)</th>
<th>DEP</th>
<th>MAX</th>
<th>IDENT(PA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. [káns]</td>
<td></td>
<td>*L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. [kámps]</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. [kámpus]</td>
<td></td>
<td>*L</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. [káms]</td>
<td></td>
<td>*W</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. [káps]</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The behavior of liquid + coronal nasal + /z/ final clusters is determined by the general tendency of avoiding final -ln sequences, which acts yet in singular forms yielding to a surface singleton CODA: forn [fòl] (*[fòln]). To explain it, a temporary top-ranked *ln# restriction is assumed. Since the realization of the plural forms is no longer determined by *COMPLEXCODA3, preservation occurs as predicted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/föln+z/</th>
<th>CONTIG</th>
<th>*ln#</th>
<th>*CCC</th>
<th>DEP</th>
<th>MAX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. [fóls]</td>
<td></td>
<td>*L</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. [fólns]</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. [fól]</td>
<td></td>
<td>*W</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. [fóns]</td>
<td></td>
<td>*W</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The exceptional maintenance of the liquid in the derivated forms (fornet [fülnét]), where it stands in preconsonantal internal coda position and thus is predicted to be deleted (cf. taverna [tavèna]) focuses our attention: in this paper, it is claimed that this behavior is due to a surface resemblance effect by which the presence of the segment in final position, triggered by markedness (*ln#), is also spread word-internally, where deletion would be expected. Optimal Paradigms model [5] is proved to be the appropriate framework to describe the case at study:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/föln, föln+et/</th>
<th>*ln#</th>
<th>MAX-C [V]</th>
<th>PO-CORRESPONDENCE</th>
<th>NO-CODA INTERNAL</th>
<th>MAX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. &lt;föln, fülnét&gt;</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. &lt;föln, fülnét&gt;</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. &lt;föln, fülnét&gt;</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>*W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. &lt;föln, fülnét&gt;</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The also singular behavior of liquid + labial nasal + /z/ final clusters can be interpreted at least in two different ways. Again, it can be understood as the effect of a surface resemblance through paradigm memberships, by which the epenthesis in the plural, triggered by the need of the labial nasal segment to be preserved and by the activity of *COMPLEXCODA3, is also spread to singular forms, where otherwise it would not be predicted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/fɛlm, fɛlm+z/</th>
<th>CONT</th>
<th>*CCC</th>
<th>MAX (lab nas)</th>
<th>PO-CORRESP</th>
<th>SHARE (PA)</th>
<th>DEP</th>
<th>MAX</th>
<th>ID (PI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>→a. &lt; fɛlmu, fɛlmus&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. &lt; fɛlm, fɛlms&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td>*W</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. &lt; fɛlm, fɛlms&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td>**W</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>*L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, it is sought to avoid postulating MAX(labial nasal), which seems to be a very specific constraint, a parallel interpretation of [u] in terms of gender allomorphy can be assumed, along the lines of [1] and [4].

References

The use of Akkadian prepositions in Hittite.

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In the second millennium BC an Indo-European people known as the Hittites lived in what is now Turkey. The documents of the Hittite state were written in a cuneiform script. Together with this script, the Hittites adopted a number of written signs and words of Akkadian and Sumerian origin. Hurrian, Luwian, Hattic and Palaic language material is also attested.

Akkadian case markers were frequently used in Hittite; besides Akkadian case endings for the nominative, accusative and genitive, ten Akkadian prepositions were used. These case markers could encode core grammatical relations as well as possession, core and peripheral local meanings, etc. The use of Akkadian case markers in Hittite has yet to receive a systematic treatment, as it is commonly assumed that they are mere graphemes or scribal variants of Hittite case markers.

The descriptive-qualitative and applicative research of Akkadian prepositions in Hittite presented here attempts to shed light upon their use through the perspective of functional grammar. This theory views linguistic expression as the result of adherence to rules of expression, which are determined by the communication goals of the participants. The internal grammatical construction of a word is not the only source of information; the syntactic and semantic constructions of larger units can also serve this purpose, whereas communication goals are of a more or less pragmatic nature. With this methodology, it is possible to assess the functional value of individual variants.

The corpus of the research contains nearly 100 texts, or roughly 6000 non-fragmentary sentences and 1800 occurrences of Akkadian prepositions. A description of factors such as text type (story: oracle), standardisation of language (drafts: final version), social relations between participants of communication (equal: non-equal social status) and diachronic differences (Old: New Hittite) is accompanied by a syntactic, semantic and pragmatic analysis of the circumstances underlying the use of the individual case markers.
The analysis of the functional aspects of the use of Akkadian prepositions in Hittite is intended to show that the semantic content of these prepositions in Hittite did not wholly match the meanings they had in Akkadian, as they were gradually approximated to the meanings of Hittite case markers. However, the meanings of Akkadian prepositions do not perfectly overlap with the meanings of Hittite case markers in any period of Hittite; their semantic fields are narrower than those of their Hittite counterparts and, at the same time, they display uses which are characteristic only of them. This is particularly visible in their social-deictic uses and in uses limited to particular text types and their associated formulas. The research is also intended to show that competition between Akkadian and Hittite case markers was linked to the marking of originally different language material (whereby Akkadian case markers primarily appear before lexemes of non-Hittite origin, proper names and numerals) and to the characteristics of different text types. Competition between Akkadian and Hittite case markers in the framework of individual text types merits further study.

Raised grounds in Dutch and English: common underlying semantics.

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Background
Recent years have witnessed the publication of several detailed monographs on adpositions in English and/or in other Germanic languages (e.g., Beliën 2008, Blom 2005, Dehé et al. 2002, Elengaas 2007, Los et al. 2012, Thim 2012). From these, interesting underlying parallels despite superficial differences have emerged between structures across these languages. One interesting observation is that Dutch allows motion verbs to be followed by a preposition and a noun phrase (NP) (e.g. (1a)) or by an NP and a ‘postposition’ (e.g. (1b)):

(1) a. Ze liepen over het plein.
    they ran-PLUR over the square
    ≈ 'They were running across the square.'

   b. Ze liepen het plein over.
    they ran-PLUR the square over
    ≈ 'They ran across the square.'

Beliën (2008) suggests that structures containing constituents traditionally analyzed as [NP+postposition] (as in (1b)) could and should be given an alternative treatment, in terms of the NP functioning as an object(-like) constituent at clause level. Beliën’s main semantic argument is that the ‘Ground’ or ‘Landmark’ NP in (1b) is conceptualized as being (partly or fully) traversed, just like the referent of a direct object of motional verbs in verb-framed languages (cf. Talmy 1985).

Question. Is the semantic difference observable between (1a) and (1b) an isolated fact of Dutch grammar or is it expected given existing patterns in Dutch and/or other Germanic languages? In particular, can the alternation between (1a) and (1b) be subsumed under a more general phenomenon which also renders possible so-called ‘Ground promotion’ or ‘unpredicated particles’ (Declerck 1976, McIntyre 2007, Levin and Sells 2008, Oya 2009, Svenonius 2003, Sweep 2012), exemplified in (2b), which alternates with the assumedly more canonical sentence in (2a)?

(2) a. He wiped crumbs off the table.
   b. He wiped the table off.

Approach. We take a constructionist and contrastive approach to the above research question. That is, (1a) and (1b) are not treated as derivationally linked; rather, they are viewed as instances of two separate form-meaning pairings which nonetheless stand in a semantic relationship. We attempt to identify the commonalities between the alternation in (1a-b) and that in (2a-b) in order to obtain a higher degree of generalization.

Method. All constructions involved are analyzed in terms of multiple smaller or more general constructions that they integrate or realize (cf. Goldberg’s (1995) ‘subpart links’ and ‘instance links’ between constructions). Standard constituency
tests (clefting, movement) are applied and semantic equivalence across languages checked with parallel corpora.

Data. Authentic data are drawn from Dutch and English, which represent two structurally different Germanic languages (cf. Los et al. 2012).

Results. Formal and especially semantic parallels suggest that Dutch ‘postpositional’ constructions are indeed similar to cases of ground promotion: they have a ‘Ground’ argument and receive a holistic reading. As a more unexpected upshot, prepositional phrases in English motion constructions can often be shown to be syntactically ambiguous between adjuncts and arguments, depending on their semantic (partial vs. holistic) interpretation and, accordingly, on their possible equivalence in Dutch with either a prepositional or a particle-like ‘postpositional’ construction.

References


Reiterated sequences in Supyire narrative.

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In some narratives, the repetition of some events is important to the plot. While repetition of single events a single time (e.g. “she knocked on the door again”) is probably the most common type, and multiple repetitions of a single event (e.g. “she knocked on the door repeatedly”) are also very common, the multiple repetition of sequences of events in cyclic fashion is doubtless also a possibility in narratives in all languages. This paper examines the marking of the multiplex reiteration of sequences of events in Supyire (Niger-Congo, Gur) narratives. The approach is empirical and corpus-based. The corpus consists of 126 narratives, with 105,000+ words in 17,290 clauses. For the composition of this corpus, which is extracted from a much larger corpus of oral texts collected over the past thirty years, “narrative” is narrowly defined as a linguistic production meant to evoke a coherent series of events in temporal sequence (see Talmy 2000). The narratives vary greatly
in length from 20 clauses to many thousands of clauses. The framework assumed in the analysis is broadly that of cognitive linguistics, with a reliance on the notion of construction as used in Cognitive Grammar (see Langacker 1999, 2008).

The marking of reiterated sequences in Supyire narratives is very different from the marking of repetitions of single events, whether single or multiple. Single event repetitions are primarily marked by lexical means (by adverbs, serial verbs, or repetition of the verb), and not aspectual or modal auxiliaries. Reiterated sequences, in contrast, are primarily marked by a configuration of constructions in which aspect and mood figure prominently. Importantly, none of the constructions used is “dedicated” to the marking of reiterated sequences in narratives. For example, in one type of reiterated series, the beginning of the series is marked either by a clause type that elsewhere serves as a simple conditional:

\[ U \text{ ahá mápà…} \]

\[ \text{he/she COND come} \]

‘If/When he/she comes,…’

When such a clause occurs in a past-time narrative context, it is given the interpretation “Whenever he/she came …” or “Each time he/she came …”. Within the reiterated series, most clauses are marked by one of a group of aspect auxiliaries which can be roughly labeled as “habitual” in their non-narrative uses (see Carlson 1994). Typically, the events in the reiterated series are perfective in the sense that the end-point of each of the events is in view within the conceptualization cued by the clause. Insofar as these sequences can be characterized as “habitual”, they show that in Supyire “habitual” cannot be classified as a subspecies of imperfective, as has been claimed by some (e.g. Givón 2001:289), but cross-cuts the distinction of perfective/imperfective, as suggested by Dahl (1985). This paper shows that the narrative interpretation of the constructions in question is better understood as a specific instance of the general indeterminacy of grammar due to its basically metonymic nature, as suggested by Langacker (2009).

References

Parallel corpora and the cross-linguistic annotation of modality.

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(University of Pavia, University of Bologna, Lattice CNRS and University of Insubria)

The aim of this paper is to present a multi-lingual annotation scheme for modality developed and deployed on a parallel corpus.

Recently, the Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing communities have shown interest in automating the recognition of extra-propositional components of meaning in general and modality in particular. The first step towards the development of systems that can automatically deal with the interpretation of modality is the creation of appropriate, annotated resources. Indeed, the last few years have witnessed the development of annotation schemes and annotated corpora for different aspects of modality in different languages. See, for example, Nierenburg and McShane (2004), Hendrickx et al. (2012), Baker et al (2012) , Wiebe et al (2005), Szarvas et al. (2008), Sauri and Pustejovsky (2009). While important contributions, these remain mainly separate efforts. And while there have also been efforts towards finding a common avenue for modality annotation, the computational linguistics community is still far from having developed working, shared standards for converting modality-related issues into annotation categories. Under this respect,
linguistic typology has already gone a long way in the study of modality across languages.

Thus, we promote (i) a cross-linguistic annotation model of modality which relies on a wide, strongly typologically motivated approach, and (ii) a hierarchical, layered model, by accounting for both factuality and speaker's attitude, while modelling these two aspects through separate annotation schemes. Within this frame, the issue of annotation units, linguistically, becomes crucial, and we claim that such a two-layered framework provides the best way to deal with it.

Working in a multilingual environment will ease the task of leaving the layer of functional categories distinct from the actual linguistic realisation. Indeed, each language encodes with its own means what is specified at the functional level. This is a crucial step towards a homogeneous view of modality cross-linguistically, and it has obvious linguistic and computational advantages. In this sense, using (strict) parallel corpora, at least at the very first stages, is an enormous advantage. For this reason, our annotation scheme will be firstly developed on the Europarl corpus (Koehn 2005). From a practical point of view, we plan to exploit existing collaborative platforms, such as GATE Teamware, to perform distributed annotation over the web, so as to optimise the contribution of native speakers.

In our presentation, first we will discuss what issues need to be dealt with to achieve shared standards for modelling the annotation of modality, then we will describe our two-layered approach under a cross-linguistic perspective, then we will discuss issues related to the linguistic units of annotation and why this should be addressed carefully, and how this can fit in the proposed model, lastly we will stress the importance of working on parallel corpora to achieve our goals.

References

Relations between the forms and functions of discourse markers and levels of competence in L2 Italian acquisition.

Ceković-Rakonjac, Nevena
(University of Belgrade)

The discourse markers (DMs) have been a subject of increasingly focused linguistic studies since the 1970s. Yet, they are still a topic of lively academic discussions both in terms of their terminological definitions and the possible classifications and descriptions of their functions. As a consequence of such insufficiently clear theoretical status of DMs, the applied linguistics and theory of L2 have only recently expressed more interest for this phenomenon, which, however, has not yet yielded definitive answers to the questions: when and how DMs are acquired, and how to teach them?

The first studies on the acquisition of DMs in L2 Italian were published in the late 1980s and early 1990s, coming to their full swing in the first decade of the 21st century. Focusing on exactly that period of time, the aim of this paper is to present the contents and results of the relevant pedagogical researches related to the acquisition of DMs in L2/FL Italian.

For this purpose, we will first specify the appropriate terminology (Bazzanella 1995, 2002, 2005, 2006) and briefly indicate the pedagogical implications related to the acquisition of DMs. Afterwards we will provide a description of eight relevant studies on the topic (Brigetti & Licari 1987, Fellin & Pugliese 1994, Bardel 2003, Ferraris 2004, Andorno 2007, Guil et al. 2008, Bini & Pernas 2008, Nigoević & Sučić 2011) stating their basic theoretical and methodological assumptions as well as the proposed conclusions. Finally, we will take a critical look at the researches.
Our main objective is based on the discovery that, despite the fact that the need for an inventory of the DMs represented in the interlanguage was expressed as early as the pioneering work in this field, such inventory has not yet been produced. Therefore, on the basis of the analyzed literature, we will try to suggest a potential range of DMs in the interlanguage, and to determine whether there is a correlation between the forms and functions of DMs, on the one hand, and certain levels of the students’ communicative competence (basic, intermediate and advanced), on the other hand.

Our effort to reconstruct the authors’ findings will confirm the hypothesis that the DMs occur even in the early stages of L2 acquisition, followed by the hypothesis on the absence of correlation between the level of competence and the presence of DM, as well as the hypothesis on the existence of a correlation between the level of the students’ pragmatic-discourse competence and a specific type of DMs (more lexicalized markers and more complex lexical expressions as DMs at higher competence levels). Finally, on the basis of the analyzed literature, we will suggest an absence of correlation between the functional values of DMs and given levels of competence, since all determined functions are represented at each individual stage of acquisition.

We hope that this work could serve as a useful guideline for future research that would throw more light on this topical, yet insufficiently researched phenomenon within the theory and practice of L2 acquisition.

References


Parallel corpora in research on argument structure.

Celano, Giuseppe; Lehmann, Christian; Luraghi, Silvia and Marschke, Christian
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The project on ‘Argument structure in texts - Typological and diachronic corpus research’ aims at extracting argument structures from annotated texts by procedures of text typology. The data basis is constituted by corpora of two
typologically different languages, Ancient Greek and Yucatec Maya. The corpora are partly independent, partly parallel. The latter portion stems from the New Testament and its Yucatec version. Of the latter, there is a written translation, and for a few sections, there is an oral translation of the Spanish version and a free oral account. The Yucatec data thus provides stylistic variation between the written and spoken registers. The texts have been annotated according to the Prague Dependency Treebank model (Lee & Haug 2010). The Greek project corpus will, at the same time, be a contribution to the online corpus of the PERSEUS project.

Although the annotations use a dependency formalism, argument-structure frames are described in a construction-grammar approach (Croft 2001). The corpus annotations are researched with software tools that use pattern matching algorithms (Pajas & Štěpánek 2009). Evaluation of the results uses the statistics package R. The very first results appear to confirm the following hypotheses:

The average number of dependents per verb is higher in Ancient Greek than in Yucatec.

The number of different verb valency frames is higher in Ancient Greek than in Yucatec.

Likewise, the number of valency frames that a given verb may alternately be used in (in the sense of Levin 1993) is higher in Ancient Greek than in Yucatec.

We attribute this difference to the dependent marking syntax of Ancient Greek, which allows the aggregation of dependents in diverse syntactic and semantic functions on a single verb. Yucatec head marking syntax, on the other hand, correlates with lesser possibilities to distinguish co-present actant functions on a single verb, consequently with a much more rigid valency and concomitant reduced freedom to adjoin dependents not provided in the valency.

References


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**Passive and impersonal reflexives in Italo-Romance: synchronic and diachronic aspects.**

Cennamo, Michela  
(University of Naples Federico II)

In this paper I will discuss the morphosyntax of passive and impersonal reflexives in contemporary Italian dialects and in some XIII-XIV century northern, central and southern vernaculars.

In particular, I will examine some parameters of variation in the use of these patterns in Italo-Romance, both synchronically and diachronically: (i) the functional domains covered by the reflexive morpheme, (ii) the morphological and/or syntactic distinction between passive and impersonal reflexives, (iii) the nature of the subject, (iv) tense-aspectual restrictions, (v) the interplay of generic vs specific time reference with differential behaviour of transitive-unergatives vs unaccusatives, in determining the occurrence/lack of the reflexive in impersonal function in perfective contexts, (vi) auxiliary selection in perfective tenses.

I will show that the synchronic and diachronic variation in the distribution and incidence of the reflexive in passive and impersonal functions throws light on some highly debated issues of Italian morphosyntax, such as the nature and function(s) of the reflexive morpheme in these patterns and the function of ci in the impersonal of reflexives.

The investigation of variational data also gives some insights as to whether passive and impersonal reflexives realize two different syntactic constructions or whether they involve the same morpheme, although with varying uses and functions.

More specifically, I will underline the existence of a correlation between the spread of the reflexive in impersonal function — not equally attested in the Italian dialects and the early vernaculars, unlike the passive reflexive — and its (inclusive/non-inclusive) interpretation. Dialects where the reflexive never acquires an inclusive interpretation, such as Neapolitan, have a more limited use of this morpheme in impersonal function, with other strategies being employed. In
contrast, varieties where the reflexive may have both a non-inclusive and an inclusive interpretation, such as Paduan, Venetian and Florentine, show a wide range of impersonal patterns, covering all the syntactic domains in which the pattern occurs in Standard Italian. Interestingly, in Florentine the inclusive interpretation of the reflexive is fully grammaticalised, with si + third person active replacing the first person plural ending, as in si va = andiamo ‘We go’.

Finally, I will give evidence for passive and impersonal reflexives as being two different structures, reflecting two different diachronic paths, which at some point merge. While the passive reflexive is a Late Latin development, related to changes in the encoding of voice in the transition from Latin to Romance, the impersonal function of the reflexive with one-argument verbs is a Romance phenomenon, not equally attested in the Romance languages and in the Italian dialects, probably related to a stage where the reflexive pronoun acquires a non-anaphoric pronominal value, whereby Latin se = is, occurring also to refer to first and second person participants (se = nos, vos) (Cennamo 1991, 1993: 81).

References

**Code-switching as an indicator of language shift. A case study of the Romagnolo dialect of Gatteo a Mare, Italy.**

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According to Sasse’s (1992) stages of language disappearance, the Romagnolo dialect in North East Italy is in its final life stage. As is true for other Italian dialects – such as the Marchigiano dialect (Parry 2002) – the last few generations of speakers have neglected to pass on the dialect as a native tongue to the next generation. As a result, Italian has progressively come to assume the function of primary language of socialisation.

The main goal of the present research consists of approaching the issue of language shift from a new perspective, namely investigating the bilingual behaviour of the participants and zooms in on the spreading and use of the final remnants of Romagnolo, a dying barely described dialect. More specifically, “differences in code-switching patterns across generations are to be expected” (Alfonzetti 2005:94), but what are the specific differences among the code-switching behaviour between older and younger generations? Focusing first on the older speakers, what are the specific code-switching patterns among this group of participants? What kind of pragmatic-functional roles does their code-switching fulfill? What are the most frequent functions and the most uncommon ones? On the other side, in what consists of the bilingual behaviour of younger speakers, if they have one? Which linguistic functions are expressed in Romagnolo instead of Italian and why?

To achieve this purpose we analyse more thoroughly the current linguistic situation in the village of Gatteo a Mare, in the region Emilia-Romagna, on the basis of empirical data collected on fieldwork. More specifically, the present investigation is based on the analysis of the bilingual speech production of 39 participants, all members of the community of Gatteo a Mare. The corpus is made of a series of spontaneous conversations within familiar and informal contexts.
As one could expect, remarkable differences emerged in the speech behaviour across different generations of speakers and the most influencing factors appear to be age and thus proficiency in Romagnolo. At the same time some interesting patterns came to surface. For instance, one of the most striking findings among older speakers is represented by the recurrent switch of code when referring to members of the family. On the other side, studying the bilingual behavior of younger speakers we notice a contracted production of linguistic elements in Romagnolo, namely restricted only to jokes and interjections. In line with Alfonzetti (2005:106): “what the young Italian-oriented generations are ready to accept and even positively evaluate is just a reduced, controlled, symbolic use of dialect, whose expressive connotations are exploited in a code-switching style which is shown to be an intentional communicative strategy”. Finally, observing the great adoption of interjections, used widely by all our participants, we could state that certain linguistic remnants of this dialect, such as interjection, seem to have been granted a new lease of life in a specific discourse context.

References

Meillet’s spiral and the case of Greek.

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There are multiple parameters that may influence a particular negator renewal path in a language. This presentation (i) examines negator renewal in Greek, from Classical Greek NEG1 $u:(k)$ to Standard Modern NEG1 $dhen$, (ii) discusses reasons for which the particular pathway of change was selected (no-doubling stage), and (iii) argues for a broader—although not universal—definition for Jespersen’s Cycle or Meillet’s Spiral, which is inclusive not only to Greek, but to a number of other atypical negator renewal manifestations (e.g. triple stage negators, cf. Van der Auwera and Neuckermans 2004, Devos et al. 2010, Van der Auwera et al., to appear).

In Modern Greek the expression of standard negation, NEG1 $dhen$ (Late Medieval $udhén$), has its origin in the Hellenistic and Classical Greek indefinite $u:den$ (not.even.ONE.NEUT, cf. Roussou 2007, Horrocks 1997/2010, Rijksbaron 2012). Greek negation, similarly to Latin, did not manifest a doubling or discontinuous negation stage (Willmott forthcoming), as opposed to what is anticipated in the traditional approach of Jespersen’s Cycle and the prototypical case of French ($ne...$, $ne...pas$, ...$pas$).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classical Greek (5$^{th}$-4$^{th}$ c. BC)</th>
<th>Medieval Greek (10$^{th}$ c. AD)</th>
<th>Standard Modern (20$^{th}$ c. AD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$u$:lego:</td>
<td>légho</td>
<td>léo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$udhén$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$dhen$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard negation (NEG1)</td>
<td>say.PRES.IND.1SG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘I don’t say.’
I present two reasons for which the particular negator renewal path was followed: (i) the variety of negative concord found in Classical Greek was non-strict and as a result Classical Greek allowed for two strategies of negative reinforcement: (a) n-word verb or (b) NEG verb n-word; it was strategy a that gave rise to the Modern Greek NEG1 *dhen*. Strategy a was significantly more frequent (81% on a sample of 550 cases of negative reinforcement using *u:den* in 5th and 4th c. BC prose texts, see Chatzopoulou 2012)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(4)} \quad & \text{a. } 
\begin{array}{l}
\text{NEG1-thing} \\
\text{say.PRES.IND.1SG}
\end{array} \\
\text{u:den lego:} \\
\text{Classical Greek:} \\
\text{Non-Strict Negative Concord}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{b. } 
\begin{array}{l}
\text{u: lego: } \\
\text{u:den} \\
\text{NEG1 say.PRES.IND.1SG} \\
\text{NEG1-thing}
\end{array}
\end{align*}
\]

‘I didn’t say anything.’

(ii) a shift in underived word order from OV to VO took place during Hellenistic times (Blass and Debrunner 1961, Joseph 1978/1990, Lightfoot 1981, Devine and Stephens 1994, Taylor 1994, Deligianni 2011; cf. De Cuypere 2008 for the relevance of this change). I argue that this shift facilitated the reanalysis of the former indefinite *udhén* to a structurally higher position, according to the tendency in endogenous syntactic change for lexical elements to ‘move’ to higher structural positions (Roberts and Roussou 2003, Van Gelderen 2004, Roberts 2010).

CLASSICAL GREEK: OV

KOINE/MEDIEVAL GREEK: VO

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{NEG} & \quad \text{VP} \\
\emptyset & \quad \text{O} \quad \text{V} \\
\text{u:den lego:} & \quad \text{u:den lego:}
\end{align*}
\]

‘I say nothing.’

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{NEG} & \quad \text{VP} \\
\text{O} \quad \text{V} & \quad \text{O} \\
\text{udhén legó} & \quad \text{u:den lego:}
\end{align*}
\]

‘I don’t say.’ (UPWARD REANALYSIS)

The history of negation in Greek, along with other atypical negator renewal manifestations, provides motivation for a refinement of the traditional understanding of Jespersen’s Cycle (or Meillet’s Spiral) in a way that abstracts away from previous morphosyntactic and phonological descriptions of the phenomenon and explicitly places its regularities in semantics (Chatzopoulou 2012, forthcoming): the transformation of predicate negation to propositional.

References


Biabsolutes in Archi.

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Nakh-Daghestanian languages are predominantly ergative, both in terms of argument alignment and agreement strategies: the verb and other parts of speech such as agreeing adverbs, postpositions and (focus) particles which allow agreement have the absolutive of the clause as the agreement controller.

Many languages also allow a special biabsolutive construction, which can be thought of as a particular case of differential subject marking, since the logical subject can be expressed either by the ergative or by the absolutive case. The biabsolutive variant is often associated with a specific information structure: the subject is topicalized and the object gets demoted.

A Lezgian language Archi has the biabsolutive construction, compare ergative (1a) and biabsolutive (1b) alignment:

(1a) tuw-mi paha-r-ši i qilin
     he(I)-ERG smoke-IPFV-CVB IV.SG.be.PRS cigarette(IV)[ABS.SG]

(1b) tuw paha-r-ši w-i qilin
     he(I)ABS smoke-IPFV-CVB 1.SG-be.PRS cigarette(IV)[ABS.SG]

‘He is smoking a cigarette.’

(1a) is more likely to be said if the speaker has drawn a conclusion about the smoking by indirect evidence, whereas (1b) is more appropriate when the speaker saw the person smoking. The studies of the biabsolutive construction have mainly concentrated on the status of the object: it has been claimed to be incorporated in Forker (2012); the same reasoning allowed Polinsky (2005) to include Archi in the list of languages that have antipassive. However, in Archi the variation in
subject marking entails variation in the agreement of other parts of speech. This, the adverb can agree with the subject (2) or with the object (3):

(2) tu-w q'onq' o<ret>khin-ši w-i dit:a(w)u

He is reading a book early.

(3) tu-w q'onq' o<ret>khin-ši w-i dit:a(t'i)u

He is reading a book early.

The focus particle demonstrates similar behaviour, allowing the agreement with the subject (5), but this is considered grammatical by limited amount of speakers:

(4) lo ̱xilibx'i-jrḇu bu-kan-ši e<r:idî
child[II][SG.ABS] porridge[II][SG.ABS]-EMPH III.SG-eat.IPFV-CVB III.SG-be.PST
ak’ kummu-s kilaw
meat[IV].[SG.ABS] [IV.SG]eat.IPFV-FIN than

The girl is eating the porridge, she likes it better than eating meat.

(5) lo ̱xilibx'i-jrḇu bu-kan-ši e<r:idî
child[II][SG.ABS] porridge[II][SG.ABS]-EMPH III.SG-eat.IPFV-CVB III.SG-be.PST
ak’ kummu-s kilaw
meat[IV].[SG.ABS] [IV.SG]eat.IPFV-FIN than

The girl is eating the porridge, she likes it better than eating meat.

In this paper, I discuss the semantic, pragmatic and syntactic factors which determine the choice of the argument marking and the conditions on agreement with the absolutive subject.

References

Iranian and Greek influence on the Syriac lexicon: the emergence of compound words.

Ciancaglini, Claudia A. and Alfieri, Luca
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The Syriac lexicon is aptly gathered in the traditional lexical sources (Payne-Smith 1879-1901; 1927; Brockelmann 1928; Sokoloff 2009), which are to be supplemented with the texts edited after 2009 in the Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium Scriptores Syri and other recent works (e.g. Gignoux 2011). The compounds found in these sources will be gathered and divided into a certain number of types, depending on the chronology, the degree of adaptation, the presence of reborrowings, learned etymologies and claqués, as suggested by Gusmani (1986), Thomason & Kaufmann (1988), and Koptjevskaja-Tamm (2011):

i) direct or indirect borrowings from Old Iranian into Aramaic, hence into Syriac (e.g. Syr. g(y)zbr ← O.Pers. *ganza-brara ‘treasurer’, through Official Aramaic gnnzbr’);
ii) direct or indirect borrowings from Middle Iranian into Syriac (e.g. Syr. kṟbwz ← M.Pers. xar-buz ‘antelope’);
iii) direct or indirect borrowings from Greek into Syriac (e.g. Syr. pylws万里 ← Gk. π̆iλo-σoπ̆iα);
iv) structural or semantic, total or partial calques (e.g. Syr. lq̣ţ pṛ ← M.Pers. kah-rūbāy ‘amber, lit. straw-attractor’);
v) learned etymologies (e.g. Syr. byt zyn ‘armoury’ ← M.Pers. zēndān ‘jail, armoury’);
vii) hybrids (e.g. Syr. rš d-gw’d ← M.Pers. gnd sālār ‘chief of the army’).

Expected results. From Imperial Aramaic to Syriac, a progressive increase in the number of compounds and a progressively higher degree of competence in interpreting, calquing and analysing foreign compounds is expected. Typologically, this is an interesting phenomenon, since Syriac, as all Semitic languages, is mainly right-branching and Head-marking (following the terms of Nichols 1986), and it has the construct state (e.g. hyy byš’yt, calqued on Gk. kakó-biōi) rather than compounds. By contrast, Greek and Iranian show the typical Modifier-marking, left-branching structure of the Indo-European languages (e.g. M.Pers. gnd sālār and Gk. π̆iλo-σoπ̆iα). The emergence of compounds, therefore, may represent a case in which not only the lexical structure of the language but also its marking strategy has changed, at least in part, due to the influx of foreign lexical material.

References
Healey J. 1995. Lexical Loans in Early Syriac: a comparison with Nabatean Aramaic “Studi Epigrafici e Linguistici” 12, 75–84.
Alignment change in Eastern Aramaic.

Coghill, Eleanor
(University of Konstanz)

The eastern Neo-Aramaic dialects, spoken in Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria, are highly diverse: one thing they nevertheless share is the loss of the old Semitic verbal forms (the Prefix and Suffix Conjugations) and their replacement by forms based on participles. A secondary effect of this process was the development of ergative alignment in the perfect (later the past perfective). In the modern dialects ergativity is restricted to verbal agreement inflection. While some dialects preserve ergative verbal agreement, even in these it is being eroded, both by movement towards Split-S alignment and by the increasing use of separate markers for the patient. Other dialects have lost ergative alignment altogether. Thus an entire cycle of alignment change can be seen in the documented history of Aramaic.

The pathways through which alignment change take place are controversial: for Iranian, Indo-Aryan and Aramaic, various possibilities have been suggested, including the reanalysis of passives or of possessive predicates (cf., e.g. Benveniste 1952, Cardona 1970, Kutscher 1969). More recently, a connection between dative (expressing roles such as experiencer) and ergative has been noted (e.g. Butt 2006, Haig 2008). The textual evidence from Aramaic suggests that what became the ergative construction was originally limited mostly to verbs with experiencer roles, such as ‘see’, ‘hear’ and ‘know’, which could take a kind of dative subject. These experiencers were then reanalysed as agents. There is also evidence suggesting that beneficiaries too were reanalysed as agents. Aramaic is ideal as a case-study for alignment change, due to the wealth of texts, dating from 3000 years ago to the present day. The paper will present evidence from both ancient texts and modern dialects, in order to understand the changes in alignment and their motivations.

References

Generalized noun modifying clause constructions in the North Caucasus.

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The Generalized Noun Modifying Clause Construction (GNMCC) is a single construction consisting of a head noun and a modifying clause and which covers English relative clauses, fact-S constructions, as well as others. Recent interest in the topic was spurred by Matsumoto (1997)’s work on Japanese. We propose to initiate an investigation of the phenomenon in the North Caucasus.

In Japanese, the same construction is used in all of (1)–(3), each of which requires a distinct construction in English.

(1) [gakusei ga kat-ta] hon student NOM buy-PST book
‘the book that the student bought’

(2) [gakusei ga hon o kat-ta] zizitu student NOM book ACC buy-PST fact
GNMCCs are widespread in Daghestanian languages (Daniel & Lander 2010), as illustrated by the following Bezhta examples:

(4) [abo y-oo-yo] biλo
father.ERG IV-do-PST.PTCP house(IV)
‘the house that father built’

(5) [hini-s öžö axo qohda-c alas] xabar
self-GEN1 boy well study-PRS.PTCP news
‘the news that his son studies well’

(6) [bisa ziza-yas] mäh
fish fry-PRS.PTCP smell
‘the smell of frying fish’

Turkic languages in general have distinct constructions rather than a GNMCC. Thus, Turkish has no direct analog of (3), and uses albeit slightly different constructions in (7) and (8). In (7), the usual construction for relativizing non-subjects, the verb of the dependent clause is a nominalization in -DIK, and the head noun has no possessive suffix. In (8), the fact-S construction, the same nominalization is used, but the head noun requires a third person singular possessive suffix.

(7) [oğrenci-nin al-diğ-i] kitap
student-GEN buy-NMZ-3SG book
‘the book which the student bought’

(8) [cumhurbaşkani-nin gel-diğ-i] haber-i
president-GEN come-NMZ-3SG news-3SG
‘the news that the president has come’

While the details of translation equivalents of (7) and (8) in other Turkic languages differ, e.g. some would require or allow a possessive suffix on the head noun in (7) agreeing in person-number with the subject of the dependent clause, a structural distinction between the two constructions is usually maintained. However, precisely in Karachay-Balkar, a Turkic language of the North Caucasus, we find GNMCCs, as illustrated in (9)–(11).

(9) [oquwçu al-yan] kitap
student buy-PTCP book
‘the book that the student bought’

(10) [prezident kel-gän] hapar
president come-PTCP news
‘the news that the president has come’

(11) [et biš-gän] iyis
meat cook-PTCP smell
‘the smell of meat cooking’
The anomalous position of Karachay-Balkar within Turkic and its geographical location in the North Caucasus strongly suggests areal influence leading to accommodation in this Turkic language to a pattern that is widespread in genealogically unrelated languages of the area.

References

Afrikaans between Dutch and English.
Conradie, Jac
(University of Johannesburg)

Quite apart from numerous influences of English on Afrikaans in all sections of grammar and the lexicon since the early 19th century (cf. Donaldson 1987), a number of parallel changes in both languages, absent or virtually absent in Dutch, may be pointed out. It will be argued on the basis of a synchronic grammatical comparison supported by data from language corpora, that by these developments Afrikaans has been positioned typologically closer to English than to Dutch, its closest cognate. It is expected that Afrikaans will prove to be close to or virtually similar to English on every score. For Afrikaans, these changes may furthermore present a key to distinguishing between contact induced and spontaneous development.

In the verbal system, the following may be pointed out:
- Deflection of the finite verb – more advanced in English than in Dutch and complete in Afrikaans – compensated for by an ordering arrangement involving strict adjacency of the subject to the first verb in the verbal string. (Cf. inter alia Deumert 2004.)
- Virtual disappearance of the distinction between finite verb and infinitive accompanied by a more rigid ordering of elements of the verbal string in both English and Afrikaans, in contrast to Dutch.
- Replacement of the BE perfect (Du. zijn, etc., Afr. is) by the HAVE perfect (Du. hebben, etc., Afr. het) in so-called mutative verbs (e.g. verbs expressing movement or change) in the course of the 19th cent., a distinction still maintained in Dutch. (Cf. Denison 1993:359.)
- The isolation of modal verbs as a separate verbal category in English and Afrikaans to a much larger extent than in Dutch, e.g. by their lacking present and past participles, by not allowing ellipsis of the main verb, etc., and through detailed changes such as the parallel loss of a preterite for Eng. may and Afr. mag (but cf. Du. mocht).
- The retention of relatively conservative forms of the past participle in attributive function and/or with semantic specialisation or in a figurative sense, e.g. Eng. drunken, beholden, ill-gotten, proven, new-mown, molten, misshapen, shrunken, stricken, etc. (cf. Jespersen 1942:47-82) and Afr. gebonde (boek) vs gebind, gebroke (hart) vs gebreek, opgewonde (kind) vs opgewen, etc.

In the nominal system, two major developments will be discussed:
- The loss of grammatical gender in both English and Afrikaans, while Dutch retains a two-class distinction.
- The frequent and very similar usage of the prenominal genitive, as in Eng. the hunter’s shot, a year’s work, Afr. die jagter se skoot, ’n jaar se werk.

References
Mismatches.

Contreras-García, Lucía
(University of Amsterdam)

A main issue in contemporary linguistics is how to best design a grammar that represents linguistic phenomena. This paper defines, classifies and discusses the theoretical adequacy and status of empty categories and mismatches. It will be argued that mismatches (Francis & Michaelis 2000, Sadock 2002) between various levels of representation are used in any theory of language in order to avoid the use of empty categories (Sadock 2012). Mismatches will thus be defined as the representational antonym for empty categories. The use of mismatches or empty categories will in turn be related to a linguistic model’s architectural tenets, in particular with regard to the model’s syntax-semantics interface. The method to be used will be comparative, following a typological analysis including Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese to illustrate Romance languages and Dutch, German and English to illustrate the Germanic family. In order to fully grasp the type of mismatches that a theory may use in order to avoid empty categories, a classification of mismatches will be proposed. This classification will include a.o.:

1. 1) Quantitative non one-to-one correspondences between
   a. The number of elements representing one feature at various levels.
   b. The number of potential representations at various levels.
   c. Whole vs. partial mapping of a linguistic unit at various levels.

   2) An infringement upon the expected qualitative default iconicity between two differing levels of formal representation between
   a. The category of formal items representing a linguistic unit at various levels.
   b. The structure of formal items representing a linguistic unit at various levels.
   c. The default co-relation between smaller and bigger units within the same level.

The data used to illustrate this claim will be real-world examples in the languages mentioned above. Various phenomena will be used in order to illustrate the advocated classification of mismatches, each one illustrating the corresponding cases named above:

1. 1 a. Verbal morphology.
   a. Quantifier scope ambiguity.
   b. Non-compositional modification.

   a. 2) a. Cross-cutting syntactic categories.
   b. Raising/control.
   c. Aspect coercion.

A main research question will be whether the architecture of a theory of language (whether its levels are derived from each other, see Jackendoff 2002; whether there exists a compulsory direction for derivations, see Zwicky 1972) determines a theory’s use of mismatches or empty categories. It will be claimed that the architectural tenets of a given theory of language do influence the use of empty categories or mismatches, although a fully deterministic view will be proven wrong. It will also be claimed that the use of representational mismatches makes a theory of language less redundant in its representations.

References

**Asymmetries in differential argument marking.**

Coon, Jessica and Preminger, Omer
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This paper addresses two questions: (1) Does DSM exist in accusative languages, or is it intrinsic to ergativity? And (2) Does DSM always adhere to Silverstein's (1976) animacy hierarchy?

We argue first that both types of Differential Argument Marking (DSM & DOM) are independent of alignment, and second, that neither can be said to adhere directly to Silverstein's hierarchy. Rather, we present evidence for the generalizations in (1):

(1) Differential Argument Marking Generalization
   a. DSM: Ergative marking is based on the presence or absence of 1/2 [+participant] person features on the subject
   b. DOM: Accusative marking is governed by definiteness, specificity, and animacy of the object

We show that differential marking of *subjects* is based on the presence/absence of local participant features; other features (e.g. animacy) do not play a role. Drawing on independent evidence from the Person Case Constraint as well as Inverse systems, we argue that [+participant] arguments require extra licensing, and that this licensing mechanism has effects on the *transitivity* of a clause. This pertains to ergativity only insofar as ergativity depends on transitivity: in an ergative system, only *transitive* subjects are marked ergative. We argue that [+participant] subjects in certain languages are effectively *intransitive* subjects, and thus do not bear ergative marking. The apparent absence of DSM in accusative systems is thus illusory, arising because by definition, transitive and intransitive subjects pattern alike in such a system.

Turning to (1b), we provide evidence from various languages—ergative (Hindi, Pama-Nyungan, Tibeto-Burman) and accusative (Hebrew, Spanish, Turkish)—that DOM is based not on person features, but on definiteness, specificity, and animacy. Like DSM, it too is independent of grammatical alignment.

A putative counter-example to (1a-b) is found in what Silverstein (1976) calls *binary split* systems—e.g. in Dyirbal—where both the subject and object have been argued to adhere to (1a). Crucially, however, these languages lack 3rd-person pronouns altogether; thus, we can assert without loss of generality that subjects in Dyirbal follow (1a), while the object split actually involves *pronominality*—a canonical DOM property—and thus adheres to (1b). It is the lack of 3rd-person pronouns that make a pronominality split indistinguishable from a 1st/2nd-vs.-3rd split, giving rise to the epiphenomenon of a *binary split*.

If the generalization in (1a-b) and its proposed interaction with ergativity are true, it serves to further reduce the number of primitives needed to account for ergative vs. accusative systems, and their respective behaviors.

**Paradigm conventions.**

Corbett, Greville
(University of Surrey)

Until recently the glossing of examples even in the top journals could be characterized, politely, as chaotic. That situation is being improved, by linguists' collective conscience and the availability of the Leipzig Glossing Rules (adopted by SLE). We can now consider similarly how we represent the forms of lexemes. For some linguists, this reflects key issues in inflectional morphology; others treat paradigms as epiphenomena, but it is still important to know what can and cannot be inferred from their choices of representation. The need for greater clarity arises because others, such as psycholinguists, are
increasingly interested in paradigms, and we risk misleading them by our unstated conventions. And within morphology, recent entropy based and principal part based approaches start from paradigms, implicitly or explicitly, and evaluating their conclusions depends on our understanding the starting point.

The following conventions, beginning with the more superficial and progressing to those with greater analytical significance, all deserve discussion:

- We conventionally represent different features by different dimensions (as in a case X number layout rather than a simple list of forms); this is difficult when we need more than two dimensions;
- Portrait view is favoured over landscape view, leading to specific choices of paradigm layout: for instance, person values in rows and number values in columns;
- We follow traditional ordering of feature values (absolutive before elative);
- We split or combine cells according to unspoken conventions about majority distributions within and across lexemes; for instance, Russian nouns are represented with six case values, though an additional four values occur in different combinations on subsets of nouns;
- We “know” that some conditions on paradigms belong in the representation while others are textual notes; for example, mass nouns have no separate paradigm, rather we state somewhere that the plural is available only for nouns of particular semantic types;
- We appreciate elegance (witness the original minimal-augmented analyses of number systems);
- We (at least some of us) believe that syntax is morphology-free; hence we include non-autonomous values (such as the Romanian neuter gender) in paradigms. This approach avoids invoking strange rules of agreement or government, but requires additional paradigm cells which are systematically syncretic;
- We represent morphosyntactic patterns rather than morphemic patterns.

All of these conventions individually have merit. Good practice requires us to be fully explicit about our use of them and our departures from them, particularly where there come into conflict.

Conclusions

- The substance matters more than the representation; conventions should help make clear what the analyst intends, so that the reader is able to agree or disagree with the actual intention.
- The representation has enormous potential: it can clarify our understanding of our material (so that claims are made with full awareness) or it can mislead the unwary.
- We are cleaning up our act with regard to morphosyntactic glossing. It is time to begin being more explicit about how we represent the forms of lexemes. Our largely unspoken conventions form a good basis.

**Segnali discorsivi di riformulazione, cioè, volevo dire... dai gruppi di discussione all’Italiano come LS.**

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Nel 1998 Fraser (1998 :301) definiva l’analisi dei segnali discorsivi “a growth market in linguistics”; a qualche lustro di distanza non possiamo che constatare l’estrema attualità delle sue parole, poiché molti e vari sono ancora oggi gli studi che affrontano la questione sotto diversi punti di vista e abbracciano tutti i livelli descrittivi, da quello sintattico a quello semantico, a quello testuale.

Di recente lo studio sui segnali discorsivi si è poi arricchito dei dati su una varietà di lingua nuova, quella della Comunicazione Mediata dal Computer, e delle riflessioni teoriche sui concetti di formalità e informalità, registro, stile, sottocodice, genere, tipo di testo e soprattutto delle questioni relative all’opposizione tra scritto e parlato che da tempo le ruotano intorno.

La testualità ricopre un ruolo centrale in uno studio che riguardi tali tipi di testo; le motivazioni che muovono le scelte di particolari forme linguistiche, infatti, si articolano e si specificano soprattutto in base alle caratteristiche semantico-comunicative del testo in cui si realizzeranno le forme stesse (si pensi ad esempio alla profusione di frasi scisse nell’italiano scritto neo-standard, con la funzione di creare due fuochi informativi, sfruttate anche in funzione coesiva).

Un primo esame sulle funzioni dei segnali di riformulazione, e di cioè in particolare, in un corpus di newsgroup
(Corino 2012) ha messo in luce non solo alcune differenze prevedibili tra gli usi del segnale discorsivo in varietà formali e informali di lingua, ma ha fatto emergere sfumature semantiche e usi fino ad ora trascurate dalla letteratura a riguardo (ad esempio il valore consecutivo e modale di cioè, il suo ruolo di indicatore di forza illocutiva e le sue funzioni testuali).

In chiave contrastiva, poi, si suppone che, sulla scorta di Hopper e Traugott (1993), i marcatori discorsivi formati a partire da strutture comuni diventino una fonte lessicale comune, associata alla funzione che essi ricoprono, e che siano il risultato di strategie codificate che diventano fisse e convenzionali anche a livello interlinguistico.

Questo contributo quindi si propone di confrontare i risultati ottenuti dal corpus italiano con usi e funzioni di segnali discorsivi equivalenti tratti dai testi di NG formali e informali in francese e spagnolo da una parte e inglese e tedesco dall'altra, due coppie lingue tipologicamente diverse la cui testualità e struttura argomentativa in parte divergono da quella italiana, e di confrontarli con l'uso effettivo che gli apprendenti di italiano provenienti da queste L1 fanno dei segnali discorsivi di riformulazione nei corpora VALICO e ADIL2.


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Existential predication in typological perspective.

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Existential predication is the usual designation of predicative constructions expressing presence of an entity at a given location (English There is..., French Il y a...). Such constructions are not necessarily paraphrasable by means of verbs such as exist, and must rather be defined as involving an abstract predicate ‘be a place p such as an entity e can be found at p’, which means that the same two-place predicate BE_AT(e, p) perspectivized in two different ways underlies locative
predication ('be an entity e such as e can be found at p') and existential predication. The fact that locative predication is more canonical than existential predication with respect to the ontological status of its terms explains both the variations observed in the morphosyntactic expression of existential predication cross-linguistically. It also explains that existential predications tend to show properties departing from those of canonical predication (in particular in the distribution of the properties that characterize subjects of canonical predications), and in particular tend to depart from the more canonical constructions from which they may derive.

In many languages, the relation between existential and locative predication is straightforwardly reflected in the fact that their coding differs only in constituent order (Entity is at place vs. At place is entity). However, other possibilities are attested cross-linguistically:

- existential predication aligned on comitative predication: Place is_with entity;
- existential predication partially aligned on transitive predication, with a transitive verb of possession (or a verb 'give') used impersonally: At place has/gives entity;
- presence expressed as the result of coming into existence: At place entity has_appeared.

Zero-marked existential predication, in which a noun phrase without any additional material can constitute an existential clause, is not a type of its own. It must be related to locative predication realized as the mere juxtaposition of a phrase representing the entity and a phrase representing the place, the difference in perspective explaining why the phrase encoding the place is obligatory in the locative predication (in which it fulfills the role of predicate) but optional in the existential predication (in which it is typically topical).

Have-existentials reflect the fact that possessive predication can be viewed as abstract location with the personal sphere of an individual in the role of ground, and transitive verbs of possession can be viewed as expressing the abstract predicate 'be an individual i such as an entity e can be found in the personal sphere of i'. Consequently, the mere deletion of the term referring to the possessor can trigger a semantic shift from 'presence in the personal sphere of some individual' to 'presence at some place', since the role of ground is typically fulfilled by places.

Interestingly, in languages with have-existentials, the existential construction tends to show particularities that distinguish it from the possessive construction it originates from. In French, the obligatory presence of an expletive (non-referential) locative clitic, irrespective of the fact that the place is lexically encoded or left unspecified, distinguishes il y a 'there is' from il a 'he has'. But such obligatory expletive (non-referential) locatives are common in existential predications otherwise aligned on locative predication too (English there in there is). This can be viewed as a tendency to overtly signal the involvement of an atypical argument, not necessarily expressed, whose status in the perspectivization of the predicative relation is similar to that of the subject of canonical predication, although it differs from canonical subjects in other respects.

References
Typological explanations in synchrony and diachrony: the evolution of adnominal possession.

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According to Haiman (1983, 1985), the structure of adnominal possessive constructions is iconically motivated by the conceptual distance between possessor and possessee. Higher conceptual distance, as found in alienable as opposed to inalienable possession, is reflected by higher distance between the two elements encoding possessor and possessee, as determined by the use of overt morphemes indicating the possession relationship or free, rather than bound morphemes. In an alternative hypothesis (Nichols 1988, Koptjevskaja-Tamm 1997, Dahl and Koptjevskaja-Tamm 2001, Haspelmath 2008), the structure of possessive constructions is motivated by the frequency of different possession types. Alienable nouns are not usually possessed, so the possession relationship is more difficult to identify, and must be specified overtly. Inalienable nouns are typically possessed, so the possession relationship need not be specified overtly, and the frequency of possessor-possessee combinations leads to the fusion of the relevant morphemes.

These hypotheses are mainly based on the synchronic distribution of different types of possessive constructions cross-linguistically, rather than the actual diachronic processes that give rise to these constructions in individual languages. The paper discusses several such processes, based on extensive cross-linguistic evidence, and argues that these processes pose a number of challenges both for the iconicity and for the frequency hypothesis. For example,

(i) There are systematic correlations between a number of restrictions in the use of individual possessive constructions and the original meaning of the construction. Constructions not used for body parts or kin terms typically originate from spatial expressions, expressions encoding the concept of property, or demonstratives modifying a possessee, and other constructions not used for body parts originate from directional expressions. These restrictions are naturally accounted for in terms of relative incompatibility between the relevant possession types and the original semantics of the construction, so there is no obvious evidence that they reflect any differences in conceptual distance or frequency between the relevant possession types.

(ii) Individual possessive morphemes are used for possession types related to their original meaning, but not for possession types that are equally frequent and involve the same degree of conceptual distance, but are less directly related to the original meaning of the morpheme. For example, morphemes derived from locative elements are only used when the alienable possession relationship involves a salient spatial component, and morphemes presumably originating from ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ verbs are used to indicate possession of edible and drinkable items, but not other types of alienable possession.

These facts raise a general point about typological explanations. Typologists identify particular construction types (e.g. particular types of possessive constructions) on synchronic grounds, and account for these types in terms of categories and functional factors associated with their distribution (e.g. alienability, conceptual distance or frequency). Yet, each type may originate from distinct diachronic processes in different languages, each motivated by principles other than those that can be postulated on synchronous grounds. Hence typological explanations should be based on the comparison of diachronic processes, rather than the comparison of construction types defined on synchronous grounds.

References
Frame semantic annotation for parallel corpora: some whys and a how.

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Semantic annotation of parallel corpora may aid the description of typical semantic shifts in translation, as was aimed at by the FUSE project (Cyrus 2006), and may help uncover divergencies on a broader scale, like the often-cited differences in framing motions in Germanic and Romance languages (Talmy 2000; Slobin 2004). Most parallel corpora nowadays, however, only contain morpho-syntactic annotation, though there are exceptions. One such exception is a corpus which is a subset of the Europarl corpus, 1,000 English and 1,000 German sentences annotated with syntactic structures and frame semantics (Padó and Lapata 2009).

The proposed talk will present studies on English-German and German-English translations and examine some typical cases of how they diverge from each other both grammatically and semantically. This will include a survey on semantic divergencies observed in various projects utilising frame semantic annotation (cf. e.g. Burchardt et al. 2006; for an overview of frame semantics, see e.g. Petruck 1996) and add observations made on a small sample of bi-sentences from the above-mentioned corpus compiled by Padó and Lapata as well as the German-English CroCo corpus (Neumann and Hansen-Schirra 2005). The talk will show how grammar and semantics interact in at least two ways in translation: Sometimes, typological restrictions make it harder to express certain semantic content the “same” grammatical way in two languages, and sometimes, it is different conventions (for German-English cf. e.g. House 1997) in how we say things that may lead to semantic divergencies. It will also be shown how frame semantic annotation may aid in describing semantic divergencies. Čulo (2011, 67) demonstrates this on an example in which a Cause_change frame is translated by a State_of_entity frame: The translation solely focusses on the end state of the process, making the cause implicit.

Besides these linguistic/translational insights, the talk will also present an annotation mode developed for the TrEd treebank annotation tool which allows to easily edit the structural annotation and alignment of parallel texts with both phrase structure and frame semantic annotation. Also, practical issues like the process of creating semantic dictionaries for the annotation of multiple languages will briefly be addressed.

References
The Old Avestan injunctive between mood and modality.

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The paper presents an analysis of the Old Avestan (henceforth OA) verbal system from what is now the traditional perspective of the study of modality (Palmer 1986, Bybee 1995) with regard to both syntactic and semantic variables.

By investigating the relationship between modal values and their grammatical codifications in OA, the argument will focus on the so-called “injunctive” mood, which represents a set of verb forms lacking the distinctive markers of mood and is identifiable by secondary (or historical) endings bound directly to the aspectual stems:

\[ \text{pres.: vaza-} + \text{-am/-ō/-aţ...} \]
\[ \text{aor.: važ-} + \text{-am/-ō/-aţ...} \]

Although they lack modal-specific morphology, these forms cover a wide range of modal values, overlapping with nearly all other mood domains. As Kellens (1984) and Lazzeroni (1997) have exhaustively described, and as Christol (2003) and Kiparsky (2005) have underlined in their works on the Vedic injunctive, the present/aorist injunctive is the main means of expressing the narrative past tense (1) in contrast to indicative augmented forms (2). However, the aorist injunctive is also used in place of the imperative (3) as well as the present injunctive, which can express the general-atemporal present (4) or the desiderative (5). Thus both forms, if preceded by mā, mark prohibition (6).

(1) Y.30.7a: ahmāicā xšaōrā jasaṭ (INJ.AOR) manaŋhā vohū ašācā (“And now is come Xšathrā, and Vohū Manah and Ašā”)

(2) Y.29.6a: at̰ avācōat (IND.AOR) ahurō mazdā vīduuā vafūš viiānaiiā. (“so Ahura Mazdā spoke, (because he) knows the texture of the nets”)

(3) Y.28.7c: dāidī (IMP.AOR) ašā […] dāidī (IMP.AOR) tū ārmaitē […] dāš (INJ.AOR) tū mazdā xšaiiācā. (“give Ašā […] give thou Armaiti […] give thou Mazdā”)

(4) Y.32.14c: hiiat̰cā gāuš jaidiīāi mraoī (INJ.PRS). (“when the cow is spoken for killing”)

(5) Y.44.15b: yā tū mazdā didaražō (INJ.PRS). (“which thou wishest to establish O Mazdā”)

(6) Y.48.5c: huxšaōrā xšaŋtam mā nā dušā xšaōrā xšaŋtā (INJ.AOR) (“do not let bad rules assume rule over us”)

Through a review of almost all 220 injunctive occurrences in Gāthās, it is claimed that injunctive use is governed by the utterance modal domain, and that the opposition between indicative and injunctive involves a fundamental selection of epistemic vs deontic values.

This leads to a consideration regarding the 2nd grade category nature of mood in OA: according to West (2011), the OA mood system is to be interpreted as a convenient designation of morphemic combinations (typically aspectual stem + suffix modifiers) rather than a grammatical feature proper.

Diachronically speaking, the productive continuation of the archaism represented by injunctive forms in this branch of the Iranian group (together with the equally conservative case of the Vedic) bears witness to the persistence of an underlying [+ modal] trait alongside those of [+ aspect] and [+ time] in determining PIE verb distinctive semantics.

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Kiparsky P., 2005, The Vedic Injunctive: Historical and Synchronic Implications, in The Yearbook of South Asian Languages
Areal relationship among the languages of Europe has been extensively discussed in recent literature (cf. Heine and Kuteva 2006). Yet questions about their areal-typological profiling and areal hierarchy have not yet received definitive answers, hence a number of linguistic areas with fuzzy borders within the geographic bounds of Europe, including the ‘oldest’ Balkan Sprachbund. Its uncontroversial members (Albanian, Aromanian, Bulgarian, Modern Greek, Macedonian, Balkan Romani, Rumanian, the southernmost and eastern dialects of Serbian) demonstrate a number of contact-induced properties, called ‘Balkanisms’. Some of them are shared by Turkish. Other neighboring languages may also be considered members of this Sprachbund, for instance Judezmo (Judeo-Spanish) (Joseph 2011).

It is not, however, clear how many ‘Balkanisms’ are enough to consider a particular language a member of the Balkan Sprachbund or at what ‘geographical point’ they are likely to turn into typological convergences? In other words, one should answer a chicken-and-egg question vexing, although under various guises, specialists in Balkan linguistics – which comes first, ‘language of the Balkans’ or ‘Balkan language’ (cf. Schaller 1975), or, in case of morphosyntactic properties, ‘comparative syntax of the Balkan languages’ or ‘Balkan comparative syntax’ (Joseph 2001)?

Southwest Ukrainian is an obvious teaser for the said conundrum. A member of the Carpathian (Danubian) linguistic area, it connects East Slavic via Rumanian to the rest of the Balkan Sprachbund. This relationship has been in the focus of Eastern Slavic linguistics since Bernštejn (1972/1968), hence the alleged existence of a Carpathian-Balkan Sprachbund (Klepikova 1986, 15). The Carpathian area is characterized by ‘Carpathisms’ (primary local convergences), attested also in North Ukrainian and South Belarusian, and ‘Balkanisms’ (secondary local convergences). Among the morphosyntactic ‘Balkanisms’, Nimčuk (1993) identified 21 features, including the enclitic use of the dative possessive pronoun, analytic adjectival comparative forms, a superessive marker for numerals between ‘11’ and ‘19’, a periphrastic de-volitive future with a want-auxiliary. The author traced most of the ‘Balkanisms’ to the Common Slavic period (cf. the use of the periphrastic future formation with the auxiliary xotity ‘to want’ in Southeast Ukrainian). For some cases Nimčuk did not exclude a mutual reinforcement by languages genetically and typologically distant such as Ukrainian and Hungarian. The above-mentioned numerals might be supported by parallel forms in Hungarian and Rumanian.

In view of the continuum of ‘Balkanisms’ spreading through Southwest Ukrainian, one wonders whether an uncontroversial Sprachbund-oriented comparative description of Balkan morphosyntactic parallels is possible.

References
Switch-reference in Kobon and Haruai: areal influences within Highland New Guinea.

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Switch-reference is an areal typological characteristic of Highland New Guinea languages. Roberts (1997) presents an overview of a significant range of typological variation found within switch-reference systems of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Kobon and Haruai are two neighboring languages of Highland PNG; there is no evidence of a genealogical relationship between them, although they are in close contact. Formally, the switch-reference morphologies of the two languages are very different: Haruai simply distinguishes a single same-subject suffix from a single different-subject suffix with no marking of person-number, while Kobon has person-number marking in distinct same-subject and different-subject paradigms.

However, on a number of structural points Kobon and Haruai are virtually identical, in areas where Roberts documents considerably diversity within PNG more generally. For instance, in both Kobon and Haruai it is rather strictly the grammatical subject that is tracked, rather than the highest semantic role or the topic. Thus, in constructions of the type “hunger shoots me” for ‘I am hungry’, it is the stimulus “hunger” (which also triggers person-number indexing in the verb) rather than the experiencer “me” whose referent is tracked.

In constructions where the referent of one clause is properly included in that of the other, some languages of PNG make no distinction depending on whether the referent of the matrix clause is included in that of the dependent clause or vice versa, while others at least under some circumstances use same-subject marking if the referent of the matrix clause is properly included in that of the dependent clause, but different-subject marking where the reverse relation holds. Thus, with “we” interpreted inclusively, “we X-ing, you Y” receives same-subject marking, while “you X-ing, we Y” receives different-subject marking. Both Kobon and Haruai belong to this latter type.

In some languages of PNG, in cases of properly included reference it makes no difference whether the two subjects are of the same grammatical person or not, while in others under at least some circumstances two subjects of the same grammatical person trigger same-subject marking while those of different grammatical person trigger different-subject marking. Both Kobon and Haruai show this grammatical person constraint: Even where other factors would suggest a different-subject marker, if the two clauses have the same grammatical person then a same-subject marker is used, i.e. one finds same-subject marking in “I X-ing, we Y”, but different-subject marking in “you X-ing, we Y” (with “we” interpreted inclusively).

While both direction of the proper inclusion relation and identity versus non-identity of grammatical person are often relevant parameters cross-linguistically when the tracked noun phrases have overlapping rather than absolutely identical reference, both Kobon and Haruai agree in the precise interaction of these parameters. We argue that areal properties in switch-reference are not found only as general properties across large areas such as Highland New Guinea, but also serve in more specific form to define smaller sub-areas, as in the case of Kobon and Haruai.

References

Directivity in varieties of English: a closer look at business correspondence.

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Varieties of English not only differ in spelling, pronunciation, phonology and syntax (see Mesthrie & Bhatt 2008, Götz &
Schilk 2011, Mukherjee 2010, Kirkpatrick 2012, Laporte 2012), politeness and directivity, too, are expressed differently. Katikar (1984), for instance, observes that deontic could and shall are used more frequently in Indian English than in British English whereas Mehrotra (1992, 2003), observes that tentative might occurs less frequently despite the great importance that is attached to face, formality and politeness. De Clerck (2012), in his turn, notes that the imperative occurs three times more frequently in Indian English data. Different and diverging strategies are also found African varieties of English as in Nkemleke (2005) on the use of must and should in Cameroon English and in Kasanga (2006) on request strategies in South African varieties of English. Most of these studies, however, single out one specific aspect that is relevant to the expression of directivity (e.g. the use of modals or the ways in which requests are realized), but fail to present an overall picture of how directivity as a whole is expressed in specific contexts.

This paper wants to provide a more systematic approach to the expression of deontic obligation (or directivity) in a very specific setting; i.e. that of business correspondence. Using data from the ICE-corpora, this paper examines how directivity is expressed in Indmale, American English and British English business letters, not only by looking at the use of modals, but also by paying attention to imperatives, performatives and the use of politeness markers. From a quantitative perspective, directive strategies will be identified, categorized and compared, followed by a qualitative analysis of these directives within the rhetorical make-up of the business letters and the different moves in it, embedded within the specifics of the communicative context they occur in. As such, this paper wants to lay bare potential areas of communicative friction in the cross-cultural realization of directive speech acts in a global English business environment.

Results based on multiple correspondence analysis not only reveal statistically significant differences in the use of modals, but also in the use of imperative structures, the politeness marker please, performative uses of the verb request and the use of honorifics, all of which are related to more general cross-linguistic differences in the realization of directive speech acts. Attested differences will be positioned and (partially) explained in Hofstede's macro model of cultural dimensions, while sensitivity to micro context will be demonstrated by comparing the current results with Offergeld’s (2008) analysis of letters to editors.

References
Fronted-infinitive constructions, progressive aspect and predication focus in Kikongo.

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A formal and historical relationship between progressive aspect and predication focus has been observed across Bantu (Güldemann 2003; Hyman and Watters 1984). One particular construction manifesting such polyvalence is a compound verb form consisting of an infinitive followed by a conjugated form of the same verb, the ‘fronted-infinitive construction’ (Güldemann 2003: 335). It commonly occurs in Bantu languages of Guthrie’s zones B and H (Hadermann 1996). Güldemann (2003: 335) offers two possible structural interpretations for this fronted infinitive pattern: a) pre-posing of the infinitive to pre-verbal focus position before the verb and b) the functional reanalysis of a construction having a topic-focus organization. In this paper, we shed new light on the origins of this construction’s polyvalence through a detailed study of its uses in a number of Kikongo varieties, hereby relying on newly collected fieldwork data dedicated to information structure.

In the western Kikongo varieties Fiote and Yombe, the fronted-infinitive construction conveys progressivity (Hadermann 1996: 161). A similar strategy occurs in Ciwoyo, another western Kikongo variety, as the fieldwork data in (1) illustrate:

(1) Sálá yisálá (Ciwoyo)
Ø -sal-a yi-sal-a
np₁₅-work-FV sc₁₁₂-work-FV
“I am working”

The same pattern in Ciwoyo is used to express predication focus (2), as is the case in Civili (3), where progressivity is expressed by the suffix -ang-.

(2) Vè, núngúná tókà nnúngwíní (Ciwoyo)
Vè Ø-núngün-á tókà Ø-n-núngün-idi
No NP₁₅-push-FV only sc₁₁₂-push-PVF
No, she only pushed him.

(3) Kó kútélá kó ūānńtélá (Civili)
kó ku-tel-á kó ū-a-ń-tel-á
ADV NP₁₅-call-FV ADV sc₁-PVF OC₁-call-FV
She called him.

Similar focus strategies exist in several eastern Kikongo dialects, such as Kimbeko in (4). Progressivity in these languages is expressed by the TAM-marker -ta-.

(4) sóniká káká básónikéni (Kimbeko)
Ø-sónik-á káká bá-sónik-idi
NP₁₅-write-FV only SC₂-write-PVF
They only wrote (a report).

In line with Güldemann (2003), we argue that the progressive interpretation of the fronted-infinitive pattern evolved from its use as focus marker. The focalized verb is placed in immediate-before-the-verb position, commonly associated with argument focus in western Bantu (Bostoen and Mundeke 2012). Moreover, the focus interpretation has a much larger distribution than the progressive interpretation. The latter seems to be confined, at first sight, to western Kikongo varieties. Elsewhere verbal affixes convey progressivity. The sound-symbolic association between verb reduplication and iterative aspect, as reported in traditional Kikongo grammars (Bentley 1887: 974; Laman 1912: 178), may have facilitated this functional extension.
The use of discourse markers in learners of Italian as L2.

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In the last ten years the growing interest for the use of (Discourse Markers) DMs in the acquisition of L2 with particular reference to Italian (Bazzanella /Borreguero Zuloaga 2011, Nigoević/Sučić 2011, Bardel 2004, De Marco/ Leone 2012) has produced interesting outcomes. Our work focuses on the use of DMs by learners of Italian L2 in order to highlight what kind of functions and textual organization DMs show in the ongoing interaction with native speakers of Italian.

The analysis aims to describe functions (pragmatic and interactional), forms (i.e. sì, bene, esatto, è chiaro, no), compositions (one or more forms combined) distribution (i.e., does a particular position of the DM correlates to a specific function?), and frequency of lexical DMs in Turkish and Spanish non native conversations (A2, B2 proficiency level) with Italian native speakers. We have two sets of video recorded conversations for each pair composed by an Italian speaker and a non native speaker. In order to determine if the type of task affects the use of DMs we have considered, for the current analysis, two conversational tasks for each pair: a. a self presentation, b. a discussion on hobbies and sport preferences. Research has shown that learners at various level of proficiency use different DMs, therefore the level of proficiency will be considered in our analysis. The analysis will be run on the native corpus as well in order to compare the different uses of DMs.

Our approach to the analysis of DMs is a functional/pragmatic approach and will refer to the model of construction grammar (Goldberg, 1995, 2002; Fried/Östman 2005). The aspect of distribution and structural position of DMs will be the main point of our analysis since it contributes in a relevant manner to their interpretation. The illocutionary force of DM, their modal expression, and their function of discourse management as internal elements of the proposition - which receives in turn a syntactic and pragmatic value - is of great importance for our analysis. In this sense, taken as a support to the ideational structure of the discourse, DMs occurs both at the interactional level (e.g. communicative strategies) and at the level of global organization of speech orienting the structure of the sentence. Furthermore, the identification of DMs structural position can improve the explanatory power of the pragmatic description and shed lights on the interpretation of new occurrences (Fischer 2010).

Our research findings could help to improve our understanding of the acquisition of DMs use in non native speakers and could constitute a corpus that teachers can use with their students for activities of noticing on the use of DMs in conversation.

References
Swearing and cursing represent some of the most common linguistic taboo in daily conversation and, at the same time, one of the most spontaneous ways of expressing one’s most intimate feelings. Even thought the phenomenon has been brought to light since ancient time, it is quite an unexplored field in linguistic studies. Ethno- and sociolinguists – as well as anthropologists, sociologists and psychologists – have approached the matter focusing on the cognitive, emotional and social values and, in particular, on the intrinsic gender differences of their use (s., a.o., Jay 2000, Allan/Burridge 1991, McEnery, Stephens et. al 2009).

This study aims at calling attention to the communicative intentions underlying a set of specific expressions attested in the Italian varieties spoken in the Neapolitan area, linking them to the different situational context and to the specific lexicalization and grammaticalization processes involved in their use.

By using an ethno-sociopragmatic approach we investigate a range of vulgar expressions built up with body parts and, more specifically, with sexual elements. These show evidence of a shared imagery finding its realization in a common linguistic behaviour that can be traced back to a long and deep literary tradition (Russo). Not only semantic and lexical features, but also syntactic and pragmatic strategies, will be analysed in order to point out some typical constructions such as “that X of Y” or “Y is a X”, “The X that you Verb (PP)”, where X indicates the swearing word and Y is a variable (a noun, an adjective, an expression or another vulgar form). A particular strategy of generating meanings is the syntactic inversion by means of which one can express different intentions (‘a cazz’ ch’e cacat’ [lit.: the dick you shit] vs. c’e cacat’ ‘o cazzo’ [lit.: you shit us the dick] where the former refers to something useless or a tautology, while the latter means you are bothering me. Each construction has its own collocation perceived and used as such. Particularly interesting are those involving gender limitations which exclude random or parallel combinations [e.g. ‘a fiss’ e soreta [lit. the pussy of your sister] vs. *‘o cazzo’ e fratet’ [lit. the dick of your brother]; ‘o frat’ d’ò cazzo’ [lit. the brother of the dick] and ‘a sore d’a fessa [lit. the sister of the pussy] vs. *‘o frat’ d’à fessa and *‘a sore d’à cazzo’).

Even more important are the lexicalization and grammaticalization processes leading to semantic bleaching: even if the investigated expressions are perceived as vulgar, they do not stimulate anymore a direct mental association with sexual organs or activities. Sometimes the semantic bleaching is so pervasive to let us consider some of the examined vulgar expressions as discourse markers or intensifiers. By means of a sociolinguistics perceptive test we will proof that there is a hierarchy among those intensifiers – oscillating from the euphemism up to the cursing – that can be linked to the vulgarity hierarchy.

Speaking vulgar in the Neapolitan area: use and perception.

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Future tense in French and Italian: non-temporal meanings in contrast.

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This work compares modal (epistemic) and temporal meanings of the future tense (FT) in French and Italian and attempts at drawing deeper conclusions about the respective semantics of FT in both languages. In particular, empirical data seems to suggest that Italian FT is more epistemic and French FT is more evidential.

Together with many other Romance languages, French and Italian FT (just like English, Dowty 1979), present both a temporal (1) and an epistemic (2) meaning:

(1) Paolo viendra demain (French) / Paolo verrà domani (Italian)
    Paolo will come tomorrow.

(2) [doorbell rings] : Ce sera le facteur. (French) / Sarà il postino (Italian).
    That’ll be the postman.

When it does not simply consider that FT-utterances are always modal for the reason that the future is by nature uncertain (but see inter alia Morency & Saussure 2012 and Gosselin to appear for other views), the literature usually assumes i) that epistemic meanings of FT develop on the basis of previous temporal meanings, and ii) that argumentative meanings, such as concessive ones in Italian (3) or Spanish, are only found in languages where epistemic meanings of FT are also common:

(3) Sarà simpatico, ma non ha amici.
    (he) be-FUT nice, but NEG (he) has friends
    ‘He may be nice, but he hasn’t got any friends’.

We notice a number of dissimilarities between French and Italian FT. In particular, the contextual conditions that license epistemic futures (EF) differ. For example, in (4), when asked for a specific brand of shoes, a French salesman can answer with an EF whereas it appears unnatural to do so in Italian (4). We also notice that EF enter naturally in causal relations in Italian but not in French (5):

(4) Elles [those shoes you are looking for] seront sur le présentoir là-bas (French).
    ‘Saranno sullo scaffale là in fondo (Italian).
    They be-FUT there on that stand.

(5) Devo tornare a casa perché Marco mi starà aspettando (Italian).
    ‘Je dois rentrer parce que Marco sera en train de m’attendre (French).
    I must go home because Marco be-FUT waiting for me.

We suggest that different patterns of interpretation, or ‘procedures of pragmatic enrichment’ are active in the two languages on the basis of a core meaning. We suggest that in Italian, probability meanings with future tense are elaborated on the basis of a modal meaning about the impossibility to verify the state of affairs at speech time, whereas in French, the
fact that epistemic future cannot enter causal constructions as in (5) connects it rather with an evidential function of indicating that the proposition is the result of an inferential process predicted verified true in some future. These observations allow getting back to considerations about the evolution of future tenses in romance.

Our work follows the line of investigation according to which tenses are grams that encode procedures of pragmatic enrichment (Nicolle 1997; Moeschler 1998; Saussure 2003; Saussure 2011; for the future tense in French and English, Morency & Saussure 2012).

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What non-canonical switch-reference systems tell us about switch-reference.

de Souza, Hilario (EHESS)

Switch-reference (sr) systems have been reported in many parts of the world (e.g. Austin 1981, Haiman and Munro 1983, Reesink 1983, Roberts 1997). Generally speaking, switch-reference markers indicate coreference (cr) or disjoint-reference (dr) between some salient references (subject or ‘topic’) across clauses. Switch-reference systems are of high typological interest: while many grammatical phenomena involve coreference, grammatical markers which indicate disjoint-reference are relatively rare. The following is an example of a switch-reference system from the Papuan language Menggwa Dla, where the sr markers in the cosubordinate (non-final) clauses indicate that the subject is coreferential or disjoint-referential with the subject of the following clause.

\[
\begin{align*}
hwi=mbe & \quad ma-safa-i-Ø-mbona, \\
\text{water=INS} & \quad \text{DR-put-3MSG-3MSG:O-DEP} \\
\text{“he put him (the moon) into the water, and (DR)”} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{rani } & \quad \text{hya } & \quad \text{hri-Ø-ya-a} & \quad \text{fa-Ø-ya-a-mbo } & \quad \text{amamo rani,} \\
\text{DEM } & \quad \text{INTJ} & \quad \text{come.out-CR-3SG-3FSG:O COMPL-CR-3SG-3FSG:O-DEP} & \quad \text{moon } & \quad \text{DEM} \\
\text{“the moon came out, and (cr)”} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
hahuf-u-hya & \quad \text{no.} \\
go.up-3MSG-PAST:FOC & \quad \text{COP:3FSG} \\
\text{“went up to the sky.”} & \\
\end{align*}
\]
Switch-reference is often described as a reference tracking mechanism. While this is not to be disputed, why would the vast majority of switch reference systems require obligatory marking of switch-reference for even first and second person references, if reference tracking is the only or main purpose of switch-reference? In this talk we will discuss a number of non-canonical switch reference systems, and see in what capacity they are used for the other function of canonical switch-reference systems: the indication of participant continuity and discontinuity (Givón 1983a,b) of the ‘salient’ reference in discourse. Participant continuity is the continuous comprehension accessibility of referents across clauses, and it is part of discourse continuity. The disjoint-referential markers in canonical switch-reference systems are thus often employed to indicate other types of discourse discontinuity like temporal and spatial discontinuity. The function of indicating participant continuity or discontinuity is also independent from the person-number-gender features of the references (c.f. switch-reference markers being used for first and second person references in canonical switch-reference systems). Less-canonical switch-reference systems depart from the function of indicating participant continuity and discontinuity of the salient references in various ways. Often they are more geared towards reference tracking, disregarding or only partially regarding what referents are salient in the discourse. Amongst the non-canonical switch-reference systems that we will discuss in this talk are the young-speakers’ switch-reference system in Menggwa Dla, where cr cosubordinate verb forms have become the default (sr-neutral) cosubordinate verb forms when the person-number-gender features of the verb already indicate that they must be coreferential or disjoint-referential. Other non-canonical switch-reference systems that we will discuss include the “echo-subject systems” in Vanuatu, and the ‘third person’ switch-reference systems that exist in some Esk-Aleut languages and Tupí languages.

References

**Why does the English simple present seem anything but a present tense?**

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It is well known that, paradoxically, the simple present tense in English cannot be used to refer to present-time events:

(1) *I talk right now.*

Langacker (2001) accounts for this restriction by arguing that the (English) present tense requires full and exact coincidence between the denoted event and the speech event. In many cases, however, there can be no such coincidence, since the two events typically do not have exactly the same duration (durational problem) and since the conceptualizer, at the time of speaking, usually does not have knowledge about the event actually reaching its endpoint, so that it cannot be fully identified (epistemic problem).

While this is an illuminating attempt to analyze the semantics of the English simple present, it does not address the question why the incompatibility problem between the simple present and dynamic situations seems to pose itself only in English and not in languages like French or German, in which simple-present forms (such as *mange* and *gehe* in (2) and (3)) can be used straightforwardly to refer to ongoing events in the present:
Vanden Wyngaerd (2005) suggests that these languages allow events to extend beyond the speech event, while the English simple present is only compatible with events that have “Very Short Duration” (as in, e.g., sports commentaries or performative expressions). Another explanation for the observed differences comes from Michaelis (2011), who refers to the varying “coercion potential” of the present tenses in the languages involved. In (2), for instance, the French simple present is said to coerce an event (manger) into a state, thus enabling alignment with the speech event. The simple present in English, on the other hand, does not have this type of potential. However, it is not clear why the English simple present should not allow temporal extension or why it does not shift events to the class of states in ways similar to, e.g., French.

In our paper, we will argue that, for historical reasons (i.e., the high degree of grammaticalization of the independently developing present progressive, marking imperfective aspect), the English simple present has, in fact, become a present perfective marker. Its French and German counterparts, on the other hand, are aspectually ambiguous (allowing both perfective and imperfective readings). This means that the English simple present only construes situations as occurring in the present and, at the same time, as fully perceivable and known to the conceptualizer. This aspectual analysis will be illustrated for each of the uses of the simple present (with states and habitual/generic situations and in specific contexts, such as performative expressions, etc.). We will further demonstrate that, in other contexts (such as (1)), this combination of ‘presentness’ and ‘perfectivity’ is conceptually infelicitous – an incompatibility problem that needs to be resolved by means of the progressive.

References

(Anti)-agreeing with Old Hungarian infinitives.

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This paper aims to document a so far unknown pattern of agreement among Old Hungarian infinitives, offer a Minimalist analysis of this pattern, and explain its loss in the Middle Hungarian period.

Hungarian infinitives fall into two natural classes. If the matrix predicate is monadic, with the infinitive as the only argument, then the infinitive has an overt Dative subject with independent reference. However, if the matrix predicate has a (Nominative, Accusative, or Dative marked) DP argument, too, then this obligatorily controls the reference of the infinitive’s subject.

Tóth (2011) shows that while in modern Hungarian only infinitives with an overt subject or infinitives with a PRO subject controlled by a Dative argument can agree with their subject, in Old Hungarian all infinitives could optionally show agreement, regardless of the case of the controlling DP or the argument vs. adjunct status of the infinitive. This paper shows that Old Hungarian infinitives with a controlled PRO subject had three possible agreement patterns, in fact: they could show no agreement, could bear regular agreement, and could also optionally anti-agree with their subject (3sg agreement with a non-3sg subject). To our best knowledge, infinitival anti-agreement has not been documented in any other language so far.

(1) iott-onk [imad-ni-a o-tot] (Döbrentei codex 140r)
came-1pl [worship-inf-3sg he-acc] ‘We have come to worship him.’

The data were collected using a new online corpus of Old Hungarian short texts and codices available at
http://ohc.nytfud.hu/. There are examples of one and the same sentence appearing in all three agreement variants in the same codex. Optionality is thus a genuine phenomenon in natural language, contrary to what current Minimalistic approaches suggest.

I argue that the T head of Old Hungarian infinitives could optionally bear agreement features. Lack of such features yielded infinitives without agreement, while the presence of those features yielded regularly agreeing or anti-agreeing infinitives. Furthermore, Old Hungarian infinitives could be either weak or strong phases, and this distinction correlated with regular agreement and anti-agreement respectively. In weak infinitives, no phase boundary separated the controller DP in the matrix clause and the embedded PRO subject, so PRO could get reference from the controller without any problems. The PRO that had already gotten its reference could, in turn, value the embedded T's agreement features, yielding regular agreement. In strong phases a phase boundary separated the embedded PRO from its controller. Due to the PIC, PRO could not get its reference before it was shipped off to the interfaces, and it could not value T's agreement features. PRO got its reference at LF, by long-distance variable-binding (cf. Sundaresan 2010). However, this was too late to value the agreement features of T, which needed to be valued already in the syntax. To prevent T's agreement features from reaching the interfaces without a value, a last resort feature-filling mechanism valued the relevant features as the default 3sg. This rescued the derivation and yielded anti-agreement.

Anti-agreement was lost in Middle Hungarian because infinitives could not be strong phases any more.

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Are translators really that conservative? Finding the answers by applying profile-based correspondence analysis in corpus-based translation studies.

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Are translators really that conservative? Finding the answers by applying profile-based correspondence analysis in corpus-based translation studies.

In line with the aims of the workshop, we wish to present an innovative, multivariate corpus-based technique for investigating language use in translated and non-translated text types called profile-based correspondence analysis (De Sutter, Delaere, & Plevoets, 2012). This technique allows us to create a clear and objective image of the linguistic behaviour of translators on the one hand and that of other authors on the other hand while simultaneously taking into account several possibly influencing factors. It is a modified version of the more widely used correspondence analysis (Greenacre, 2007) and it is based on using linguistic profiles, i.e. sets of synonymous onomasiological variants that can be used to express a single given concept, e.g. car and automobile (Speelman, Grondeelaers, & Geeraerts, 2003).

In the present paper, we want to illustrate this technique by investigating to what extent differences in lexical behaviour between translations and non-translations can be attributed to factors such as source language and text type. More particularly, we want to find out whether these two factors have an influence on the extent to which translators' lexical choices are more often conform to existing norms or, in other words, whether conservatism is truly a feature of translated language (Baker, 1996; Kenny, 2000).

We carried out three case studies on the basis of the Dutch Parallel Corpus (Macken, De Clercq, & Paulussen, 2011) which, on the one hand, consists of translated Dutch from English, translated Dutch from French and non-translated Dutch and, on the other hand, contains a number of text types. It is a high-quality corpus of considerable size (10 million words) which has been enriched with lexical information (such as lemmas and word class information) and which is balanced both with respect to text type and to translation direction.

The first case study investigates the use of standard language versus substandard language, thereby hypothesizing that translators will opt for the conservative option, i.e. standard language. With a second case study, we expanded the research on the use of standard language: we looked at the dispersion of General Standard Dutch versus Belgian Standard
Dutch. General Standard Dutch is the standard variety of Dutch in the entire Dutch-speaking area (Belgium and the Netherlands). Belgian Standard Dutch, on the other hand is the standard variety in Belgium only. So, if we look at these options from the conservatism perspective, we hypothesized that translators will opt for General Standard Dutch. In the third case study we operationalized the conservatism hypothesis by investigating the dispersion of formal language alternatives versus informal or neutral alternatives, based on the hypothesis that translators will opt for the conservative, i.e. formal, alternatives.

Preliminary analyses show that not all attested variation can be attributed to the translators’ hypothesized conservative behaviour, as in all three case studies the differences between non-translated Dutch and Dutch translated from English are smaller than the differences between non-translated Dutch and Dutch translated from French, which shows that the differences are source language dependent. Additionally, we can see that translators opt for different choices according to the text type, which also shows that the differences cannot entirely be attributed to the translators’ assumed conservative behaviour.

References


Teaching discourse markers in FFL: a particular linguistic/semantic approach for a renewed model of course design.

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This communication deals with the teaching and learning of discourse markers in spoken French, for FFL (French as a Foreign Language) courses. It has been demonstrated - but mainly for English language - that discourse markers (henceforth DMs) can be taught as linguistic realizations of the pragmatic competence. Moreover, learners benefit more from instruction than from immersion (Schmidt: 1993 ; Bardovi-Harlig: 2001 ; Rose: 2005). In addition, The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (2001/2011) focuses on pragmatic and sociolinguistic skills such as the knowledge of scripts, the ability to manage interaction, and these skills need linguistic forms like DMs. These items however are not seriously taken into account in textbook lessons and dialogues of FFL, except by Calbris & Montredon (2011), which focus on French DMs (see also Delahaie:2012). Therefore is still a relevant question to know how discourse markers should be taught. This paper proposes a semantic approach of DMs leading to a particular manner of course design.

The difficulty in teaching DMs is that such words are generally considered as multifunctional (Brinton: 1996 ; Schourup: 1999), mainly because they seem to be closely linked to context-based aspects of communication. The method generally adopted here to find the core meaning of a DM is frequently a data-driven approach: it is necessary to gather all the contexts where one DM occurs in order to determine its core meaning. This is for instance Schiffrin’s (1987) method and more broadly, the discourse analysis approach. This way of dealing with DMs has significant impact on DMs teaching and lead to a particular manner of course design: in order to acquire the ability to use DMs in a contextually appropriate way, learners have to notice and to be aware of how the target language realizes pragmatic features in various contexts (Bardovi-
Harlig: 2001; Kasper & Roever: 2005; Wichmann & Chanet: 2009). The danger is to multiply the contexts where one DM is employed, so that learners are unable to find any logic and any core meaning.

Therefore, we want to adopt another theoretical starting point, inspired in particular by Anscombre’s framework of Integrated Pragmatics (Anscombre 2009a and b); it will be demonstrated that DMs are not interpretable only through the context, but on the contrary, that they keep semantic properties throughout (and despite) their multiple functions which are in fact context-sensitive. We will study the semantic meaning of DMs in authentic spoken interactions from the Lancom corpus (Louvain-Leuven University). It’s a native-non-native corpus, half registered in Flemish classrooms of FFL and half in France with Francophone speakers in natural settings. We will more specifically use a set of interactions in a travel agency and play roles of the same kind, and we will focus on a little number of DMs that are very frequent in travel interactions and not used by Flemish learners, like voilà, bon, tiens, en fait, etc. Finally, we will propose pedagogical patterns of contrastive exchanges and interactions that make salient the core meaning of a DM.

References


The rise of coherent infinitival constructions in German.

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Since Bech (1955), the distinction between coherent and incoherent constructions is well established in work on infinitival syntax in Modern German. Haider (2010, 311ff.) lists sixteen syntactic and semantic properties reflecting the monosentential structure of coherent and the bisentential structure of incoherent infinitival constructions. As to the historical record of German, data of Old High German and Middle High German suggest that a similar distinction does not hold for infinitival constructions in earlier stages of the German language (Askedal 1998, Demske 2008).

In the present paper, I argue that a prerequisite for coherent infinitival constructions to arise is that infinitival clauses are frequently used in the middlefield of their respective matrix clause, a word order pattern that is attested in considerable numbers in historical sources originating in the 16th century. Pertinent examples comprise infinitival constructions allowing either for a coherent or an incoherent interpretation as well as infinitival constructions where only an incoherent interpretation is possible for structural reasons such as accusative control verbs, cf. zwingen ‘force’, drängen
‘urge’ (nominal predicates or adjunct infinitives are likewise attested in the middlefield):

(1) vnnd war vns der Strom vnnd Windt so entgegen / daß wir [mit vnsern kleinen Nachen den Vorwindt zu nemmen] gezwungen wurden.

Concurrently, we observe unambiguous word order patterns suggesting either a mono- or a bisentential structure. The latter is instantiated by infinitival constructions where non-verbal material intervenes between the two verbs in questions, prohibiting the formation of a verbal cluster:

(2) NAch dem der VeldtObriste/ Ertzhertzog Maximilian vor Raab ligende/ [nach vermögen fürsehung zuthan/] sich vast bemühet/

Evidence for a coherent infinitival construction is provided by examples like (3) where the pronoun *sie* ›she‹ precedes the PP *vmb der kürze willen* ›for space reasons‹, though the pronoun functions as a complement to the infinitive *zu setzen* ›to put‹, whereas the PP modifies the matrix predicate *unterlassen* ›refrain from‹.

(3) weilen aber nichts fürtrefflisches geschehen/ habe ich sie/ vmb kürtze willen/ t; hieher [zu setzen entfern].

More support for the assumption that the distinction between coherent and incoherent infinitival constructions is being established over the course of the Early New High German period comes from scope and binding facts.

References

From when on the French quotative conditional has been an evidential marker?

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Since 1991, one of the three main groups of uses of the French conditional, the use which we will call here “quotative use”, has been described in the literature as an evidential marker (Dendale 1991, 1993), a marker with an evidential component (Abouda 1997, Kronning 2005) or an evidential “extension/strategy” (Aikhenvald 2004).

In grammars and in the specialized literature, the quotative use of the conditional is characterized by (some or all of) the following semantic features: (a) uncertainty of the propositional content (or of the speaker about the propositional content), (b) refusal of commitment (by the speaker) to the truth of the proposition, (c) borrowing of the propositional content by the speaker from a (specific or non specific) source and (d) necessity of future confirmation of the propositional content.

Two questions will be treated in relation to these semantic features.

A first question is whether, amongst these four semantic features, there is a clearly dominant feature, and if so which one it is. This question has received several answers in the literature the last two decades, but they are often mutually conflicting. We will briefly recall them. A solidly founded answer to this question however would constitute an important argument in the debate about the evidential status of this use of the conditional and, accessorily, determine which one of the about 60 names this use of the conditional has had in the literature (see Kronning 2004), would best describe its semantic value.

A second question is where the “borrowing feature” of the quotative conditional is diachronically coming from, a
question whose answer is less difficult for at least two other semantic features of the quotative conditional ((a) uncertainty and (b) refusal of commitment), because those features do also characterize semantically, in one way or another, the two other (“non evidential”) groups of use of the conditional. In our presentation, we present new data that can help, one day, to formulate a satisfactory answer to this (and also the first) question. Those data are recently gathered examples (Baeyens 2012, Bourouva & Dendale à par., Dendale 2010), coming from three types of old texts, about the earliest occurrences ever cited by grammarians and linguists of what (apparently) are quotative conditionals (dates: 1518 (juridical), 1577 (historical), 1631 (journalistic)), and elements of interpretation of their semantic value. We will also present data from studies we recently conducted on the treatment of the quotative conditional in old grammars (important stages here are: 1606, 1819, 1850, 1889).

References

Deontic meanings of conditional and complement insubordination in Germanic languages.

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This paper deals with two ‘non-imperative’ directive (or deontic) strategies in Germanic languages, i.e. the use of independent or ‘insubordinate’ (Evans 2007: 367) conditional constructions (1) and complement constructions (2):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(1) } & \text{Als } u \text{ zelf even kort introduceert en uw vraag stelt. (CGN)} \\
& \text{COND you REFL PART briefly introducePRS and your question askPRS}
\end{align*}
\]
‘If you could just briefly introduce yourself and ask your question.’

(2) Dass du ja deine Schularbeiten machst! (Pasch 2003: 204)

‘You should do your homework!’

In the literature, both types have been discussed to some extent for some languages (see for example Stirling 1999 on conditional insubordination in English, Verstraete, D’Hertefelt and Van Linden 2012 on complement insubordination in Dutch, Ammann & Van der Auwera 2004 on deontic complement constructions in Balkan languages, and Mauri & Sansò 2011 on directive constructions from a typological perspective). However, the two strategies have not yet been investigated in relation to each other: what is their relative functional range, and how do they map out across the Germanic languages? In this paper, I wish to address both issues. I use spoken corpus data (supplemented with data from an internet corpus and informant-based work) to investigate deontic uses of complement and conditional insubordination for six Germanic languages, i.e. Dutch, German, English, Swedish, Danish and Icelandic.

First, the comparative perspective demonstrates that even closely related languages like the ones studied here show clear differences in their functional range, with Dutch and German showing a much wider array of deontic functions (especially as concerns complement insubordination) than the other languages. For example, both Dutch and German can use a complement construction to express a direct request (see example (2) above), which is not attested in the other Germanic languages. I propose an explanation for this divergence, appealing to features such as word order and the existence of alternative (insubordinate) constructions to express the same meaning.

Second, as concerns the comparison of deontic complement and conditional insubordination, I show that although the two strategies can be used with roughly the same functions, they are not completely interchangeable. For example, polite indirect requests (as in example (1) above) can be expressed with conditional but not with complement constructions, whereas direct requests can be expressed only with complement constructions. I relate these differences in expressive range to the basic semantics of complementation and conditionality, appealing to the distinction between presupposition and supposition.

References

Telling a story: the use of connectors and discourse markers by native speakers and by learners of French and Spanish.

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Telling a story is a complex activity for which speakers have to activate more than lexical and/or grammatical competences: they need pragmatic skills to structure the narration, to present the plot in a certain chronological
order, to give a coherent picture of the situation, to orient and to give hints for consistent interpretation to their interlocutor(s). To accomplish this kind of task, speakers can combine different devices. “Small words” such as connectors and discourse markers are the most important ones amongst them.

In Romance Linguistics, these elements are well described (see for example Atayan 2006, Drescher/Frank-Job eds. 2006, Gülich 1970, Christl 1992, Ducrot 1980, Mosegaard Hansen 1998 – to mention only a few of them). Even larger is the number of studies in Anglophone and German linguistics; cf. Fischer who observes that “[...] by now it is almost impossible to find one’s way through this jungle of publications” (2006: 1).

Most of the existing studies on discourse markers work with data of L1 speakers. Studies on learners’ use of connectors and discourse markers, as well as on the evolution of this competence during the acquisition process are rather rare (but see for example Delahaie 2011, Grupo A.Ma.Dis 2008). This may be surprising, on the one hand, as they are so vital and omnipresent in verbal interaction, or, as Wierzbicka (2003: 341) puts it: “Their meaning is crucial to the interaction mediated by speech; [...] If learners of a language failed to master the meaning of its particles, their communicative competence would be drastically impaired”. On the other hand, they are rather difficult to analyse: they are extremely polyfunctional, and they are optional. To describe their absence or “wrong” use in learners’ speech is therefore not an easy task.

In my paper, I will present strategies L2 speakers use to structure their narration, with special emphasis on connectors and discourse markers (or their absence). I use an Interactional Linguistics approach, i.e. I analyse form-function and function-form relations, focusing a) on pragmatic transfers L2 speakers make and b) on (other) compensatory strategies they use when they are in “lack” of connectors and discourse markers L1 speakers would use to accomplish certain tasks.

My analysis is part of a larger project on the use of discourse markers by learners (L1: German) of French and Spanish and the evolution of this pragmatic competence during the acquisition process. The project’s data is telephone calls, face-to-face interactions with two speakers who have to plan a holiday together, and picture stories.

References


Capturing the meaning of Hindi ideophones in a constructional analysis.

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It is only recently that ideophones have been discovered in another Indo-European language – in Hindi. These “marked words that depict sensory imagery” (Dingemanse 2011:25) seem to be ubiquitous in this language and are clearly of an iconic nature. They extend the notion of imitation of onomatopoeic words depicting sounds to other sensory domains (visual, tactile...). Ideophones evoke the scene or the attribute depicted by them. For example, the word cipcipā depicts the tactile sensation of something sticky, clinging, slimy or greasy.
Ideophones pose a challenge for an analysis that would attempt to capture their meaning in isolation. Their semantics is rather unclear without context and their interpretation emerges fully only in actual usage, in the context of a given utterance and communication. They represent underspecified lexical units, which get specified by being chosen by a speaker on a particular occasion in order to serve specific communicative purposes. From this it follows that their meanings are not completely random or fully unpredictable and can be studied systematically. We will demonstrate their context-dependent nature by examining the relationship between specific ideophones and the rest of the utterance, showing that by appearing in a larger syntactic unit, a particular subpart of the ideophone semantics is activated. We demonstrate it on this example:

Barsāt meM unkā cehrā cipcipā ho jātā hai jisse unkā mekap kharāb ho jāegā.

Rain in her face sticky gets thereby her makeup bad gets

Her face gets sticky in the rain and this causes her makeup to blur.

The right interpretation for the word cipcipā gets chosen in accordance with other elements of the first sentence. The whole situation of rain drops blending together with makeup results in understanding this ideophone as marking something as sticky and not, for example, greasy.

This context-dependent nature of ideophones also leads us to claim that it is a whole construction that shapes their meaning (cf. Tsujimura 2005). For such an analysis of context-dependent meanings, we consider the framework of Construction Grammar as most suitable, as it captures very well the interaction between language units such as words and sentences and the larger context they occur in (Fried 2009). It is impossible to determine a meaning of an ideophone without taking into consideration the meaning of a whole sentence.

To our knowledge there aren’t many corpus studies of ideophones in any language; for many languages with ideophones, there is no corpus material even to turn to. Hindi thus offers a unique opportunity to study their usage in authentic texts: there are many digitally available Hindi texts, including online sources, and there are also several electronic corpora (Intercorp, EMILLE). Primary sources of language data will be written texts taken mainly from Intercorp (predominately fiction) and from online blogs, both of which are rich in these expressions.

Our study is a first attempt to examine these Hindi ideophones in their natural environment and thus also ground any claims about this complicated phenomenon in authentic usage.

References


Revisiting orientation in –ly premodifying adverbs.

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Premodification within the English Adjective Phrase (hereafter AP) and, in particular, premodification by ‘-ly’ adverbs, is known to exhibit a number of features that typically characterise adverbials. One of these features is their range of meanings, such that the semantic classification that some grammars use for adverbials is also used to classify ‘-ly’ adverbs of the type discussed here: manner, space, time, order, degree, reason, concession, condition, and style- or content-related qualifications (Quirk et al., 1972: 276-7; Quirk et al. 1985: 448; Pullum & Huddleston 2002: 583).

Another feature associated with some adverbials is subject-orientation, that is, the transfer of the primary reference or characterization of the adverbial from the verb (or, in general, from the predication) to the accompanying subject. Like the adverbials’ semantic types, subject-orientation may also transfer to ‘-ly’ adverbs as premodifiers in APs. The conditions under which subject-orientation applies in adverbials have been described in the specialised literature and reference publications (Huang, 1975: 43-5; Quirk et al., 1972: 465-9; Quirk et al., 1985: 573; Mittwoch, Huddleston & Collins
2002: 672-3, 676-7), and is usually explained by the occurrence of a number of variables, among which lexical compatibility with the subject of the adjectival base from which the ‘-ly’ adverb is derived, and position of the adverb stand out.

This paper studies subject-orientation in premodifiers of adjectives realized by adverb phrases headed by ‘-ly’ adverbs, and also discusses their multiple reference as predication of a co-occurring noun, and as the manner or degree in which the quality described by the premodified adjective applies in the sentence, and as a comment on the sentence contents. Specifically, this paper explores the conditions which govern orientation, in particular the conditions that may explain why ‘-ly’ adverbs may not be oriented towards a co-occurring noun and only show adverbial meaning, may be oriented and at the same time retain adverbial meaning and, specially, may be oriented without any trace of adverbial meaning.

This paper is based on the bigrams of the type *ly_AJ? contained in the British National Corpus as accessed via the CQPweb site (http://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk). Specifically, it is based on the list of 54,928 bigrams (out of the initial list of 199,637 bigrams complying with the above query conditions) whose frequency of occurrence in the corpus is 1. This is the frequency range where the occurrence of intensifiers is lowest by comparison with other frequency ranges where the ‘-ly’ element is merely an intensifier and is therefore not relevant for the purposes of this paper, that is, this is the frequency range where the chance to find cases of orientation is highest, because the occurrence of intensifiers is higher in higher frequency ranges. The bigrams were classified based on the premodification patterns described in Pullum & Huddleston (2002: 583) and then supplemented by Quirk et al. (1972: 507-20) and Quirk et al. (1985: 448). This paper follows the latter two references for the description in terms of disjuncts of what the former presents as domain, modality, evaluation and speech-act relatedness that may surface as premodifiers within an AP.

References

**Dativer us ethicus and dative iudicantis in German from a constructional perspective.**

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In German the dative has a broad range of functions, some of which have been traditionally assigned to the peripheral category of the “free dative”, suggesting that they are not arguments of the verb. However, this category is not homogeneous with respect to syntactic structure and function. The subclasses known as *dativer commodi* (2), *dativer incommodi* (3), and the possessive dative (*dativer possessivus*) (4) resemble dative objects (1) in terms of syntactic structure. In a recent account combining valency theory and Construction Grammar (Welke 2011) they are treated as examples of unification/fusion of the ditransitive construction with non-ditransitive verbs:

1. **Sie gab mir ein Buch.**
   - She gave me a book.
2. **Sie kaufte mir ein Buch.**
   - She bought me a book.
On the other hand, the subclasses of *dativus iudicantis* (5) and the ethic dative (*dativus ethicus*) (6) occur in different syntactic structures than (2)-(4) and show multiple restrictions: comparatively fixed syntactic structures, use of the dative mainly in the first person singular (*mir*), presence of particles, pragmatic conditions, prosodic patterns, etc. (Abraham 1971, Wegener 1989).

These restrictions have not been studied empirically and still lack a convincing explanation. This paper focuses on these two latter subclasses of the “free dative” and seeks to determine their usage conventions. This will allow us to test to what degree the proposed restrictions hold, and to find out whether the two subclasses share properties which set them off from the other “free datives” ((2)-(4)).

The study follows a usage-based approach, since we assume that grammatical regularities are shaped by language use. Methodologically it is based on data from corpora of spoken present-day German, which are analyzed in quantitative and qualitative terms.

Departing from the identified restrictions and usage conventions, we propose to treat the *dativus iudicantis* and the ethic dative as constructions in the technical sense of this term (Goldberg 1995, 2006; Croft 2001). The theoretical framework of Construction Grammar allows us to represent the range of restrictions as well as the commonalities between the two subclasses of datives in a coherent way. As a result, the study will delineate the exact constructional make-up of the two constructions and facilitate an evaluation of their relative degrees of idiomaticity as compared to more schematic dative constructions ((1)- (4)).

This corpus study constitutes a first step towards the comprehensive description and explanation of the multiple functions of the dative in present-day German. A brief outlook takes a cross-linguistic perspective and compares the peculiarities of the German constructions with similar ones in other languages (such as Russian and Ancient Greek).

References


Formal and functional explanation in reflexive marking.

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Generative and functionalist modes of explanation differ not only in the explanatory forces they appeal to, but also in what they consider to be in need of explanation. I show that the two approaches frequently complement, rather than contradict, each other. Simply put: they often give different answers because they ask different questions. I argue that certain robust cross-linguistic generalizations must be explained by appeal to grammatical rather than functional factors, contra Haspelmath (2008); and I attempt to integrate the contributions of generative and functionalist approaches to the topic.

As starting point we take two of Haspelmath's (2008a,b) proposals regarding reflexive marking: On the distribution and form of “middle” reflexives, and on reflexive marking in possessives and locative PPs.

“Middle” reflexives (Faltz 1977) are reflexive markers whose use is restricted to a subset of all transitive verbs. Haspelmath observes that in languages that have a separate middle reflexive, its exponent is never longer than the corresponding primary reflexive: *zich* vs. *zichzelf* in Dutch, zero-marking vs. *himself* in English, etc. He proposes that frequency of use can account for this, and many other morphosyntactic asymmetries: “more frequent patterns are coded with less material.” (Haspelmath 2008a). But it is also predictable under a licensing-based theory like Reinhart and Reuland’s (1991) Reflexivity: Reflexivity is lexically licensed in verbs that take a middle reflexive; but the primary reflexive has to do more work, hence is likely to be longer.

A frequency account straightforwardly explains why middle reflexives must be used with verbs of grooming and other “self-directed” activities. Reflexivity makes no predictions about membership in this class, treating it as lexically specified. The two arguments are both valid and complementary: In view of cross-linguistic variation, membership of any particular verb in the middle-reflexive class cannot be predicted and hence must be lexically specified. But languages make “reasonable” (i.e., useful) choices for their grammars and lexicons; hence, this class is populated by frequently reflexive verbs, as Haspelmath demonstrates.

A subtler problem is posed by PPs containing a pro-form bound by the subject of the clause. Some languages use a reflexive for this purpose (e.g. German *neben sich*), while others use an ordinary pronoun (English *near him*). Haspelmath considers this a consequence of the very high frequency with which pro-forms in PPs are coreferential with the subject (30-50% in German locative PPs, for example). But this cannot be right: At these frequencies, the referent of the pro-form is less predictable (higher entropy/uncertainty) than for pro-forms in direct object position. Zipf’s (1949) economy principles, on which Haspelmath’s theory is founded, predict that it should be more important, not less, to make a distinction in coding. A licensing-based approach gives a ready explanation: Reflexivity has to be licensed within a single minimal predicate. Hence ordinary pronouns are almost never used as primary reflexives. But pro-forms in PPs need not be licensed (“exempt” positions, in Reinhart & Reuland’s terms), and hence vary freely under the competing functional pressures of economy and expressivity.

Another visit to BE supposed to.

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The BE supposed to construction has attracted some attention in the literature on language change because the development of an obligative (deontic) sense, e.g. (1), seems to break some well-established patterns of language change, in particular the tendency for constructions to develop from deontic to epistemic meanings and not vice versa.

1) A girl is not supposed to ask for an introduction to a man, but--low be it spoken--she often does; (1903. Devereux The Etiquette of Engagement and Marriage.)

It has been argued that SUPPOSE was borrowed with one original meaning (Berkenfield 2006, Moore 2007, Visconti 2004, Zeigler 2003), two (Traugott 1989), or three (Noël and van der Auwera 2009). However, research to date has relied on small
corpora, like ARCHER, or the OED, which is problematic. For example, while the argument presented by Noël and van der Auwera (2009) is convincing, the examples that the OED provides on which the argument is based are less so. For instance, the OED provides only the last line of (2). Outside the full context it does appear to be deontic. However, *is supposed to* here is not an instruction to do something; it is reporting an assumption relating the position on the map to the position on the ground, similar to *is supposed to be standing* in PDE.

2) SUR: Then I pray you, let me haue one to goe before me, alwaies to stand with a marke at (e)very angle.  
   BAY: There is one gone.  
   SUR: I see him: Loe, I stirre not the table, now it is truly rectified, and vpon this line I make a pricke, which is the very station where the instrument *is supposed to stand*. (1607. J. Norden Surveyors Dialogue)

In fact, none of the OED examples cited in Noël and van der Auwera (2009) have deontic meanings in their original context. This paper therefore presents the results from searches made of the *Early English Books Online*, a +500,000,000 word corpus of English texts dating between 1460 and 1720. I added a corpus of 18th Century English texts specially compiled from Project Gutenberg. In over 11,000 tokens, no deontic examples were found from before 1800. In samples of the same data, no ‘intend’ uses were found in the active either. However, although no bridging example exist in the passive form, there are examples of active *suppose(d)* that are ambiguous between ‘expectations’ and concepts like ‘wish/desire/hope’.

A possible solution is proposed, framed in usage-based construction grammar perspective (Goldberg 1995, Langacker 2008), in which *SUPPOSE / BE supposed to* is not considered in isolation, as it has to date. I conclude that the deontic sense of this construction arose by analogy to a schematic deontic passive construction that mirrors the Hearsay NCI (Noël 2001). The resulting semantic reanalysis of BE *supposed to* is argued to have been triggered partly by its functional overlap with the similar BE *expected to* deontic extension, but was partly social. This suggests that the bridging to the deontic BE *supposed to* may not be a case of ‘grammaticalisation’ *per se* and therefore not counter to any unidirectional path of change.

References

Patterns of neighbor contacts in Daghestan.

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More than 40 languages are spoken on the relatively small territory of mountainous Daghestan. People living in a traditional Daghestanian village normally speak 2-4 languages which are either unrelated or only distantly related. The linguistic repertoire may be different in two neighboring villages. The villages are usually homogenous from the point of
view of their L1, but the villages with different first languages may be in a walking distance from one another, with intensive social and economic contacts between them.

If two neighboring villages spoke languages A and B which were not mutually comprehensible, there were several possible patterns of language contact:
- one of two languages is chosen as a main means of communication. This meant that the language contact was asymmetrical, with one language community having good command of their neighbors' tongue (80-90% of dwellers), while the neighbors did not speak the language of the first community.
- using either language A or language B depending on the situation. This meant that the neighbor language contact was symmetrical, with both parties having some command of their neighbors' language.
- language C is used which is not native to either of the villages (lingua franca situation).

According to a field research undertaken by the author the asymmetrical pattern was a more frequent in Daghestan, the symmetrical situation was attested only once in the data, and the lingua franca situation was not attested (in traditional setting). The paper focuses on asymmetrical contacts and on which of the two languages becomes dominant in a particular contact situation. The aim of the paper is to identify the factors that trigger this choice. The study is based on an overview of several cases of asymmetrical neighbor contact situations as compared with one symmetrical situation.

The data was obtained through a particular method of investigating language contacts for unwritten languages, tested in 5 groups of mountain villages of Daghestan in 2009 - 2012. The method is based on short interviews with the speakers comprising the questions about the languages spoken by the respondent or used by him/her for other purposes (e.g. Arabic for reading Koran). The respondent is asked to answer the same set of questions about all his elder relatives he thinks he remembers well. The interviewer thus obtains information about the period which is inaccessible to a direct study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symmetrical contact pattern found in one cluster:</th>
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The asymmetrical contact pattern was found in the following clusters:
- Archib, Chittab, Shalib (dominating languages Avar and Lak, subordinate language Archi)
- Mehweb, Obokh (dominating language Avar, subordinate Mehweb)
- Khiv, Arkhit, Laka (dominating language Lezgian, subordinate Tabassaran)
- Mallakent, Chumli, Jangikent, Temenler (dominating language Kumyk, subordinate Dargwa)

The symmetrical contact pattern was found in one cluster:
- Chittab, Shalib (Avar and Lak respectively)

**Contact-induced “pattern replication” in the lexicon of the Balkan languages.**

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The Balkan Peninsula is the most appropriate and promising area for investigation of outcomes of prolonged language contacts between genetically not closely related Indo-European (and even Non-Indo-European) languages, especially in the realm of the lexicon. It was the first area identified as “Sprachbund” (linguistic area) where the situation “languages in contact” had ruled for centuries. In spite of quite long existence of Balkan linguistics (more than 180 years) the first atlas of the Balkan languages was initiated 15 years ago by a group of Russian linguists. It was the “Small Dialectological Atlas of the Balkan Languages” (SDABL), for which researchers from Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Russia and Serbia took part in the collection of linguistic data 1996-2005. The recent developments in the Balkan areal linguistics have concerned both lexical and grammar phenomena. So far 4 volumes describing exceptionally lexicon have been published; they are “Spiritual culture” (2005), “Human being. Family” (2006), “Animal breeding” (2009) and “Landscape” (2010). The maps of SDABL are of different types: (1) lexical (or lexical-etymological), (2) semantic (including patterns of polysemy), (3) describing the organization of a micro-field and (4) maps of lexical motivation, which are about one third and which often demonstrate amazing structural isomorphisms in the lexicon of the Balkan languages. The mapping of comparable or similar lexical phenomena helps to distinguish some Balkan linguistic sub-areas, which are the result of long-term “convergent language communities”, some lexical phenomena can lead to reconstructing of former contacts.

The contribution will deal mainly with structural isomorphism (“pattern replication”) in the phytonimical lexicon of the Balkan languages – the field of lexics which has not yet been described by SDABL and which will be treated in one of
Loan translations as the missing link between lexical and structural effects of contact.

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Loan translations occupy an ambiguous position among the effects of language contact. They instantiate lexical interference but without overt borrowing of words, that is, of phonological material. They also instantiate a form of structural interference because at the very least some semantic and combinatorial characteristics of the other language are imported. Because of the pervasive distinction in contact linguistics between codeswitching and structural contact-induced change, loan translations are usually discussed along with other kinds of structural contact effects (‘selective copying’ in Johanson 2002; ‘pattern borrowing’ in Matras 2008), but given the preference for syntactic phenomena in this research, there has not been much systematic study of loan translations. In addition, similarities with the prominent lexical contact phenomena, codeswitching and the adoption of loanwords, are under-researched because of this state of affairs.

In our contribution, we aim to point out what loan translations have in common with codeswitching, lexical borrowing and structural borrowing. Inspired by usage-based approaches to linguistic competence (e.g. Bybee 2010), we posit a continuum from more lexical to more structural contact effects, in which loan translations cover the full scale. We illustrate this continuum with examples from the Turkish as spoken by the immigrant community in Holland, based on data from a large range of studies, some published and some still on-going, that we have been involved in over a 20-year period. At the lexical side, we find foreign-inspired collocations of compound words (such as the Dutch Turkish rendition of ‘to play (a musical instrument)’, which combines the words for ‘play’ and ‘instrument’ (just like Dutch but unlike Turkish as spoken in Turkey where a verb meaning ‘knock’ or ‘hit’ would be used rather than ‘play’); at the structural side we find the Dutch-inspired use of function words and grammatical morphemes, such as the indefinite article or Dutch-type subcategorisation patterns. We will also argue that it is important to study this phenomenon in on-going contact settings, since this provides snapshots of change in progress (Backus, Doğruöz & Heine 2011). In particular, loan translations often contain the seeds of future structural change. Moreover, the study of linguistic practices in relatively new multilingual settings such as the Dutch-Turkish community reveals that items such as loan translations may become a conventionalized part of the communal repertoire rather quickly. For an item to become part of the community ‘linguistic norm’ does not always require a long

References
time: we will allude to Internet and acceptability judgment data that suggest that some loan translations have become the norm in the immigrant variety. What this analysis promises is an integration of lexical and structural analyses of contact effects, as well as a chance to close the gap between research on codeswitching and on structural contact linguistics.

**The relevance of nominal ellipsis with participial remnants in Old Romanian.**

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The facts.  
In the domain of nominal ellipsis, the comparison of Old (ORom) and Modern Romanian (MRom) shows a sharp contrast:

1. a. **Vindecatul** nu ştia cine iaste (Coresi, 1567–1568)  
   healed.DEF not know.IMPF who is  
   ‘The healed man did not know who he was.’

   b. Cum iertăm şi noi gрешiților noştri (Coresi, 1559–1560)  
   as forgive.IND.PRES.3SG as well we erred.DEF.DAT ours  
   ‘As we forgive the ones who made mistakes towards us.’

2. a. **Cel vindecat** nu știa cine este  
   DEF healed not know who is

   b. Cum îi iertăm noi pe cei care au gрешit  
   as CL.ACC forgive we PE DEF who have erred

In ORom (centuries 16-18), nominal ellipsis with (active/passive) past participles is licensed by the suffixal definite article (1), while in MRom it is the freestanding article **cel** that licenses ellipsis with participial or wh- remnants (2). The structures in (1) are no longer used.

The aim of the paper is to show how the relevance of this difference for the appearance of a second definite article (**cel**) in Romanian.

Empirical and theoretical distinctions.
In contrast to ORom and to the other Romance languages, MRom possesses two definite articles, in complementary distribution: (i) the suffixal article (-l, -a, -i, -le) attaches to the first noun or prenominal adjective of the DP (**băiatul** boy.def, **frumosul băiat** beautiful.def boy); (ii) the freestanding article **cel** occurs when the DP-initial position is occupied by a cardinal or ordinal quantifier (**cei trei oameni** def three men). **Cel** also occurs in polydefinite DPs, being preceded by a full definite DP (**copilul meu cel cuminte** child.def my def nice), with an information structure related function.

A theoretical distinction between **nominal ellipsis** and **substantivization** is called for. **Nominal ellipsis** is a Discourse Grammar phenomenon (Williams 1977, López 2000), which presupposes the PF-deletion of an anaphoric constituent otherwise syntactically present. **Substantivization** is a lexical process, which presupposes the incorporation of a silent noun (Kayne 2005) with a precise lexical content (e.g. [human] – **bolnovul** sick.def ‘the sick man’; [colour] – **galbenul** yellow.def ‘the yellow colour’), and is not subject to an anaphoricity condition.

MRom distinguishes strictly between nominal ellipsis (with **cel**) and substantivization (with the suffixal article) (Cornilescu, Nicolae 2012).

Our conclusions are based on the investigation of a corpus of texts from the 16th to the 19th century.

ORom, contrasting to MRom, possesses a single definite article, the suffixal one, which is equally used for licensing nominal ellipsis and for substantivization, like in other Romance languages (French, cf. Sleeman 1996). In the 16th century, the structure [past participle + suffixal article] marking nominal ellipsis is rather frequent (38 examples of type (1) in our corpus); however, it gradually disappears until the 19th century. It has currently survived in a few words (**bătuta** – name of a dance, **spusele** ‘the said things’).
This change is parallel to the grammaticalization of the article *cel*, which began in the 17th century (Iordan, Manoliu 1965; Nicolae 2012, 2013), when the structure [past participle + suffixal article] had already become rare; as to nominal ellipsis and substantivization, the two articles gradually specialised their function, eliminating the ambiguity typical of ORom. It is the grammaticalization of *cel* that has allowed for this specialisation of the two Romanian definite articles.

References

**Standard average European East and West: perfects under two rooves.**

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In the conclusion to his edited volume in the eurotyp Series on adverbs, Johan van der Auwera (1998b: 824) introduces the term “Charlemagne Sprachbund” to refer to the area of western Europe where languages adhere to an array of similar grammatical patterns and thus provide evidence for the existence of a European linguistic area, also called “Standard Average European” (SAE). Van der Auwera notes that the “core” languages of the Sprachbund are French, German, and Dutch, with Italian and Polish closely linked—all located within or near the area ruled by Charlemagne. Besides coining this evocative term, van der Auwera makes an additional significant contribution in this work: he concludes, following Kortmann (1998b: 530-535), that “Standard Average European” should more accurately be split into “Standard Average Eastern European” and “Standard Average Western European” (van der Auwera 1998: 120).

In this paper, the validity of both of these claims—the existence of the Charlemagne Sprachbund and the split of SAE into East and West—is explored in detail, through a close examination of the distribution of the periphrastic perfects across the map of Europe. The perfects of Europe turn out to be remarkably well-suited to the task: within western Europe, the perfects, formed with have and be auxiliaries, show a layering of nuclear, core, and peripheral distribution like that noted by Haspelmath (1998, 2001) for other structural features, and thus provide solid evidence for the accuracy of the Charlemagne Sprachbund as a construct (Drinka, forthcoming). Within eastern Europe, on the other hand, perfects are built especially with be auxiliaries, and show a different distribution, one reminiscent of that noted by Kortmann (1998a, 1998b) for adverb clauses. What emerges as most influential in the west / east split is the role played by “roof” languages, Latin and Greek, and the early cultural divide connected with Roman Catholicism and Greek Orthodoxy.

References

Analytic versus periphrastic modality in English.

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It is well-known that English has lexical and grammatical strategies to express modality. The main subject of study has consistently been the grammatical expression of modality, particularly the core modal verbs can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, might, must (Palmer 2001; Perkins 1982; Coates 1983; Lyons 1977; Traugott and Dasher 2005, pp. 105-151). In the past few years, some attention has also been paid to lexical means for expressing modality, for example the modal adverbs probably, possibly, certainly, well, ... (Nuyts 2001, 2009). The combination of these particular strategies – which I will call ‘periphrastic modality’ (1-4) – has been under-researched and lacks a solid framework (see Hoye 1997; Shibasaki 2004, 2009; Nykiel 2010).

1) How our company health check-up may well have saved lives.
(http://www.sappipositivity.com/how-our-company-health-check-may-well-have-saved-lives)

2) The most important rule in our development is always to do the simplest thing that could possibly work.
(http://www.xprogramming.com/Practices/PracSimplest.html)

3) It will probably come right away. We'll see.

4) Facilitators might certainly grow their sequence.
(http://eyeofcolombo.com/facilitators-might-certainly-grow-their-sequence/)

Although most modal verbs have been attested to decline in frequency in Present Day English (Krug 2001; Kennedy 2002; Leech 2003; Leech et al. 2009), will, would, can, could and might seem to resist this change more than the others (Close and Aarts 2010, pp. 167-168; Leech et al. 2009, pp. 72-73). Incidentally, it is these (often epistemic) verbs that collocate with modal adverbs (Hoye 1997; Shibasaki 2004, 2009) (curiously in addition to may, which, in spite of decline, frequently combines with well). The main topic for investigation deals with the question whether there is a competition dynamic between analytic (i.e. the core) and periphrastic modal constructions. In order to answer this, it needs to be addressed in what way the collocation of the higher frequency modals with modal adverbs is responsible for this resistance/persistence. In other words: are the periphrastic constructions the reason for the persistence of the mentioned modals or is the higher frequency of these modals responsible for their now periphrastic nature? It is shown that several processes of change are at work in modal collocation resulting in a continuum of utterances displaying degrees of lexical and grammatical constructionalisation.

A corpus study on data from (Early) Modern English until roughly the 20th Century on could and may with their adverb satellites reveals co-occurrence patterns within the same sentence as well as the development of modal (ad)verbs in isolation. On the basis of a descriptive analysis of the co-occurrence patterns, periphrastic modality is defined. As the study takes a cognitive-functional approach with reference to construction grammar, it consequently shows that periphrastic modality should be understood as an emerging construction with strong internal dependencies and a level of schematicity. This, in turn, explains why the modal verbs that often collocate with modal adverbs have resisted a decline in use.

References
The Polish language features a wealth of consonant clusters, which are known to be numerous, varied in length, and complex in their phonotactics. There are approximately 1,400 clusters in Polish and they are composed of two to a maximum of six consonants, e.g. /pt/, /skr/, /gzmj/, /mpstf/, /ntfzvj/, etc. Although no clusters of length seven or more have been recorded in our data, longer clusters are possible because the processes which might make new and longer clusters appear in the language are very much alive. A lesser studied aspect of the Polish consonant clusters is the fact that a fairly large number of them appear to be present in words which form specific lexical categories. The paper will present a quantitative and qualitative analysis of long clusters which belong to specific lexical categories (grammatical or semantic).

It is noteworthy that a significant number of (longer) clusters are triggered by concatenative morphology, e.g. /fist/ as in ws-trzymać ‘to withhold’ and non-concatenative morphology, e.g. /brvij/, as a result deletion of a root vowel, as in brwiowy ‘eyebrow’ (ATTR.) ← brew ‘eyebrow’ (NOM.SG.) or word final /mpstf/, /ntfzvj/, as a result of zero-Genitive-Plural formation, as in przestępstw ‘offence’ (GEN.PL.) ← przestępstwo ‘offence’ (NOM.SG.).

The resources studied are: a collection of newspaper texts spanning two full years (48.6 million tokens, 630k types) and a list of approx. 190k inflectional forms generated on the basis of a dictionary for learners of Polish featuring 8,000 basic core vocabulary items, both transcribed to IPA with the use of software designed and implemented by a member of the research team, and recently made available on-line as an interactive tool.

This study puts the following research questions: (a) which long consonant clusters appear in which resource, (b) what grammatical categories are mapped by which clusters, (c) what lexical categories are mapped by which clusters, (d) what is the morphological structure of longer clusters. The methods used are distributional, where clusters and example words are extracted from a resource, and lexical, where grammatical and semantic categories are identified and analysed.

Statistical analyses will be presented for all the findings with regard to the nature of long clusters in Polish. This presentation will provide explanations of: (a) what determines the form and number of long consonant clusters in a particular language...
resource, (b) why the Polish language avoids or prefers specific clusters that are correlated with specific lexical categories.

This study also shows that the resources used – despite their size – prove to be insufficient for an exhaustive study of long clusters, and what’s necessary is queries of other resources for individual clusters that are known to exist, but happen to be absent from our resources. This will be shown using as examples the ‘families’ of clusters present in words with the prefixes kontr- ‘counter’ (eg. /ntrb/, /ntrt/, /ntrf/, etc) and wewnątrz- ‘inside, intra-’ (eg. /ntʃg/, /ntʃgm/, /ntʃd/, /ntʃk/, etc).

References

Binding of reflexives in second language acquisition: the relevance of finiteness morphology.

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One important finding and longstanding generalization in the research on binding of reflexives in second language acquisition (SLA) of English is that SLA learners more readily allow for non-local binding across a non-finite clause than across a finite clause. That is, they are typically more willing to allow for the coreference of himself and George in 1a than herself and Helen in 1b. This is known as the “tense-infinitive asymmetry” (TIA) in SLA reflexive binding and is even attested in SLA of other languages, e.g. Norwegian (cf. Busterud, forthcoming). Several attempts have been made to explain the TIA, by means of syntactic and semantic theories.

1. a. George wants the manager to praise himself.
   b. Helen knows that her mother always sees herself on television.

In this paper we take as our point of departure the study on binding of reflexives by Japanese SLA learners of English reported in Matsumura (2007). The experiments in this study were set up so as to reveal the exact scope of the TIA, and Matsumura concludes that the explanation for this asymmetry must be sought, not in syntax, but in semantics. Indeed, the asymmetry is caused by the SLA informants being sensitive to the degree of factivity expressed by the embedding and embedded predicates involved in depicting the situation described by a particular embedding configuration, the author argues. By varying the degree of factivity expressed by the predicates in the individual sentences presented to informants, the author claims to achieve interpretable differences reflected by the willingness of informants to violate the otherwise rather strict locality requirement of reflexives in the English target language (cf. the examples in 1a versus 1b).

Our paper closely examines the individual test sentences in Matsumura’s study and show that the alleged variation in degree of factivity is not the only relevant difference in these sentences. In fact, the varying degree of factivity, as the author defines it, strictly and in fact quite strikingly correlates with the occurrence and combination of complementizers, auxiliaries and main verbs in these English sentences. Thus, the author ignores and fails to exclude potentially very important variables, basically syntactic, not semantic, in nature.
The patterns attested by Matsumura are explained by exploiting the finiteness theory of Eide (2008, 2009ab) which claims that the morphological finiteness feature in modern English is unevenly distributed across main verbs and auxiliaries. Main verbs do not productively show finiteness distinctions, unlike auxiliaries have and be. Modals and auxiliary do are always morphologically finite. In addition to Eide’s finiteness generalizations, we use the theory of Nordström (2010), who argues that the subordinators IF and THAT in Germanic languages are syntactic expressions of subjunctive and indicative moods, respectively. Combining these theories, we reject Matsumura’s claim that SLA learners prevalingly use semantic cues in deciding the relevant locality binding domain of reflexives. Instead, we will build a case that the attested cues are, in fact, all syntactic.

References

Applying process research to analyze translators’ use of the web as corpus.

Enriquez, Raido
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Studies of the translation process and its features have been mushrooming ever since introspection, usually in the form of thinking aloud, was borrowed from the field of psychology. More recently, the adoption of ever-more sophisticated methods and tools such as keystroke-logging, eye-tracking and screen-recording software has further contributed to an already significant body of knowledge on translation processes. In this paper, I will provide an overview of these methods and tools, and discuss the pros and cons of their application in examining the use of the Web as Corpus, or WAC (De Schryver 2002), for translation problem solving and decision making. Following this overview, I will argue that screen recorders are among the most effective and least obtrusive tools available for observing translation patterns (cf. Asadi and Séguintot 2005; Gópferich 2008; Angelone 2012) and translation choices that may have been influenced by the use of multilingual Web-based information. To illustrate how research in this area could shed new light on behavioral patterns in corpus-based translation studies, I will present a process-oriented study that I carried out to explore the Web search behaviors of a small group of six participants—four translation students in their first year of study and two translators with three and 15 years of professional experience, respectively—in connection with various user attributes (translation and Web search expertise, and domain knowledge) and task attributes (translation brief, text type, and degree of specialization). In doing so, I will show how qualitative analyses supported by descriptive statistics can be used to process research data and provide a multi-faceted overview of subjects’ use of the WAC, in particular their depth and range of search, their degree of iterative behavior, as well as their query construction and query modification patterns, among others. Finally, I will outline the main findings of the study, which suggest that users’ level of translation expertise has a bearing on the choice of information sources—which, in turn, seems to affect the degree of iterative Web search behaviors. A look at task-related factors suggests that increased task complexity (along with increased translation experience) also has an impact on users’ choice of resources. Furthermore, task-related attributes appear to have a greater impact on the range of search behaviors than on the depth of research. In addition, it was possible to observe that the lower the level of Web search expertise (and translation expertise) was, the more basic and unplanned the search statements and the less sophisticated the refinement of queries were. Finally, both domain knowledge and task factors seem to have a combined
effect on the amount and type of translation-related information needs. In general, the higher the level of perceived domain knowledge is, the lower the number of information needs and the less specialized the nature of these needs are. Furthermore, both the type of research and the amount of time spent online appear to influence translation quality. Overall, the more in-depth the nature of research and the higher the increase in research time, the higher the level of translation quality.

References

The insertion of voiced fricative sibilants in Northern Basque.

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In language contact situations it is very common to have the less prestigious language being influenced by the most prestigious one, but the contrary is also attested (Heine & Kuteva 2005). Basque is considered a ‘vulnerable’ language (Moseley 2010), one that lives in a diglossic situation with respect to two of the world’s most powerful languages; Spanish and French. Nowadays, all Basque speakers are bilingual with either French or Spanish, and this language contact situation makes Basque very prone to borrowings from these two languages.

The case of phonetic features is of a special relevance in external variation and change phenomena, given that it is widely assumed that, in cases of language contact, phonetic features are amongst the easiest ones to borrow (Silva-Corvalán 2001). In this poster, we will focus on the addition of two French voiced fricative sibilants, the apico-alveolar and the prepalatal, both units absent in the Basque varieties at the heart of this study. These phonemes occur almost exclusively in the borrowed vocabulary (Hualde 1991, 2003).

In our data, the insertion of these units appeared to be associated with differences in age. We will focus on three age groups: youngs (-30), middle-aged (40-60) and octogenarians (+70) from the traditional provinces of Lapurdi, Low Navarre and Zuberoa (France). All of the informants (60) have the Basque language as their mother tongue and home language, but the older ones received education only in French language and use French in formal (and often informal) situations, in oral and in written communication. The data come from recorded interviews —individual as well as in-group— held in Basque, and from specific questionnaires and word lists (944 items) used in our project Norantz: contact des langues et variation linguistique. Création d’un observatoire des nouveaux parlers basques. A sample of data is analysed in detail with the Praat speech analysing program in order to study the voiced or voiceless condition of each unit.

Language variation can mark stable class differences or stable sex differences in communities, but it can also indicate instability and change. When it marks change, the primary social correlate is age (Chambers 2002), and the change reveals itself prototypically in a pattern whereby some minor variant in the speech of the oldest generation occurs with greater frequency in the middle generation and with still greater frequency in the youngest generation. If the incoming variant truly represents a linguistic change (Labov 1994, Trudgill 1974), as opposed to an ephemeral innovation as for some slang expressions or an age-graded change, it will be marked by increasing frequency down the age scale, as it occurs with the younger generation in this community.

References
Non-standard orthography and cultural dissonance in From a Pitman’s Notebook by Arthur Eaglestone.

Escott, Hugh
(University of Sheffield)

‘All my life I have been bound within the turgid flow of mediocrity [...] One struggles as for one’s very soul for days and weeks on end against the utter placidity of the daily thought and common speech of such a place as Tollgate. The most unthinking miner seems far happier than I.’ Eaglestone (1925)

In 1925 Arthur Eaglestone (aka Roger Dataller) published his first book From a Pitman’s Notebook, an autobiographical journal in which he documented his experiences of working in a South Yorkshire coal-mine. A pit time-keeper Eaglestone was heavily invested in literature and high art, but frustrated by his cultural environment and this intellectual frustration is evident in his notebook.

In this paper I will be examining how Eaglestone’s use of non-standard orthography (Kress 2000, Sebba 2007) to represent the speech of the South Yorkshire miners and their families, is one of the ways in which the tensions between Eaglestone’s aspirations to succeed in ‘legitimate culture’ (Lahire 2008) and his regional working-class identity are played out. Examining Eaglestone’s use of non-standard orthography within the social milieu of the period in which it was published and also its position within his literary language system underlines the author’s experiences of cultural dissonance and explores ideas concerning the ‘ensemble of properties that define [an author’s] historically determined space’ (Lahire 2010).

This investigation takes the form of a ‘ficto-linguistic’ reading (Ferguson 1998) of Eaglestone’s journal which examines the ‘systems of language’ that appears within this notebook and also draws on meta-linguistic comment (Jaworski et.al 2004) and folk-linguistic beliefs (Niedzielski and Preston 2003, Lippi-Green 2012) concerning language from newspaper reviews of this journal at the time of its publication. Reviewers combined linguistic value judgements with literary criticism in their reviews making comments concerning the ‘bad’ language of the miners and their use of ‘trammelling dialect’ in contrast to Eaglestone as a ‘sensitively articulate’ miner. The notebook itself serves as an attempt by Eaglestone to join the ‘legitimate culture’ of the literary middle-classes meaning that he has to negotiate a complex set of identities as well as create a work of literary value. However in order to achieve this Eaglestone relies on his readers’ evaluations of his authenticity as a member of the mining-class and his position as an articulate and trustworthy guide for middle class readers.

Investigating the use of non-standard orthography in this way provides insight into how spelling functions as social practice and how dialect representation contributes to the ‘idea of authenticity’ in identity formation (Hakala 2010: 389, Coupland 2010).

References


The impact of translation direction on the characteristics of translated texts: 
a multivariate analysis for English and German.

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The idea of translation universals (for a critique cf. House 2008, Becher 2011) predicts that, regardless of the source language, all translations share some typical features that allow us to distinguish translated from non-translated texts.

By contrast, Toury (1995)’s law of interference claims that a difference in prestige between two languages may lead to a unidirectional tendency, in which translations from the more prestigious language into the less prestigious one show stronger interference from the source language than in the opposite translation direction.

If the universals hypothesis is correct then a multivariate analysis should systematically separate translated from non-translated texts. If Toury’s law of interference is correct, the multivariate analysis should reveal different characteristics of translations depending on the translation direction. A strong universals hypothesis would be refuted if this latter hypothesis is confirmed for a given language pair. This does not preclude the possibility of a weaker hypothesis that claims that translations display some typical properties.

In the research presented here, we explore the validity of this hypothesis based on a selection of 300 texts from the CroCo corpus of English-German and German-English translations (Hansen-Schirra et al. 2012) and using the linguistic indicators proposed by Neumann (forthcoming).

Using machine-learning techniques such as linear discriminant analysis (LDA) and support vector machines (SVM), we were able to distinguish translations from originals with an accuracy of up to 90% in our corpus. A first exploration of the data (Diwersy et al. to appear) showed a slight tendency of German translations to move in the direction of the English source texts in a multivariate visualisation, which was not the case for English translations. This was seen as an indication of Toury’s law of interference from more prestigious English.

The present paper investigates these findings in more detail, building on the combination of multivariate analysis, visualisation and minimally supervised machine learning introduced by Diwersy et al. (to appear). In particular, we investigate in which way translations differ from parallel and comparable texts depending on the language and translation direction. The multivariate approach enables us to detect hidden patterns of feature combinations that cannot be observed in conventional frequency-based analyses such as Neumann (forthcoming), providing new evidence on the validity of unidirectional interference.

A key challenge at this stage is to find meaningful “latent dimensions”, i.e. combinations of features which account for the different properties of German-English and English-German translations. The detailed linguistic examination of these latent dimensions will ultimately advance our understanding of feature bundles that are responsible for the distinctiveness of translated texts.

References

Starting at least with Tesnière’s remarks on motion in French and German (1959; see also Bally 1932), researchers have noticed that languages differ in the way they encode motion events. The verb-framed vs satellite-framed typology proposed by Talmy (1985) and taken up a.o. by Slobin (1996) has been the focus of many studies in the last twenty or thirty years (e.g. Bohnemeyer et al. 2007, Filipović 2007, Beavers et al. 2010, Croft et al. 2010). It is now commonly assumed, for instance, that Germanic and Slavonic languages are satellite-framed, i.e. tend to express the path component of motion events in a satellite, as in (1), and that Romance languages are verb-framed, i.e. tend to express the path component in the verb, as in (2).

(1) eine Frau läuft aus der Höhle raus von der Kamera weg
   “a woman walks (out) out of the cave, away from the camera”

(2) une dame sort d’une sorte de grotte entourée d’arbres pour aller on ne sait où
   “a lady exits from some kind of cave surrounded by trees and goes somewhere”

Various studies have insisted on the need for more refined distinctions (cf. Beavers et al. 2010 for a recent overview). It has been argued that, in order to capture cross-linguistic and intra-linguistic variation, we should consider ‘language strategies’ rather than ‘language types’ (Beavers et al. 2010:331, Croft et al. 2010:202, Hickmann & Robert 2006:5, Fortis & Vittrant 2011). Concerning Romance, various authors have noted the existence of SF features in some varieties at least (Gsell 1982, Berthele 2006, Iacobini & Masini 2006, Cini 2008, Iacobini 2009, Bernini 2010), possibly on account of language contact. Do these invalidate Talmy’s typology?

This is the issue we address here. With a language elicitation tool made of 76 video-clips, we gathered data from five European languages: Swedish, German, Polish, French and Piedmontese. The tool in question was built specifically to elicit descriptions of paths in ‘natural’ contexts (beach, park, mountain, etc.), with various manners of motion (walking, running, jumping) and from various perspectives (with similar scenes viewed from different angles). On the basis of these data (e.g. (1)-(2) above), amounting to approximately 10,000 sentences (100,000 words), we analysed the strategies adopted by participants in describing the scenes and compare both languages as a whole and participant strategies. There are clear differences between languages. Thus, deixis is expressed much more frequently in German than elsewhere, and is particularly rare in Piedmontese and Polish. Manner of motion is expressed most frequently in German and Polish; its frequency in Swedish is lower than expected, and it is expectedly low in French and Piedmontese. Finally, we observed that these differences are not exactly those predicted by a simple verb-framed/satellite-framed distinction, with strong within-type differences between German and Swedish, as well as between French and Piedmontese. Another important result is the high interindividual variation, within each language. The initial research question may therefore need to be rephrased, asking to what extent a language ‘imposes’ a given strategy to its speakers.

References
Resultative constructions headed by denominal and deadjectival verbs.

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Aim and data

The aim of our talk is to explore the relationship between Romanian denominal/deadjectival verbs, like the ones in (1) and what we have called Romanian metaphorical resultatives or result(ative) expressions, like the ones in (2):

(1)  
a. *îngheța* ‘to freeze, to become frozen’ (derived by prefixation: *în* ‘in/into’ + *gheață* ‘ice’)  
b. *a răci* ‘(to cause to) become cold/to catch a cold’ (derived by conversion)

(2)  
a. Lacul *înghețat* bocnă.  
Lake.the AUX.3SG freeze.PRF bone  
‘The lake froze solid.’  
(The lake froze as hard as the bone.)

b. Prietenul meu *a ăcit* cobză.  
Friend.the my aux.3SG catch a cold.PRF kobsa  
‘My friend caught a terrible cold.’  
(My friend caught such a terrible cold that his voice sounded like a kobsa.)

Such constructions have either been overlooked in the approaches to Romanian resultatives (cf. Lupșa 2004, Drăgan 2005,
or if included in the class of resultatives, they have not been given a (detailed) analysis (cf. Ionescu 1998, Baciu 2007).

Research questions
This presentation provides an l-syntactic account of these derived verbs and these result constructions in the spirit of Ramchand (2008) and it addresses three major research questions:

A. Given the co-occurrence restrictions of such derived verbs in such predicate constructions because of the existence of a shared l-syntactic structure and some shared crucial properties (cf. Hale and Keyser 1993, Gumiel et al. 1999 a.o.), how is it possible to build resultatives, like (2a), given that the N gheatâ ‘ice’ the verb is derived from occupies the same syntactic position as the NP predicate bocnâ ‘bone’, i.e. complement of RP (Ramchand 2008)?

B. Given that Ramchand’s (2008) Underassociation is proposed for English denominal/deadjectival verbs (where the N/A feature is underassociated), as well as for resultative constructions (where the res feature is underassociated), what differences do we find in the way this linguistic phenomenon manifests itself in the correspondent derived verbs and predicate structures in Romanian?

C. Based on our Romanian data, is it legitimate to ask the question whether there are resultatives constructions in Romanian or not?

Proposed answers

A. Based on our Romanian data we confirm the general statement that although there are co-occurrence restrictions on building resultative structures with denominal/deadjectival verbs, these derived verbs are compatible in a result configuration if the predicate highlights the degree of the outcome of the event, intensifies the action of the verb or further specifies the final state codified in the meaning of the verb, but it cannot delimit its event. Based on the data put forth for English (Ramchand 2008), we argue that Romanian denominal/deadjectival verbs are derived by incorporating the N/A feature from complement-of-res position into the upper res head; thus, deriving [(init), proc, res]-type of verbs.

B. Similarly to English, in Romanian denominal/deadjectival verbs the N/A feature is underassociated, hence, making the addition of the result predicate possible. As opposed to English, in Romanian resultative constructions the res feature of the same verb is not underassociated, as the res functional head must be identified by the verb itself (i.e. it cannot be left null and it cannot be identified by the predicate or the preposition heading the predicate).

C. Although there are important distinctions between English and Romanian resultatives both in matter of frequency and in matter of typology, this should not lead to the general conclusion that there are no resultatives in Romanian. We argue that the basic question is not whether there are result structures in Romanian or not, but what kind of resultatives we find in this language and, naturally, why.

References


Many languages systematically categorize their nominal vocabulary into groups. This can happen along the lines of a gender system, as in Italian, where nouns are assigned to either the masculine or the feminine gender. Another possibility is a system of classifiers, as in the Austronesian language Kilivila, which distinguishes at least 177 categories (Senft 1996), based on semantic properties, for example long and flexible objects, pots, or wooden objects. For the most part a language will have only one system or the other. To have both gender and classifiers is a relatively rare type (see for example Aikhenvald (2000) and Seifart (2005)).

Mian, a Papuan language of Papua New Guinea, is such a language. It has a gender system with four genders: masculine, feminine, and two neuter genders. Agreement targets are the articles, pronouns and person indices on the verb. In addition there are six classifiers: an M-class (containing male referents), an F-class (containing female referents), long objects, bundles, objects which cover something, and a residue class. These classifiers have the form of prefixes on verbs of object handling or movement, such as ‘give’, ‘take’, ‘throw’ and ‘fall’. Agreement in gender and number with the controller *fút* ‘tobacco (neuter)’ and the use of the classifier *tob-* ‘long object (sg)’ is illustrated in example (1):

\[(1) \quad \text{nē} \quad \text{fút}=e \quad \text{tob-ò-n-i=a} \]
\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{1SG} & \text{tobacco=ART.SG.N} \\
\text{3SG.LONG.O-take-SS} & \text{1SG.SBJ=and} \\
\end{array}
\]
\[
\text{‘I take the long tobacco leaf and then I ...’}
\]

Although linguists agree that there is a distinction between gender and classifier systems, the definitions vary. Furthermore, there are clearly intermediary cases. Therefore I take a canonical approach (Corbett 2011; Brown, Chumakina, and Corbett 2012) to give a precise characterization of both Mian categorization systems, based on their behaviour with respect to the standard criteria given in the literature (cf. Dixon 1982; Dixon 1986; Aikhenvald 2000; Grinevald 2000). The Mian gender system is canonical in all respects, while the classifiers constitute a more mixed system with properties of both types of nominal categorization. For example, they encode classifier-type shape distinctions, such as ‘long object’, but their occurrence as verbal prefixes is more reminiscent of the agreement affixes characteristic of gender systems. It is expected that it should be the Mian gender system which is canonical rather than the classifier system given the language’s morphological type. Mian is an inflecting (synthetic) language with the agreement morphology necessary for canonical gender systems. Canonical classifiers, on the other hand, are rather associated with isolating languages.

The Mian evidence shows that we as linguists must not see nominal categorization systems as discrete entities but that they are better captured as being more or less close to a canonical ideal. This allows us to integrate into our typology the intermediate cases we find in the languages of the world.

References
This talk will present preliminary results of an ongoing documentation project focusing on Ts’ixa, an Eastern Kalahari Khoe language spoken by about 150 people in northeastern Botswana. Ts’ixa is a predominantly aspect-marking language, with its aspectual system being based upon a PERFECTIVE - IMPERFECTIVE opposition. Ts’ixa has a special marker, the particle n|ge, which is primarily found in narrative texts, but sometimes also in constructions that emphasise a causal connection between two successive events (ex. 1).

(1) baa=m ko ||?oo-no ti ka damaxu=m n|ge ||?e.m.xa.  
father=sg.M IPFV die-SUB 1sg POSS sibling.y=sg.M NARR headman  
‘When my father died my brother became headman.’

There is some evidence to suggest that in stories, events on the main narrative line are encoded by n|ge, while background information, depending on the context, is encoded by PERFECTIVE or IMPERFECTIVE constructions. Syntactically, n|ge behaves like Tense/Aspect/Mode (TAM)-marking particles in that its default position is after the subject of the sentence. When pro-drop occurs, it either follows the verb or the discourse referential markers thia (tha) and thoo whose exact functions still need to be determined.

n|ge is different from other TAM-marking particles in that it is not negated by the default negation suffix -ʔite, but by the suffix -tee which is attached to the verb stem (ex.2).

(2) ||Ǉū-xa=dzi n|ge múū-a ?áa-tee u=si lūū ka te kau ta.  
parent-=pl.F NARR see-LINK know-NARR.NEG one=sg.F child POSS PRF stay COMP  
‘The mothers did not notice one of the children had stayed behind.’

It is argued that clauses marked by n|ge perpetuate the continuation of action on the main narrative line. The sequence of actions thereby strictly follows chronological order. Only events that actually further the storyline, i.e. that move the narration-internal timeline forward, are marked by n|ge (ex. 3a-c).

(3a) hii-lūū haaka-se tha n|ge kūū-ʔa ||ʔam goč=sa ?a.  
tree-DIM bring-ADV DRM NARR go-LINK beat cattle=sg.F ACC  
‘Taking a stick, [she] went to beat the cow.’

(3b) tha goč=si n|ge tan.  
DRM cattle=sg.F NARR stand.up  
‘Then the cow stood up.’

(3c) ?e.si n|ge ya-a tan tha ?e.sera n|ge kuun na=sera ka  
||ʔae=m ?o.  
home=sg.M LOC  
‘She rode on it and then they went to their home.’
Situations that form an ongoing background setting for the main narrative line or stretch across a sequence of singular events are marked by the imperfective ko (ex.4):

(4) mĩ=m-tha   |lui  ?e-na   ko   k’ụ̋-se   khoe=si  ka  |lũũ=a-si  n|ge  |lʔora.
  ‘While they were only living like that, the woman’s child grew up.’

In contrast, the perfective -ha encodes completed events and situations that supplement the main narrative line without moving the timeline forward (ex.5):

(5) biyee=dzi  n|ge  |l|gai-ku  |lũũ=dzi  lxa.  lau-se  |l|gai-na-ha.
  zebra=pl.F  NARR  run-REC  child=pl.F  COM  be.big-ADV  run-LINK-PFV
  ‘The zebras ran together with the children. It was a big run.’

The relevance of scalar implicatures: evidence from shallow processing of connectives AND and OR.

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On one prominent view, common in neo-Gricean approaches (e.g., Levinson 2000, Horn 2006), scalar implicatures like “but not both” in the exclusive interpretation of the conjunction or “A or B but not both”, are generated automatically by default. On another, equally influential view, advocated by Relevance Theory, scalar implicatures are generated only in contexts in which they are relevant, viz. they yield a significant cognitive effect at a reasonable processing cost (Sperber and Wilson 1987/1995, Wilson and Sperber 2012). Although some recent psycholinguistic experiments, performed to assess the opposing predictions of these two major theories of the way scalar implicatures arise, apparently disfavor the neo-Gricean view (Bott and Noveck 2004, Breheny et al. 2006, Huang and Snedeker 2009), the results have been contested (Feeney et al. 2004, Grodner et al. 2010).

We have addressed this debate by performing an experiment based on a form of ‘shallow’ processing. We tested the processing of two connectives in Hungarian: and and or, in a sentence-picture verification task similar to those used in the mental simulation literature (e.g., Stanfield and Zwaan, 2001; Zwaan et al., 2002). Each picture was preceded by a sentence describing a scenario with two objects, appearing as NPs conjoined either by and or by or (Connective Type), e.g., John peeled the orange and/or the banana. The state of the two objects either matched or mismatched (Congruence) the scenario explicitly described in the previous sentence. For example, in the mismatching condition of and-sentences only one of the two objects was peeled (incongruently with and’s entailment). In the case of or-sentences, both objects were peeled in the mismatching condition (incongruently with or’s implication). Participants’ task was unrelated to both Connective Type and Congruence: they had to decide if both of the two objects have been mentioned in the previous sentence or not (without considering the states of the objects depicted). The dependent measure was response time to picture stimuli. As the implicature associated with or would not yield any effect in terms of the task itself, on Relevance Theoretic assumptions it should not arise.

Preliminary results with 33 participants suggest that there is a significant interaction between Connective Type (and/or) and Picture Congruence (matching/mismatching), F(1, 31)=5.960, p=0.021. The main effect of Congruence was marginally significant, F(1, 31)=3.371, p=0.076. Connective Type did not reveal a significant main effect, F(1, 31) = 0.491, p = 0.489. Importantly, mismatching pictures were verified significantly slower than matching pictures only in the case of sentences with and-connectives, t(32)=2.160, p=0.038. Such a congruence effect was not yielded after the or-sentences, t(31)=0.159, p=0.875.

Our results indicate that, in this task, while the entailment of the connective and was computed automatically, the implicature of or was not activated. This finding supports the Relevance Theoretic approach to scalar implicatures over neo-Gricean accounts. Further, it may also be readily interpreted in the broader context of “good-enough” (Ferreira et al. 2002) or “shallow” cognitive representations (Louwerse and Jeuniaux 2010).
References
Parallel texts and cross-linguistic correlations.

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In this paper we shall present quantitative data and cross-linguistic correlations gained from ‘translational’ parallel textual material.

Syllable complexity and word length are considered as important variables in language typology. But how to compare languages with respect to syllable complexity? Should one count the maximally elaborate syllable type or the predominant syllable type in a language (Maddieson 2009). And how to compare word length in different languages - on the basis of lexicon entries or on the basis of textual material? In our ongoing project we are using parallel textual material (i) for cross-linguistic comparisons concerning these variables and (ii) to ascertain cross-linguistic correlations in the language system.

Material. In order to make large-scale cross-linguistic comparisons, we need first of all a textual material that is easily translatable in a large number of languages. Moreover, the possibilities or the freedom of the translations should be minimized. Simple declarative clauses encoding one proposition and using a rather basic vocabulary meet these conditions; they also seem to be universal from a syntactic perspective (Quite a number of languages use almost exclusively a series of minimal-predications instead of more complex sentences. Cf. Sasse 1993, Heeschen 1994). Thus we constructed a set of 22 simple declarative sentences as source text. Examples for the test sentences are: *The sun is shining. I thank the teacher. The spring is on the right. Grandfather is sleeping. My father is a fisherman. Blood is red.*

Procedure. Native speakers of meanwhile 51 languages from all continents (19 Indo-European, 32 Non-Indo-European) were asked to translate the 22 sentences into their mother tongue. Furthermore, they were asked to count the number of syllables in normal speech. The written translations allowed, moreover, counting the number of words per clause. The number of phonemes was determined by the authors, assisted by the native speakers and by grammars of the respective languages.

Results. In our sample of 51 languages, the mean number of syllables per clause is 7.02, ranging from 4.64 in Thai up to 10.96 in Telugu. The mean number of phonemes per syllable is 2.24, ranging from 2.79 in German to 1.76 in Hawaiian.

Further statistical analyses of our parallel texts revealed

- significant cross-linguistic correlations between *syllable complexity* and the
  - number of syllables per clause and per word
  - number of monosyllabic words
  - number of cases
- interactions between metric and non-metric properties of language:
  - associations between *syllable complexity* and morphological type (isolating, fusional, agglutinative), cumulative vs. non-cumulative case exponents
  - associations between *syllable complexity* and word order (OV vs. VO) as well as adposition order
  - associations between intrinsic tempo (mean number of syllables per clause) and rhythm classes (stress-timed, syllable-timed, mora-timed)
Intralinguistic variation in the categorization and labelling of body parts in Catalan: a methodological reflection.

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According to the evidence that there is intralinguistic variation (individual or between speakers) in the categorization and labelling of body parts that don’t have visually perceptible boundaries (AUTHOR, 2012), our main question is what kind of relationship exists between the intralinguistic variation we have observed in Catalan data and the methodology we have used to elicit the data, related to both the sample and the procedures. The literature on semantic categorization of body parts focuses especially on the study of interlinguistic differences and similarities, from a typological or descriptive point of view (Enfield et al., 2006; Majid, 2010), or from a universalistic approach (Andersen, 1978; Brown, 1976; Wierzbicka, 2007). In our study, instead, we will not focus on the comparison between languages: we will describe aspects related to the intralinguistic variation in the categorization and labelling of body parts in a unique linguistic variety, the central Catalan, and we will delve into related methodological questions that the aforementioned authors don’t cast light on.

The data we have worked with was screened from the dictionary and from interviews and tests done by some consultants. The sample is composed of sixteen Catalan L1 speakers of different ages (four groups of four speakers each), sex (two men and two women for each group of age), and educational level (two speakers with higher degrees, and two with primary studies in each group). All the consultants have made tests that induce metalinguistic reflection, and a semi structured interview in order to generate spontaneous conversation.

The most important results of the study are:

a) Each kind of methodological procedure leads to obtain different information about categorization and labelling of body parts, depending on whether it origins a spontaneous speech, or a speech based on a metalinguistic reflection.

b) Some characteristics of the sample, i.e., age, educational level and sex of the consultants, are relevant to explain the variation between different speakers.

We can conclude that depending on the methodological decisions (the choice of the procedures and the characteristics of the sample) we will obtain different information about semantics and labelling. This implies that these decisions affect the data the researcher bases his analysis on, and, therefore, the validity of their conclusions. This also opens up doors to future research: What is the “real” categorization made by the speakers? The one they describe when they are in a situation of metalinguistic reflection, or the one showed in spontaneous speech? Which one should be taken into account in such studies, in the case the researcher really had to choose?

References
Areal and typological distributions of features as evidence for language contacts in Western Europe.

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Extrapolation from areal and typological distributions of linguistic features is a particularly useful method for obtaining additional evidence for language contacts in situations where there are few or no written records available from the earliest periods of contact. This method has been successfully used, e.g. by Kiparsky (1969) to ascertain Finno-Ugrian substrate influence on certain features of Russian syntax. It has similarly been used in comparative typological research, e.g. by Haspelmath (1998) to explain the origins of the features that define Standard Average European (SAE), also known as the European Sprachbund. Its ‘nucleus’ comprises French, Dutch, German, and (northern dialects of) Italian. The classic example in this kind of research is, of course, the Balkan Sprachbund.

In this paper I seek to demonstrate how the same method can be applied to shed light on the nature and extent of contacts between western European languages, including most notably English, French, and the Celtic languages. In the linguistic literature, this idea has been mooted by various scholars writing on some syntactic or phonological features shared by these western European languages. For example, Wagner (1959) observes a clear ‘geolinguistic connection’ between the French mise en relief construction, i.e. c’est-clefting, and its Insular Celtic parallels. More recently, Wehr (2001) elaborates on this by noting that clefting of this type is unidiomatic or at best rare in German, but a long-established and robust feature of the Celtic languages and, of course, French. Wehr goes on to suggest that the Celtic and Romance languages, especially French and Portuguese, form the core of a westlich-atlantischer Sprachbund, i.e. a western European linguistic area (see Wehr 2001; Filppula 2009 for discussion). Another example of a Western European shared feature is verbal periphrasis by means of a semantically empty verb ‘do’. Thus, van der Auwera and Genee (2002) and McWhorter (2009) have argued that English and Celtic are typologically unusual amongst the languages of Europe and, indeed, of the whole world, in using semantically empty ‘do’ constructions in negated and interrogative sentences. When one adds to this the earlier findings on the regional distribution of periphrastic DO amongst English dialects (Poussa 1990; Klemola 2002), the case for contact influence (most probably via the Cornish language) on this feature of English syntax seems strong enough.

My focus in this paper will be on the above-mentioned geolinguistic connection between French c’est clefting, its Insular and (possible) Continental Celtic parallels, and the English it-cleft construction. More particularly, it will be argued that the prominence of clefting in these and some other Western European languages cannot be satisfactorily explained without assuming a considerable degree of both earlier and later contact influences between them.

References
Italian discourse markers in Ladin bilingual speech.

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Discourse markers are a multi-functional class of words with compositional meaning (Bazzanella 2006), which functions include “providing cohesion by relating parts of a text to other parts, indicating the speaker’s attitude to an utterance, and often thereby indicating the speaker’s attitude to the hearer” (Wichmann & Chanet 2009: 27).

The borrowing of discourse markers is very frequent in language contact situations (cf. for example Dal Negro 2005, Stolz 2007). Bilingual conversation offers “a unique perspective from which to examine discourse markers” (Maschler 2000: 437), also because they often occur with the bilingual strategy of language alternation. This alternation would suggest, according to Maschler, that discourse markers are perceived by bilingual speakers as a distinct and unified category, and are used as a strategy to mark the boundaries of continuous discourse (cf. Maschler 1994), therefore framing units of talk, as already proposed by Schiffrin (1987). Furthermore, Matras (1998, 2000) has hypothesized that bilinguals, when faced with the choice between the systems they have at disposal, tend to prefer the set of elements of the pragmatically dominant (and so cognitively advantageous) language, i.e. the linguistic system to which speakers “direct maximum mental effort at a given instance of linguistic interaction” (Matras 2000: 521).

The present research investigates the use of Italian discourse markers in the bilingual speech of Ladin speakers. Ladin is a vital minority language spoken in the autonomous region of Trentino- South Tyrol. The data were collected in Fassa Valley (in the province of Trento) and are made up of recordings of spontaneous and semi-spontaneous speech (conversations and interviews) of bilingual speakers who interact daily usually in both Italian and Ladin; however, for the recordings they were asked to use their local variety of Ladin.

I will focus on the Italian discourse markers allora (Ladin enlouta ‘then, well’; cf. Stolz 2007, Bazzanella & Borreguero Zuloaga 2011), comunque (Lad. aboncont ‘however’), quindi (Lad. donca ‘then, therefore’) and cioè (Lad. vel dir, voi dir ‘that is’). Although Ladin speakers have at their disposal these specific discourse markers in both languages, in my data they rarely use Ladin markers; they prefer to switch to Italian instead, especially as a strategy to mark out discourse boundaries.

The expected result of the research is therefore twofold: firstly, to find out if the Italian discourse markers listed above have replaced the equivalent Ladin markers (so signaling that Italian is the pragmatically dominant language for these speakers); secondly, in the case Ladin markers are still a competing resource, to verify if they are used interchangeably or if they specialized in function (cf. Auer 1998).

References
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In construction grammar, which sees grammar as the cognitive organization of experience with language use (e.g. Bybee 2006: 711), the traditional notion of ‘rule’ is replaced by the notion of cognitive schema, which may account for different characteristics of language, such as regularity, schematicity and productivity (cf. Dabrowska 2008, 2010). Furthermore, the generalizations made may differ between speakers such that people may schematize constructions to varying degrees (e.g. Street & Dabrowska 2010). Constructions thus form a highly dynamic network which is taken to be constructed by language users themselves. Due to their focus on cognitive processing, construction grammarians aim at the empirical validation of the structures assumed, for instance, by for instance, experimental learning tasks and corpus studies (e.g. Gries & Wulff 2009), card sorting and selecting tasks (e.g. Street & Dabrowska 2010), comprehension tests and generalization to nonce words (e.g. Goldberg 2006).

In contrast, in ethnomethodological conversation analysis (CA, cf. Sacks et al. 1974), ’rules’ are understood as normatively attended to practices (Hutchby & Wooffitt 1998: 50); they are therefore not simple descriptions of people’s behaviors, but instead “followable, practiced, employed – oriented to by the participants” (Schegloff 1992: 120). Normative orientation shows in various ways; for instance, deviance from the rules is accountable, such that speakers may justify the violations of these rules, or co-participants may request such justifications (cf. Heritage 1988). Orientation to a particular structure however is also revealed if this structure is jointly produced, as, for instance, in collaborative construction (Auer 2005).

In this presentation, I want to investigate to what extent ’normative orientation’ can be used to provide an empirical methodology to demonstrate the cognitive reality of cognitive processes (or the resulting structures) assumed in construction grammar. Thus, while conversation analysts generally reject cognitive explanations (e.g. Hopper 2011), the methodology to investigate what participants orient to, i.e. what constitutes participant categories, may constitute a so far unused method to identify the generalizations members of a speech community really attend to online during speech production. I present example analyses that show how conversation analytic methodologies can provide evidence for various types of schematizations and generalizations as participant categories. Studies of interaction by means of CA may thus provide a methodology contributing to identifying grammar as attended to organization of experience with language use and thus contribute a possible path from interaction to (construction) grammar.

Moreover, I want to argue that ‘rules’ in construction grammar and in conversation analysis share many central characteristics, such that they are assumed to be participant categories (cognitively or socially attended to), they are optional, yet their violation has semantic or interactional consequences, they are not causal, and they are simultaneously context-free and context-sensitive.

Dialectological evidence for a predicate focus analysis of Gascon ‘que’.

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As is well known, Gascon is an Occitan variety spoken in the southwestern part of the Occitan domain. The question I will address in this talk concerns the so-called “que déclaratif” or “que énonciatif”, whose distribution is illustrated in (1) with examples from Fleischer (1913: 121) and Ronjat (1913: 80):

(1)

a. Era ceremounia que coumence
   the.fem.sg ceremony.sg Enc begin.3sg
‘The ceremony is beginning’

b. Qué bèni
Enc come.1sg
‘I am coming’

c. Qué plau
Enc rain.3sg
‘It’s raining’

d. Eras mountainhos qu’èron frédos
the.fem.pl mountain.pl Enc were cold.fem.pl
‘The mountains were cold’

e. You que’t pàrli
I Enc ClO talk.1sg
‘As far as I am concerned, I’am talking to you’

As shown in (1a-d), the particle “que” immediately precedes the verb, whatever its argumental structure; “que” can be separated from the verb mainly by clitics, as shown in (1e). The distributional constraints in the use of “que” are rather complex and have given rise to many discussions and various hypotheses among Romanists. I will not discuss the syntactic status of the different utterance-level particles found in Gascon (cf. bè, se, e, jà, etc.) nor will I investigate the supposed correlation between basque and gascon constructions and the interference between enunciative particles and other types of modalities (interrogation, negation, etc.). I will simply provide evidence for a predicate-focus analysis of Gascon “que”, basing myself on unpublished dialectological material gathered in the 1970’s in the Occitan area. I will show that these data support the view put forth by Dauzat (1906: 234), according to which «Les patois d’une masse linguistique donnée et de même origine – par exemple les parlars romans – nous présentent en leur infinie variété géographique un aperçu simultané, dans l’espace, des phénomènes qui se sont produits dans le temps à des époques très différentes».

The unpublished data I will discuss clearly show that the particle “que” is used in the context of a fossilized cleft sentence: it will be argued that the Gascon utterance particle first appears in sentences like French C’est qu’il pleut “The fact is that it is raining”. Once the auxiliary disappears, we are left with a clause-initial complementizer endowed with the function of marking the predicate focus domain. It will be asked whether the evolutionary scenario should be described as a grammaticalization process. I will argue that the Gascon data favour a transgrammaticalization analysis: a given (grammatical) marker “refunctionalizes” as a predicate focus marker.

Switch reference systems in the Barbacoan languages and their neighbors

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All of the Barbacoan languages of Ecuador and Colombia feature some kind of switch reference, but the morphology and semantic distinctions of the systems vary greatly from language to language. This paper surveys switch reference in the Barbacoan languages and asks to what extent switch reference is a feature of the family versus an areal feature of the region more generally. The only clear cognate morpheme shared among the systems is the same referent marker in Cha’palaa (-tu) and Tsafiki (-to) (Dickinson 2002). Awa Pit is reported to have no switch reference system for sequential dependent clauses, only for purpose clauses (Curnow 1997). The other three languages do have sequential switch reference, but only Cha’palaa is reported to also have a version of the purpose clause-marking system like Awa Pit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sequential</th>
<th>Tsafiki</th>
<th>Cha’palaa</th>
<th>Awa Pit</th>
<th>Guambiano</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>same referent</td>
<td>-to</td>
<td>-tu</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>different referent</td>
<td>-sa</td>
<td>-ñu</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-en</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The dissimilarity of the different Barbacoan switch-reference systems complicates an account of their origins as exclusively through family inheritance. Areality is also a likely contributor, since most other regional languages also feature switch reference systems. Ecuadorian Quechua, for example, has both sequential and purpose clause switch reference marking. However, the fact that all Barbacoan languages feature variants of the system partially supports an account of it as a particular feature of the family. Likely, the truth lies somewhere in between, with both genetic and areal factors setting the stage for different cycles of development, loss and reanalysis of switch reference morphology. This scenario, in turn, informs accounts of the mechanisms by which the Americas have come to be an area where switch reference is especially widespread.

References

**Gerunds in Late Middle and Late Modern English: a case of shifting discourse-functional paradigms?**
Fonteyn, Lauren; De Smet, Hendrik and Heyvaert, Liesbet
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This paper discusses the development of nominal and verbal gerunds from Late Middle to Late Modern English with a focus on their use in prepositional environments. Nominal gerunds, as in (1) and (2), have the internal syntax of a noun phrase (NP), whereas verbal gerunds, as in (3), have the internal syntax of a clause.

(1) *And at the comyng of the comptayne [captain] yn to Sowtheworke, he lete smyte of the hedde of a strong theff that was namyd Haywardyn.* (c1475, PPCME2)
(2) *(…)in savyng of oure lyvys, we woll do as thou commaundys us.*(a1470, PPCME2)
(3) *Onely they that be called beneficiall, and do use the vertue of beneficence, whiche consisteth in counsaylinge and helpinge other with any assistence in tyme of need.(1531, PPCEME)

De Smet (2008) suggests that in Early Modern English the verbal gerund (VG), which developed from the nominal variant, replaced the determinerless bare nominal gerund (BNG) (2). While both gerund types had largely similar discourse-functional behaviour (expressing mostly generic and indefinite reference) and distribution (occurring with the same set of prepositions), De Smet (2008) suggests that the verbal gerund is syntactically more flexible. Definite nominal gerunds (DNGs) as in (1) did not compete with verbal gerunds, as they most often denoted a specific definite event and were thus discourse-functionally distinct. Moreover, the DNG was the only gerund type that favoured use as a temporal landmark, and thus combined with a distinct set of temporal prepositions (*after, before, since, upon, at*).

De Smet (2008) adds that “BNGs and especially VGs can occasionally refer to a specific event without being necessarily indefinite, provided that the implied agent of the gerund is controlled by an element in the matrix clause” (De Smet 2008: 83):

(4) *(…) then, soone after, I tooke my Cotch and went to Linton, wher, I after saluting my mother, praied, and so went to supper*(1599–1601, HC)

The present paper wishes to re-examine the discourse-functional and distributional behaviour of DNGs, VGs and BNGs. Since the use of controlled VGs became much more common after 1640, it can be expected that the increased discourse-functional and distributional overlap between DNGs and VGs challenged the existing division of labour. To that end, the
present paper (i) maps out the contexts in which the BNG and VG acquired specific meaning and (ii) studies the nature and outcome of the resulting competition between the DNG and VG. This hypothesis is addressed by analysing the nominal and verbal gerunds found in the suite of the Penn Parsed Corpora of Historical English, divided into 3 periods covering the 1420-1914 time span.

(i) Results show that BNGs and VGs acquired specific non-indefinite meanings through a number of prepositions that simultaneously allow for a generic (as described in Declerck 1986) and a specific event reading:

(5) (...)Syr, I vndyrstond +tat +ge han synned in letchery, in dyspeyr & in kepyng of wordly good. (c1450, PPCME2)

(ii) However, the resulting increased discourse-functional overlap between VGs and DNGs after 1640 seems to have had very little effect on the frequency of DNGs in prepositional and other environments, indicating that DNGs and controlled VGs are not competing variants. It will be suggested that the system of gerunds evolved to a new division of labour: the nominal gerund now constitutes a system with nominal grounding, primarily concerned with referent identification (Langacker 2009:150) and using definite and indefinite determiners to indicate whether or not the designated event is known to the hearer. The verbal gerund, on the other hand, has come to focus more on clausal grounding (based on whether an event did, will or can occur) and is as such increasingly tied to the modal and temporal space evoked by the matrix clause.

References

“Thanks for reading”: pragmatic aspects of Danish grammatical constructions of politeness.

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“Grammar is not only a resource for interaction and not only an outcome of interaction, it is a part of the essence of interaction itself. Or to put it another way, grammar is inherently interactional” (Ochs/Schegloff/Thompson 1996: 38).

The above quotation highlights the interdependence between interaction and grammar. In this talk, a Danish politeness construction used for thanking and showing gratitude will be discussed from a construction grammatical perspective with the aim to support second language acquisition. The form of this linguistic expression varies according to pragmatic, social and grammatical factors and is important for talk-in-interaction.

In Danish teaching materials and textbooks for second language acquisition, there is currently a lack of description concerning linguistic expressions of politeness. The expressions under consideration begin with the grammatical construction “Tak for X” (Thanks for X), where the open slot can be a noun phrase, an adverbial phrase or a prepositional phrase. When using a noun phrase, learners of Danish as a second language have to distinguish between two types of constructions: one in which the noun is indefinite, e.g. “Tak for mad” (Thanks for meal), and one in which it isn’t, e.g. “Tak for turen” (Thanks for the ride). For L2 learners it is very difficult to know when to choose the indefinite and the definite form. A complete grammatical description of these politeness formulas needs to make the choice between the formal alternatives clear to learners of the language. The Construction Grammar approach is characterized by covering both syntactic and semantic/pragmatic information in the grammatical description (Fillmore/Kay/O’Connor 1988: 501f.; Goldberg 1995: 6f.) and it is thus highly useful for describing such patterns, especially for second language learning contexts.

In this talk, I will analyze the constructions from an interactional and a construction grammar perspective by using situational frames to describe the social knowledge associated with polite forms in Danish language. By means of analyzing large amounts of naturally occurring data in several corpora of spoken and written Danish, I will present a construction
grammatical description of this particular construction of politeness. As a later result of this study, teaching material will be developed that facilitates students’ development of a sense for appropriate, culturally adapted responses.

References

Parallel universes and universal parallels: Romani evidential strategies.

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As Hamp (1977) has argued in the context of typology, and as Joseph (2001) has argued in the context of formal syntax, areal linguistics (or contact linguistics) is an historical discipline, the mirror image of genealogical linguistics. Anthropological linguists have seriously questioned the distinction between change during transmission (in the course of child language acquisition) and change via diffusion (i.e., contact induced), while sociolinguists adduce new evidence for the difference (Labov 2007). Bisang (2004, 2006) argues for an integrative approach to language change utilizing typology, dialectology, sociolinguistics, and contact linguistics. This paper will contribute to Bisang’s argument by examining the question of differentiating the typological versus the areal in explicating causation, specifically in the realm of evidentiality.

The approach is basically structural-functional, and the methodology involves the comparative analysis of original fieldwork material and material from published sources. The concrete data center on use of the Slavic interrogative particle li in the Kriva Palanka Arli dialect of Romani (Republic of Macedonia) to mark dubitativity in declarative sentences. This usage suggests that the use of li as a general evidential strategy (Aikhenvald 2003) which occurs in the Romani dialect of Sliven, Bulgaria (Kostov 1973, Igla 2006) also has its origins in the semantic reinterpretation of the interrogative particle. This stands in contrast to Kostov’s hypothesis that Sliven Romani evidential li has its origins in a reinterpretation of the Bulgarian morpheme -l (pl. -le) that forms the resultative participle, which is crucial in Bulgarian evidential strategies.

This conclusion is supported by the use of the Turkish interrogative particle mi in the Barutči Arli dialect of Romani spoken in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia in exactly the same context as the Kriva Palanka Arli Romani use of li. It is also supported typologically by such parallels as the expressive use of li in former Serbo-Croatian and the use of the interrogative negative optative to express surprise in Turkic languages. These data further demonstrate how typological (i.e., universal) and areal (i.e., contact) explanations can be used together in a nuanced fashion, and without conflation, to account for language change: typology provides the rationale and contact provides the mechanism. The connection between interrogation and dubitativity is a typological one, but, whereas the development of interrogative markers into dubitative or evidential markers in Romani dialects in Macedonia and Bulgaria occurred independently, they both did so precisely in contact with languages that already had evidential strategies in their grammars. The Macedonian Romani developments demonstrate a shared functional reinterpretation of different forms.

References
Spoken Brazilian Portuguese exhibits three strategies of clausal negation: a) the standard preverbal negative não + VP, b) the double negative não + VP + não, and c) the postverbal negative VP + não. This work analyzes and interprets these strategies from the viewpoint of principles of iconicity (Givón, 1990; Haiman, 1985) and the concept of grammaticalization (Hopper and Traugott, 1993; Traugott and Heine, 1991), based on functionally grounded explanations. I follow the assumption that the grammar of natural languages is never static and complete: taken synchronically, the grammar of every language exhibits, simultaneously, regular patterns and patterns that are not completely fixed, but fluid. In this sense, language is conceived of as a malleable structure, since it is subjected to the pressures of use and consists of a non-entirely arbitrary code (Hopper, 1987; Du Bois, 1985). Taken as a whole, the morphosyntactic coding results from the use of language. The database for this study is a corpus of written and spoken material produced by students from different levels of schooling. The central question I am concerned with is: a) how can we explain the coexistence of different strategies of negation in Brazilian Portuguese? This question is related to the following more specific ones: b) in which aspects do written and spoken language differ regarding the use of the strategies of negation? c) is there any correlation between the speaker’s level of schooling/age and the use of different mechanisms of negation? The negative patterns perform the same general discourse function of denying. The variation attested in present-day Brazilian Portuguese between preverbal negation (não V), double negation (não V não), and postverbal negation (não V) represents a common universal process which has been known as “Jespersen cycle”: “the original negative adverb is first weakened, then found insufficient and therefore strengthened, generally through some additional word, and this in its turn may be felt as the negative proper and may then in course of time be subject to the same development as the original word.” (Jespersen, 1917:4). It is assumed that variation reflects a linguistic change in progress. The analysis of the emergent strategies of negation in Brazilian Portuguese reveals the interaction of two external competing motivations (Du Bois, 1985; Haiman, 1983). The apparent arbitrariness of postverbal negatives can be interpreted as the result of a conflict between iconic and economic motivations. On one hand, the need to maintain communicative clarity leads to the emergence of double negative, in a movement towards iconicity; on the other hand, the demand for economy motivates the development of postverbal negative, in a movement against iconicity.

References
Discourse markers in Italian textbooks: an empirical study.

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Compared to other word classes, discourse markers seem to be particularly complex in their functioning and difficult to grasp. As pragmatic elements, not pointing to any referent in the extralinguistic world, but indicating discourse processes, discourse markers are used by native speakers with high frequency but mostly unconsciously, and they represent a real challenge for learners of a second language.

Already three decades ago Weydt et al. (1983) pointed out the importance of learning how to use the pragmatic elements of a second language for successful interaction. Learners start to use discourse markers already in the first stages of L2-acquisition, however, as was revealed, for instance, by some works on Italian as L2, the usage is restricted to elements with little semantic-pragmatic weight (Guil et al. 2008). The acquisition of functionally more complex markers, and even of the full functional spectrum of a single marker (see e.g. Pellet 2005), is only reached at higher stages, with consequences for the learners’ ability to interact with native speakers. At the same time, it has been shown that the learners’ competence in the use of discourse markers can be improved through explicit training (Bueno Santos 2006).

Although such training is not commonly provided in didactic materials for Italian as L2, discourse markers do appear in textbooks and grammars, and some attention is given to their usage. Starting from this observation, my contribution aims to examine the present state of the representation of discourse markers in didactic materials for Italian as L2. The study focuses on the treatment of senti (‘hear’, ‘listen’), as an example of a very frequent Italian marker. As a textbook corpus I have chosen the widely used Italian textbooks for German speaking learners Espresso 1, 2, and 3 (Ziglio/Rizzo 2009). More specifically, the study aims to analyse:

1. in what contexts the marker is found in the books and how it is explained
2. to what extent the uses illustrated in the books and the respective explanations account for the usage in real conversations

The contribution will start by illustrating typical contexts of use and the corresponding functions of senti, drawing on a large corpus study based on natural data of spoken Italian. In a second step, the analysis of the books will show in what conversational contexts the marker appears, whether/how it is explained (for example through translations, German (partial) equivalents etc.), and what functions are thereby attributed to it. The findings will then be compared with the system of contexts and functions resulting from natural corpus data, as previously illustrated.

As a result, we will gain a data-based, possibly objective picture of how the representation of the marker in the books accounts for its actual use. It will be shown that the books only partially cover the real contexts of use and the possible functions of the marker. In a broader perspective, this will allow for considerations on possible improvements.

References


Ecco giunta colei che ne pareggia: the tenacious persistence of a primitive scaffolding.

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What is *ecco*? Although the word is extremely frequent and early used in first as well as in second language acquisition, its treatment in the most common grammars of Italian is really embarrassing. In fact, *ecco* is generally taken to be an adverb, in spite of the oddity of this classification which leaves completely unaccounted its role as predicative center of the utterance, as shown in the verse reported in the title, which is taken from Dante’s *Rime cvi*, 74.

In contrast with the traditional view, *ecco* will be shown to generally introduce thetic sentences, provided with a presentative function and completely lacking a subject role. From this viewpoint, it functions as a thetic copula, which, among other constructions, gives rise to minimal pairs differently specified for boundedness:

1. *Ecco giungere colei che ne pareggia*
   'There’s coming the one who makes us all equal’
2. *Ecco giunta colei che ne pareggia*
   'There’s come the one who makes us all equal’

Notice that these pairs are only possible with unaccusative verbs, in which the subject clearly displays object-like properties (2). In fact, an unergative verb cannot be licensed in the construction containing a past participle (4), which therefore qualifies as a test for unaccusativity:

3. *Ecco lui dormire nel sacco a pelo.*
   'There’s him sleeping in the sleeping bag’.
4. *Ecco lui dormito nel sacco a pelo.*
   'There’s him slept in the sleeping bag’.

The paper will show that *ecco* as a predicate is largely integrated into the constructional syntax of Italian: in fact it is not only highly selective as for the governed verbs, but it can also be embedded into several subordinate clauses, and in particular temporal, causal, consecutive, relative clauses, etc. Embedding is only possible when the thetic value is preserved, i.e. when the subordinate clauses are asserted and accordingly follow the main clause. At any rate, its predicative status is non-prototypical in that *ecco* does not display typical morphosyntactic properties of verbs like inflection or negation.

Finally, *ecco* is interesting from a more general perspective in the light of (i) its thetic value which makes it a powerful mean of expression for basic communicative situations, and (ii) its very long history which goes uninterruptedly back to its Latin ancestor *ecce*: This displayed the same basic value of *ecco*, but was much more restricted in its constructional entrenchment (cf. Cuzzolin 1998). The basic communicative function and the long history suggest that it might be treated on a par with those “relics of earlier stages of the language capacity remain[ed] as pockets within modern language”, which according to Jackendoff (2009: 113) testify to the role of a protolinguistic substrate lying below modern language. This primitive scaffolding still irradiates its cognitive strength in contemporary Italian.

References


Diachronic evolution of the subjunctive in Dargwa.

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The paper discusses a case of diachronic evolution of the subjunctive found in Dargwa, a branch of the East Caucasian family (Daghestan, Russia). The starting point of the discussion is that some Dargwa languages use reflexes of the Proto-Dargwa subjunctive to mark complements with control and raising verbs like ‘want’, ‘begin’, ‘can’, instead of reflexes of the Proto-Dargwa infinitive. The data for this study comes mainly from my own fieldwork on Chirag, Khuduts, Qunqi, Muira, and Itsari Dargwa, and, to a lesser degree, from grammatical descriptions.

Originally, the subjunctive is an adverbial verb form used in temporal (‘until V’) and causal (‘in order to V’) clauses, as still found in Chirag Dargwa. The subjunctive in Chirag has three important properties: (a) it cannot be used as a complement to control and raising verbs, (b) there is no referential dependency between the subject of the matrix clause and the subject of the subjunctive clause, i.e. the subjects may refer to different participants, (c) the subjunctive clause is a CP, (d) the subjunctive has person agreement. Dargwa languages show certain variation with respect to these properties, which allows us to reconstruct the diachronic evolution of the subjunctive along each of these dimensions.

Use with control verbs: The subjunctive expands into the control domain and is used with control/raising verbs on a par with the original infinitive (as in Khuduts Dargwa), until the former gradually pushes out the latter from this domain, and the original infinitive is completely lost (Qunqi, Itsari, and Muira Dargwa).

Adverbial uses: The subjunctive loses its adverbial uses.

Referential dependency: Change from no dependency between the subjects of the control verb and the subjunctive clause in Qunqi and Itsari to the obligatory control in Muira via an intermediate stage attested in Khuduts, where the subjunctive clause may have a referentially independent subject only when the latter is in the scope of the focus particles ‘only’, ‘by oneself’, ‘also, even’.

Syntactic category: The category of the subjunctive clause changes from CP to TP, as in Muira Dargwa.

Morphological agreement: The last step is the loss of agreement morphology with subjunctives, the former third person is used indiscriminately with all persons, as in Muira Dargwa, which means the rise of a new infinitive from the former subjunctive.

I argue that these dimensions are independent to some extent, in the sense that a certain change along one dimension does not necessarily entail an automatic change along another dimension. On the other hand, these dimensions co-vary, in the sense that a change along one dimension is made possible only after a certain change along another dimension has occurred. I also show how combination of different steps along these dimensions both yields attested variation across Dargwa languages, and allows us to reconstruct missing evolutionary stages.

P selection/C selection in Italian complex Ps.

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Our talk deals with the selection of simple-Ps under lexical Ps in Italian (sopra (a)l tavolo ‘lit. on (to).the table’). We concentrate on the distributional properties of the grammatical Ps a/di ‘to/of’, showing that the selection of a, di or no preposition at all is syntactically driven. We argue that there is both an a/Ø alternation based on the internal structure of the PP, and a di/Ø alternation dependent on the structural status of the DP object of P.

Lexical Ps come in three groups (Rizzi 1988): group 1 Ps, obligatorily requiring simple Ps (e.g. davanti a ‘in front of’); group 2 Ps, optionally requiring a (dietro (a) ‘behind (of)’); group 3 Ps requiring no P (verso ‘towards’). We concentrate on alternations like:

(1) a. L’aereo volava sopra di noi
   The plane flew above of us ‘The plane was flying above us’

   b. L’aereo volava sopra alla chiesa
The plane flew above the church ‘The plane was flying above the church’

We claim that there is no a/di alternation in complex Ps; rather, (1) presents the combination of two alternations, a/Ø dependent on the PP structure and di/Ø dependent on the categorial status of the object of P. Since sopra Ø noi is ungrammatical, we argue that group 2 Ps appear in two different structures, one in which their complement is introduced by a, and another in which they select a DP. In the latter case, some DPs require di, which is the prepositional complementizer observable with infinitives:

(2) [PP sopra [XP a/Ø [YP Ø/di [DP]]]]

Cinque (2010) maintains that the simple P a is either a marker lexicalizing a lower functional head in the DPPlace in (3), P°, or a proper P lexicalizing the higher stative/directional heads of PPdir/PPstat.

(3) [PPdir a [PPstat a [DPPlace …. [AxPartP [PP/KP a [Ground PLACE]...]]]]

Thus the interpretative differences associated with the alternation a vs. di/Ø in group 2 Ps (locative vs. directional, bounded vs. unbounded, see Tortora 2008) can be captured in terms of lexicalization possibilities of these heads together with the internal syntactic workings of the PP structure.

The di/Ø alternation is based on a bare/complex alternation of the selected noun. We propose that di is the same prepositional complementizer observable with infinitives and that it is present when the DP selected by P lacks a restrictor.

(4) [SubP di [DP / IP]]

The strong hypothesis we make is that di, unlike a, is neither a real P nor a functional marker but rather a prepositional complementizer required by the bare nature of the DP object of P—a complementizer which is not required when the DP object of P has a complex nature.

References

Tense use in English factive complements.

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Kiparsky & Kiparsky (1971) identified factive complements in terms of specific semantic-pragmatic and formal features. One such form-meaning correlation which has received little attention so far is that complements presupposed true by the speaker readily take absolute tenses, like is in (1), while also allowing the ‘sequence of tenses’, e.g. was in (1).

(1) John grasped that the earth is (was) flat. (Kiparsky & Kiparsky 1971:162)

In this paper, we subject this hypothesized tendency to empirical verification and theoretical reflection.

First, we verify the hypothesis implied by the Kiparskys, viz. that factive complements take more absolute tenses than do reported speech/thought complements, which are expected to favour sequence of tenses, as in (2)

(2) The Church said/thought that the earth was flat.
Our analysis considers tense use in indirectly reported complements of *say* and *think*, and in factive complements of *regret* and *accept*. Random samples of 200 hits (compiled from WordbanksOnline) of these verbs in the preterit, including negatives and passives, allow us to test the Kiparskys’ hypothesis about the relative proportions of absolute tense and sequence of tenses.

Second, on the basis of in-depth qualitative analysis of the data we propose refinements of both the factive presupposition and the different tense uses found in complement clauses.

Necessary refinements of the factive presupposition include the points that

(i) it is sometimes a reported, not the actual, speaker who presupposes the truth of the proposition (cf. Delacruz 1976), e.g.

(3) Someone, who did not accept the Medjugorje phenomena were supernatural in origin,... (WB)

(ii) factive complements may involve presupposed commitment to a deontic, rather than truth-oriented, proposition (Halliday 1994), e.g.

(4) I did not accept that we should follow the Law’s Commision’s recommendation (WB)

Accordingly, we need to redefine both what is presupposed and the nature of the presupposition.

Our proposed refinements of tense use relate to the distinction between absolute tenses, which have the time of speaking - or temporal zero-point (t₀) (Lyons 1977) - as reference point, and relative tenses, whose reference point is another situation (Declerck 2006). We argue that absolute tenses have to be further divided into those that relate to the actual speaker’s time of utterance, the real t₀, and those that relate to the represented speaker’s time of utterance, a t₀ derived from the represented speech situation (cf. Haberland 1986, author4, author3,4). As for the sequence of tenses, the ‘backshifting’ involved in it may be directly relative to a described situation, or it may be mediated by the second, derived, t₀. In our view, tenses in reported speech/thought inherently involve the t₀ derived from the represented speech situation (author3,4), while factive complements typically have ‘real’ absolute and relative tenses under the deictic control of the actual speaker. For the marked type of factive complement to which a represented, rather than the actual, speaker is committed, as in (3), we will have to develop a coherent tense analysis.

Collectively, the proposed quantitative and qualitative corpus studies afford a new global insight into tense in factive complements.

References

The Nuosu logophor.

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The influence of *SOURCE*-logophors on reference possibilities of other anaphors and personal pronouns is poorly understood. The Nuosu language (Tibeto-Burman: China) exhibits an African-style logophor, a Chinese-style reflexive and a set of personal pronouns.
Syntactic function | Discourse role (Sells 1987: 457) | Nuosu Form
---|---|---
$L_G$anaphor, $S_{\text{PL}}$ural | SOURCE | i/op
$S_{\text{port}}$distance $R_{\text{reflexive}}$ anaphor | | zyt jie
$L_{\text{long}}$distance $R_{\text{reflexive}}$ SELF/PIVOT | | zyt jie

The Nuosu reflexive and logophor

In a paper submitted for publication, I revise Safir (2004a, 2004b)'s theory in a way that allows deriving complementary binding of the logophor and the reflexive in their domains. In this abstract, I only survey descriptive language features.

1. SDR excludes LG, LDR and pronouns
The logophor $i/\text{op}$, the long-distance reflexive $\text{zyt jie}$ and the pronouns must be free in the co-argument domain in which the SDR $\text{zyt jie}$ must mark dependency on an antecedent.

(1) a. * $\text{mu} \text{ga}_1$ $\text{hxip} \text{go}$ $i_1$ $ix_{1,1}$ $\text{hxie}$ $\text{yy}$ $\text{ddix}$. \\
   male name say SENT-TOP LOG-SG LOG-SG respect QUOT \\
   Embedded clause
   ‘*Muka$_1$ said that he$_1$ respects himself$_{1,1}$.’

b. * $\text{mu} \text{ga}_1$ $\text{hxip} \text{go}$ $\text{op}$ $\text{op}_{1,2}$ $\text{hxie}$ $\text{yy}$ $\text{ddix}$. \\
   male name say SENT-TOP LOG-PL LOG-PL respect QUOT \\
   Embedded clause
   ‘*Muka$_1$ said that they$_{1,2}$ respect themselves$_{1,2}$.’

(2) $\text{mu} \text{ga}_1$ $\text{ngop} \text{go}$ $\text{lat mop}_2$ $\text{zyt jie}_{1/2}$ $\text{hxie}$ $\text{yy}$ $\text{tat xi}$. \\
   male name think SENT-TOP male name LDR/SDR respect should \\
   Embedded clause
   ‘Muka$_1$ thought that Lamo$_2$ should respect himself$_{1/2}$.’

(3) $\text{mu} \text{ga}_1$ $\text{ngop} \text{go}$ $\text{lat mop}_2$ $\text{cyx}_{1/2}$ $\text{hxie}$ $\text{yy}$ $\text{tat xi}$. \\
   male name think SENT-TOP male name 3P SG respect should \\
   Embedded clause
   ‘Muka$_1$ thought that he$_1$ should respect himself$_1$.’

2. LG excludes LDR and pronouns
The logophor $i/\text{op}$ must covary with an internal $\text{SOURCE}$ in the reported speech domain. The logophor can occur in any syntactic position (subject, direct object, adjunct).

(4) $\text{mu} \text{ga}_1$ $\text{hxip} \text{go}$ $\text{lat sse}_2$ $\text{ix}_1$ $\text{nzur}$ $\text{jox}$ $\text{jip}$ $\text{ox}$ $\text{ddix}$. \\
   male name say SENT-TOP male name LOG-SG hate might DYP QUOT \\
   Embedded clause
   ‘Muka$_1$ said that Laze$_2$ might hate him$_1$.’

The LDR and pronouns are illicit in reported speech constructions if they covary with the $\text{SOURCE}$.

(5) * $\text{mu}$ $\text{hlie}_1$ $\text{hxip}$ $\text{go}$ $\text{zyt jie}_{1,2}$ $\text{ddj}$ $\text{jip}$ $\text{ox}$ $\text{ddix}$. \\
   male name say SENT-TOP LDR mature, grow up DYP QUOT \\
   ‘*Muhlie$_1$ said that he$_{1,2}$ is mature now.’

(6) $\text{mu}$ $\text{jie}_1$ $\text{vut}$ $\text{nyop}_2$ $\text{jox}$ $\text{hxip}$ $\text{go}$ $\text{cy}_{1,2}$ $\text{ssox}$ $\text{dje}$ $\text{bbo}$ $\text{tat}$ $\text{xi}$ $\text{ddix}$. \\
   male name female name to say SENT-TOP 3P SG school go should QUOT \\
   ‘Mujie$_1$ told Vunyo$_2$ that she$_{1,2}$ should go to school.’

When two speech reports are embedded in each other with two $\text{SOURCE}$s, then the logophor is bound in the minimal reported speech clause in which it is contained. Reference to the distant $\text{SOURCE}$ can be made by means of the LDR or pronouns.
The issue. Exhaustivity in the interpretation of focus has been commonly treated in terms of pragmatic implicatures in both (Neo-)Gricean and Relevance Theoretic accounts, while some recent treatments analyze the relevant exhaustivity effects as part of grammatically represented and compositionally interpreted exhaustivity operators (Chierchia 2004, Fox 2007, Sevi 2009). Exhaustivity due to pragmatic inferences is characteristic of purely prosodic focus of the English type, including syntactically unmarked focus (SUF) in Hungarian too. On the other hand, some syntactically marked foci in languages, among them immediately pre-verbal focus in Hungarian (PVF), have been described as exhibiting truth-conditional, semantic exhaustivity, arising in the same way as it does for the focus of clefts and specificalional pseudoclefts (for PVF: Szabolcsi 1981, 1994, Kenesei 1986, 2006, É-Kiss 1998). Recently, this view of PVF has been both challenged (Wedgwood 2005, 2007, Onea 2007, 2008, Onea and Beaver 2009) and defended (É-Kiss 2010, Horvath 2005, 2007) in theoretical work.

The experiment. We address this debate by presenting novel results from a sentence-picture matching experiment, which involved a multiple choice task that allowed for multiple responses. Each test sentence, describing the culprit of a crime, contained one of four types of focus: PVF, SUF, (specificational) pseudocleft and cleft. Simultaneously, subjects were presented with a picture containing four human figures, the potential suspects: Suspect₁ corresponding to an exhaustive interpretation, Suspect₂ corresponding to an unambiguously non-exhaustive interpretation, and two distractors. Subjects had to choose which suspect or suspects may possibly be the actual offender. We measured the rate of exhaustive responses (=just Suspect₁) and non-exhaustive responses (=Suspect₁&Suspect₂). As an outstanding advantage, this task remains implicit, not involving a meta-judgment whether some sentence is ‘true’/‘false’.

Results and discussion. Focus type yielded a significant main effect (Friedman test: $\chi^2(n=31, df=3)=48.803, p<0.001$). Pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon Matched Pairs tests revealed the following significant differences: SUF and PVF ($p<0.001$), SUF and cleft ($p<0.001$), PVF and cleft ($p<0.05$), SUF and pseudocleft ($p<0.001$). The rate of exhaustive responses in each focus type were: SUF:16%, PVF:51%, pseudocleft:61%, clefts:64%.

The significant difference found between clefts and PVF argues against treating the exhaustivity of PVF as arising semantically in the same way as in clefts. We interpret this finding as supporting a pragmatic account of the exhaustivity of PVF. We propose, drawing on Onea (2007, 2008), that the word order associated with PVF sentences (as opposed to those containing SUF) are grammaticalized as a form expressing an answer to the Question Under Discussion (QUD, Roberts 1998; answers are, by default, pragmatically interpreted exhaustively, e.g., van Rooij and Schulz 2004). Given the availability of this grammaticalized form, SUF is not interpreted as an answer to the QUD proper, hence it is not exhaustive (Uegaki 2012).

Cross-linguistically, the account can be extended to any focus marked exclusively by word order and associated with relatively high levels of exhaustivity in languages where the ‘focus word order’ is the ordinary word order that is used in answers to wh-questions, signaling their status as an answer to the QUD.

References

Grammaticalized exhaustivity in focus.

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Media choice in health communication: a mismatch between sender and receiver?

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If a serious epidemic disease, such as the Swine Flu in 2009, breaks out governments all over the world have to inform the target group about the disease and how to avoid infection. This paper deals with the question whether there are differences between the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in appreciation of and preference for the communication media used to convey information about the disease and how to prevent it. Based on a combination of the Information Richness Theory of Daft and Lengel (1984), the Context Theory of Hall (1976), and the value, uncertainty avoidance, of Hofstede, Hofstede and Minkow (2010), it is expected that the Dutch use and prefer media with lower information richness than the British do.

The paper reports on two explorative studies. Firstly, we investigated by means of a corpus analysis the differences between the UK and the Netherlands in the types of communication media that governments used for communication about the Swine Flu (the sender’s perspective). Secondly, we investigated by means of experiments in a between-subject design among 100 UK and 100 Dutch subjects whether they differed in the communication media they appreciated most for such a campaign (the receiver’s perspective).

The cultural differences that we expected were neither found in the corpus analysis nor in the experiment. The corpus study showed that both the British and the Dutch government used for communication about the Swine Flu (the sender’s perspective) information poor media, and the experiment showed that receivers in both countries appreciated and preferred information rich media the most. These results indicate that regarding the communication media used for public health campaigns such as the Swine Flu the same media can be used in Western countries. A striking extra result of our studies was that there was no match between the media the senders used and the receivers preferred. Whereas the senders mainly used information poor media, the receivers preferred information rich media.

References
The acquisition of discourse markers in spoken L2 Italian.

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Studies on the acquisition of L2 Romance Languages have normally neglected textual and pragmatics aspects such as conversational strategies, information structure and cohesive mechanisms. Only recently have these linguistics phenomena deserved some attention due both to the development of theoretical description and to the technical possibilities of gathering audiovisual corpora. One of the cohesive mechanisms that has attracted the attention of scholars working on language acquisition has been discourse makers (Dimroth/Watorek 2000), whose polysemy, multifunctionality and mobility in the utterance make of them a particularly interesting object of study, as shown by the huge number of descriptive studies in almost all Romance languages (cf. Fischer 2006, Loureda/Acin 2010).

The advantages and difficulties of acquiring discourse markers in family-related languages, as in the case of Spanish and Italian, is still a minor research field as most research has been conducted with native speakers of non-Romance languages (Andorno 2005, 2007, 2008; Bardel 2003, 2004; Casula 2005; Ferraris 2004). In the research project we have carried out during the last 5 years, we have gathered an audiovisual corpus of Spanish learners of Italian with initial, intermediate and advance level and we have studied the occurrence of discourse markers in such a corpus (Bini/Pernas 2008, Guil et al. 2008, Guil in press). We have paid special attention to the types of discourse markers appearing in each level of linguistic competence, the discursive functions they assume — taking a functional taxonomy as theoretical framework (Lopez Serena/Borreguero 2010) — and their prosodic profile.

We will present the main results of this research, which include the following: a) learners only use a reduced number of discourse markers, when confronted to Italian native speakers; b) this number increases during the acquisition process but a core group of 8-10 discourse markers seems to assume almost 80% of the interactive, metadiscursive and cognitive functions in conversation, so acquisition reaches an stage that has been described as fossilization (Romero Trillo 2002); c) there seems to be an acquisitional pattern which privileges the lexical acquisition of the discourse markers, followed by the functional acquisition and finally (but not necessarily) by the prosodic profile; d) phonetic similarities between discourse markers in both languages ease the acquisition process, but they also favour transfer phenomena; and e) the lack of these lexical elements constrains the learners to turn to a variety of resources (prosody, mimic, phonetic phenomenal like lengthening and emphasis) in order to develop a certain discursive function.

References
Towards an integrated representation of syntax and prosody: the case of left peripheral topics.

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Main research question
In this paper I propose an integrated representation of prosody and syntax, with the goal of accounting for the properties and distribution of left-peripheral topic phrases – see Frascarelli and Hinterhoelzl (2007); Bianchi and Frascarelli (2010). Left peripheral topics (given, familiar phrases) are (often) associated with a peculiar intonational pattern, i.e. the comma intonation (Selkirk, 2005). The main question is: How is this intonational pattern associated with topics and how is their peculiar interpretation derived?

The approach: Topics in the left periphery may be followed by a FOCUS. Here I consider topics as based generated phrases and FOCUS as wh-moved ones (cf. Cinque 1990 and following discussion). I capitalize on Benincà and Poletto's (2004) revision of Rizzi's (1997) hierarchy. Instead of the sequence: Topic* FOCUS Topic*, they propose: Topic-layer FOCUS-layer, showing that all the constituents appearing at the right of FOCUS have been moved, hence no Topic-layer follows the FOCUS one.

The data
I consider here data from Italian:

(1) A Gianni, di Maria, non gliene parlerò più
To Gianni(top), about Maria(top), I will not talk anymore

(2) A Gianni, MARIA dovremmo presentare, (non Giulia)
To Gianni(top), Maria(contr. Foc) we should introduce (not Giulia)

A Gianni and di Maria in (1) are associated with the comma intonation, whereas in (2) only A Gianni is.

The proposal
In (ref. omitted), in the spirit of the Linear Correspondence Axiom (Kayne 1994), I proposed that the pause, i.e. the Comma, is a head, K, and projects a constituent. I discussed this solution for parentheticals. For instance:

(3) Maria, disse Gianni, partirà per Parigi
Maria, said Gianni, will leave for Paris

Is represented as in (5):
Obligatory topicalization derives the word order in (3):

\[ [KP \text{ Maria } [KP \text{ disse Gianni } [IP \text{ e partirà per Parigi } ] ] ] \]

Here I propose the same solution for topics, with some difference due to their specific properties. For sentence (1) the representation is the following:

\[ [KP A \text{ Gianni } [KP \text{ di Maria } [IP \text{ non gliene parlerò più } ] ] ] \]

I will discuss and illustrate the advantages of such a solution, in particular the predictions concerning the differences between FOCUS and Topic.

References

"Switch"-reference systems as part of a cluster of grammatical meanings in Shuar (Jivaroan, Upper Amazon).

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In most descriptions of Switch-reference Systems (S-rS) emphasis has been put on the treatment that each language provides of the dimensions of Same Subject (SS) / Different Subject (DS). However, several dimensions codified in each one of the S-rS so far described have been overlooked. In fact, if these systems were devoted only to mark SS/DS, one single affix would be enough to codify a SS subordinate verb.

In most S-rS, however, this not the case. The reason can be found in the fact that in most S-rS, beyond the SS/DS dimensions, other, very relevant meanings and functions are codified.

In Shuar, a Jivaroan (Aents) languages spoken by approximately 70.000 persons in the Ecuadorian Amazon, a highly developed S-rS is used, where subordinate verbal forms are marked with endings carrying not only the SS/SD distinctions, but also other contents and functions. These are in first place “Temporal” and “Causal” relations between clauses. Further inspection of additional data has shown, however, that still other contents are conveyed through the Shuar S-rS, to the point of putting under question the main focus should be put or not on the SS/DS distinction, which in most cases appears to be only one component of a more complex cluster of meanings. Examples are:

1sg/3
1) chichá- ku- i tā- m- ya- y- i
   speak-Dep./DS-N.Ad. arrive-Pst.-Indf.-3-S.3-Decl.
   ‘(While/when) I was speaking, he arrived’

where ku-i codifies a 1sg DS value, as well as a “temporal” value, usually a simultaneous action, translated here with “while/when”. The gloss N.Ad. means Non-addressee, a frequent grammatical gloss in Shuar.

Another DS affix –matai is used to codify a DS “causal relation”:

1sg/3
2) chichá- s- matai wishi- á- Ø- wa- i
speak-Asp.-Dep./DS/N.Ad. laugh-Asp.-TNey.-S.3s-Decl.
‘He laughs because I speak’

In other cases, however, the S-rS DS affixes convey ambiguous ‘host’ meanings, as in the case of -n, codifying a relation that could be interpreted either as ‘temporal’ or as ‘causal’, as in 3):

2/3
3) taká-k-rum-i-n nijiamchi-n iwiá-inia-wa-i
   work-Asp.-Plur.-2-Dep./DS./A manioc beer-Obj. prepare-Plur.-3-Decl.
   ‘Because/while you (Pl.) work, they prepare the manioc beer’

As an affix of a SS dependent form, (the same ?) –n, codifies “1sg.” and its “host” meaning is interpreted either as “temporal” or “concessive”, but not as ‘causal’:

1sg/1sg
4) yajá pujú-so-n antá-u-ja-i
   far away stay-Asp.-Dep./SS/1sg listen-Dur-1sg.-Decl
   ‘(Even) being far away, I was listening’

Some affixes have a role inside the same S-rS, providing still other meanings, such as “iterativity”, as in the SS (1sg/1sg) sentence:

1sg/1sg
5) chichá-s-ua-n antá-u-j-me
   speak-Asp.-iter.-Dep./SS/1sg listen-Asp.-1sg-2
   ‘After having spoken for a while, I listen to you’

To sum up, the Shuar S-rS “hosts” values different from the SS/DS distinction, so that the prominence provided to this grammatical dimension is not fully justified and should be understood either as one with “additional” or “host” contents, or as part of a more complex cluster of grammatical meanings.

References

**Restructuring at the syntax-semantics interface.**

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Introduction

New descriptive generalization
A predicate restructures iff it matches the meaning of an IP-layer functional head **below Tense:**

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Analysis

(1) a. A verb restructures by realizing a semantically corresponding IP head (Cinque 2004).
   b. Control is movement into a θ-position (Hornstein 1999).
   c. θ-role assignment is established in a Spec-Head configuration.
   d. The subject can be no higher than [Spec,TP] (at LF: see von Fintel and Iatridou 2003).

A propositional predicate like claim semantically matches Mood
speech act and is thus eligible for restructuring. But the result crashes since Mood
speech act is above Tense: the subject is too low to receive claim’s θ-role (2). claim must therefore realize a main verb in a biclausal structure. In contrast, a predicate like try corresponds to an IP head below Tense and hence can assign its l-role (3).

The analysis also correctly predicts that raising predicates can restructure regardless of clausal position, since no θ-assignment is at stake: Italian sembrare ‘seem’ restructures (for some speakers) and thereby realizes Mood
evidential (Haegeman 2006), which is above Tense in Cinque’s hierarchy.

I conclude by refining (1a) in diachronic perspective, suggesting in a vein similar to Cinque (2004) that crosslinguistic instability in restructuring status (as in the ‘±’status of manage and try in the table above) reflects crosslinguistic differences in degree of grammaticalization (and corresponding semantic bleaching) of the relevant predicate.

Metatypy and fabric transfer as mutually supportive phenomena in Chamic.

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Metatypy (Ross 1996) – the typological reshaping of a language through contact-induced linguistic change by transfer of patterns – is often claimed to be the result of language shift, and as such is the result of a different combination of social phenomena from those which are supposed to bring about heavy linguistic (and especially lexical) borrowing or fabric transfer (Grant 2002).

Using data from a subset of heavily borrowing languages from SE Asia, namely the Austronesian Chamic languages,
which are most closely related to Malayic but which have also been shaped by contact with Mon-Khmer languages while developing some features independently of the languages which are sociopolitically dominant over the Chamic languages, I demonstrate that this division is factitious, and show that in fact the two processes interact very powerfully to reshape such languages. I examine two Chamic languages, Tsat/Hainan Cham (Zheng 2007, Thurgood 2006), which over the past millennium has been strongly shaped by Cantonese and other Chinese languages, which are prestigious in Hainan, and the Vietnamese Highland Chamic language Jarai (Siu 2009, Lafont 1963, Headley 1965), which has been strongly shaped by Mon-Khmer languages (not all of which can be clearly identified), latterly mostly the prestigious national language Vietnamese. The interaction of transfer of pattern and transfer of fabric has infused these languages with contact phenomena at all structural levels.

Concentration in this study is upon lexicon, examining basic vocabulary and also subsets of the semantic structures of the Tsat and Jarai lexicon, specifically kinship terminology, cardinal numeral structures, and numeral classifier systems, which have converged more closely with the structures of these fields as they are found in Chinese (in the case of Tsat) or in Vietnamese (as with Jarai) than they do with Malay, although neither Jarai nor Tsat has borrowed the relevant forms wholesale from the relevant prestige language.

References

De que in Portuguese and Spanish: a contrastive analysis of nominal complement clauses.
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It is well known that Spanish exhibits a large number of “unwanted” uses of the combination de que in contexts where no preposition is required by the grammar, a phenomenon called dequeismo (cf. Náñez 1984, Gómez Torrego 1999, Sánchez Lancis 2004, en prensa; Del Moral 2008, Delbecque 2008, NGLE §43.6). Portuguese is not known to present dequeismo, but in contrast with other Romance languages such as French, Catalan and Italian, it shows the same historical development as Spanish with nominal complement clauses including a preposition, typically de. This situation is illustrated by the following sentences:

A possibilidade de sair / a possibilidade de que ele saia eleito é considerável. (Spa)
La posibilidad de salir / la posibilidad de que él salga elegido es considerable. (Por)
La possibilitat de sortir / la possibilitat que ell surti elegit és considerable. (Cat)
La posibilité de sortir / la possibilité qu’il soit élu est considerable. (Fre)
La possibilità di uscire / la possibilità che lui sia elettò è considérabile. (It)
‘The possibility of becoming / that he is elected is considerable’ (cf. Barra Jover 2002: 465-466)

The aim of this paper is to provide a historical account of the introduction and generalization of de before complement clauses of nominal heads in Portuguese and Spanish. In Spanish, this development apparently took place in the 16th and 17th centuries (Serradilla Castaño 2010, Girón Alconchel 2004), but the Portuguese situation has not been thoroughly investigated. In this sense, then, I will try to identify the formative steps that can be observed in Portuguese, contrasting the
findings with Spanish data, in order to reach an understanding of why the de que construction has generalized so much further in one language than another. By concentrating on nominal complements, the aim is to gain further insight into the similarities and differences between the two languages, but also to bring new light on the research on Spanish dequeísmo, where most research has focused on verbal complementation (cf. Delbecque 2008; Cornillie & Delbecque 2008).

For the purpose of this paper, 500 cases per century of the sequence N + de que were extracted from Davies & Ferreira (2006-)’s Corpus do Português (CP) and Davies (2002-)’s Corpus del español (CE) corpora. The data show a general increase in the use of the N + de que sequence from the 14th to the 20th century in both languages. When contrasting Portuguese and Spanish data, it becomes clear that clausal complements with de que generalize much earlier in Spanish than in Portuguese. In Spanish, more than half the cases of N + de que are indeed complement clauses from the 16th century on, while the same does not occur in Portuguese until the 19th century.

Furthermore, the data reveal that the overall frequency of de que-complement clauses correlates significantly with what I have called the de que topic-construction. This construction arises from the fact that a significant amount of the nominal heads which take clausal complements belongs to the semantic domain of thinking and speaking. They are so called ideational nouns such as (ideia/idea ‘idea’, noticia/noticia ‘news’, esperança/esperanza ‘hope’), which naturally combine with de expressing a topic meaning (roughly equivalent to ‘about, regarding’). It is hypothesized that the presence of the de que topic-construction can go a long way to explaining the rise of dequeísmo in Spanish, an evolution that might lie still ahead in the case of Portuguese, which is found to possess most of the necessary ingredients.

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Prints of linguistic identity in the post-war linguistic landscape of Mostar.

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Identities are constantly made and remade. They are multilayered, variable and dynamic. Linguistic identity in multiethnic communities also carries these features. The aim of this research was to measure the presence of different languages and markers of linguistic identity in the post-war linguistic landscape of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The research question was: “To what extent does the LL of Mostar reflect the linguistic identities of the two speech communities?”. In multiethnic ecologies relationship between language and identity is complex and a subject to perpetual changes. The choice of language and language attitudes are closely connected to the political issues, power relations, language ideologies and opinions of the interlocutors about identity. All these tenets are demonstrable in the linguistic landscape of the post-war city of Mostar. The linguistic landscape of this divided city is an arena in which diverse linguistic identities are constantly negotiated. Different ethnicities struggle to leave more prints of their identity in the linguistic landscape of the city.

While most studies of linguistic landscape approach it as multilingual language policy, we suggest that linguistic landscape can also provide valuable insights into research on language and identity. The highly visible texts of the LL can also impact upon the discursive construction of the collective identities of the inhabitants of the place. In the city of Mostar, which is a multiethnic area, language has emerged as a strong marker of ethnic identity. The presence of one language in the LL is symbolic of the strength and vitality of its ethnic group. On the other hand, the absence of a language in the LL can give out the message that the language and its ethnic group have no status in the public social world. Prints of linguistic identity are an evidence of a group’s yearning to emphasize its collective identity in the public. By doing so, each group marks “its” territory.

We carried out a quantitative study of 6 survey areas in the city in order to get an objective feel of the LL in terms of linguistic code choices and preferences. A new variable was introduced into LL research and that is The Presence of Collective Identity Marker. The data were collected during 13 months of fieldwork in the 6 most frequented city centers. Altogether 1010 signs were photographed, using sampling method Diversity or Heterogeneity Sampling. All photographed signs were analysed and coded according to 26 variables. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 19, was used for the statistical analysis.

The results have shown that the public signs of the post-war LL of the city of Mostar are indeed symbolic markers of status and power, which tells us a lot about the vitality of different social cleavages in the society. Nevertheless, the high percentage of the prints of linguistic identity signalizes that, despite recent animosities, the social environment in the city of Mostar is tolerant and open for diverse social and cultural differences.

Individuating the abstract.

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Despite the vast literature on the mass-count distinction, the countability of abstract nouns, as well as their patterns of polysemy and sense extension, remains largely unexplored territory. Previous literature hypothesized that the countability of abstract nouns arises from the aktionsart of a noun’s derivational source (Mourelatos 1978, Brinton 1998). Derivational patterns are taken as primary evidence for this connection: states and activities correspond to non-count nouns (*run > much/*a running) while accomplishment and achievements correspond to count nouns (*arrive > *much/an arrival). The countability preference of abstract nouns then, as argued most explicitly in Brinton (1998), could follow from the aktionsart of their derivational source. I provide an empirical study demonstrating that (i) the countability of abstract nouns is not fully determined by the derivational source, (ii) the state/event distinction is only one among many distinctions governing abstract nouns’ countability and (iii) there are several productive paths of sense extension, which play out in different fashions depending on the semantic field.

To examine the aktionsart hypothesis, I compiled (and hand-corrected) a database of 3100 deverbal nouns containing each noun’s derivational history and countability class (both extracted from the CELEX database) along with the derivational source’s aktionsart information (from the “Lexical Conceptual Structures” database (Dorr 2001)). I evaluated,
using a general linear model, whether the aktionsart of a noun’s derivational source predicts its countability class. The hypothesis was partially validated: nouns derived from statives and locative statives were significant predictors ($p<.002$ and $p<.05$, respectively) of exclusively uncountable nouns; however, accomplishments or achievements did not consistently yield countable nouns. A large number of counter-examples, and frequent polysemy between count and non-count occurrences (much thought/many thoughts), further indicate that this explanation is too coarse-grained.

A second study examines nouns from four semantic domains (mental/bodily states, psych-nouns, qualities (honesty), event-nouns (crime)). For each domain, I extracted from the COCA corpus up to 200 singular and 200 plural occurrences of at least 10 different nouns. I exemplify my findings with nouns of the first two domains.

Bodily and mental states (hunger, sleep) are typically uncountable, yet may become countable when anchored to an event or an individual (“the sleeps of a five-week old baby”). The mental noun intelligence can only be anchored to individuals (“our intelligences”), but not events; nouns designating social qualities (kindness) can only be anchored to events, not individuals. The potential for sense extension appears to be related to fundamental semantic properties: availability of eventive readings correlates with stage-level predicates, while only inalienably possessed qualities/properties allow anchoring to individuals.

For psych-nouns, nominal countability is determined by whether the noun designates an experiencer-state or a stimulus. Nouns designating stimuli (irritant) are always countable, while those designating experiencer-states (gloom, despair) are uncountable, but may permit countable uses as (often marginal) episodic construals. A third type is polysemous between experiencer-state (much annoyance [uncountable]) and stimulus (several annoyances [countable]).

These results argue that fine-grained semantic generalizations, often relative to particular semantic fields, underpin the countability of abstract nouns and their potential sense extensions.

References:

Evaluating a universal of borrowing: linear structure preservation.

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According to Moravcsik (1978: 112), “a grammatical word cannot be borrowed unless the linear order with respect to its head is also ‘borrowed’ [...] This statement excludes a language which borrows the form and the meaning of a preposition and uses it postposed, or which borrows the form and meaning of a postposition and uses it preposed.” The aim of the present paper is to evaluate the proposed universal – called here Linear Order Preservation – on the basis of a broad cross-linguistic sample (the sample on which the present study is given below as an annex).

In order to map the possible outcomes of borrowing, it is necessary to take into account:
1. The basic linear order of adposition vis-à-vis complement in the source language;
2. The basic linear order of adposition vis-à-vis complement in the target language; and
3. The linear order of borrowed adposition vis-à-vis-complement in the target language.

This produces a set of eight logical possibilities, only six of which are actually attested. The following table is to be read as ‘X is borrowed as Y in a language with Z as its basic linear order of adposition vis-à-vis-complement,’ e.g., line 1 = ‘Preposition borrowed as preposition in language with preposition-complement as its basic linear order.’
Outcomes 1 and 2 are expected, but trivial, since there is no conflict of linear orders. Outcomes 3 and 4 are predicted by Moravcsik’s universal of Linear Order Preservation. Outcomes 5 and 6 are counterexamples to Moravcsik’s universal. Outcomes 7 and 8 are logically possible but unattested in the sample, probably because it is unlikely that a disharmonic order would result when there is no conflict between linear orders of source and target language. Some outcomes involve only matter replication, while others involve both matter and pattern replication (for the distinction, see Matras & Sakel 2007).

Broadly speaking, the results of this cross-linguistic study demonstrates that linear order conflicts can be resolved in favor of the linear order of either the source or the target language, thereby providing additional evidence for the generalization that the structural features of the languages involved, on their own, make poor predictions about the outcome of borrowing. As such, the motivating and facilitating factors for the particular resolution of linear order conflicts must be sought elsewhere. This paper looks at areal, sociolinguistic and discourse factors, taking into consideration not only established borrowings but also sporadic ‘online’ instances of code-switching.

References

Word order change in the adposition phrase of western Uralic: syntactic transfer or reanalysis?

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Unlike other Uralic languages and most other languages of the world, western Uralic displays a mixed word order in the adposition phrase. There are both prepositions (examples 1–2) and postpositions (examples 3–4) in the Finnic languages, such as Finnish, Estonian, Karelian, Veps and Votic, and the Saamic languages, whereas other Uralic languages exclusively display postpositions. The variation occurs in any kind of data, both spoken and written language. The following examples (1–4) represent non-standardised variants that were documented during 19th and 20th century.

(1) Inari Saami  
\[taggær\ keʤıkouđaš\ mii\ moonaj\ toho,\ \textit{čöoda}\ ton\ suolllu\] (MSFOu 213: 25)  
such stone hollow what-go-IMPF.SG3 there[LAT] through-it-GEN island.ENG  
‘[there was] such a stone hollow that went there, through the island’

(2) Veps  
\[ak\ se\ i\ kol’i\ edů\ kolendad\ sanui\ ukole…\] (MSFOu 100: 258)  
woman it and die-IMPF.SG3 and before death-PART say-IMPF.SG3 man-ALL  
‘the woman died and said to the man before her death…’

(3) Inari Saami  
\[te\ biejjii\ toho\ ...\ \textit{taj\ muoraj\ vuula}\ ja\ \textit{muorajd}\ piejjii\ oola\] (MSFOu 213: 25)  

then put-IMPF.SG there[ALT] it-GEN.SG it-GEN.PL tree-GEN.PL under[ALT] and tree-GEN(-ACC).PL put-IMPF.SG3 upon[ALT]
‘then (s)he put [it] under the trees and put wood on it’

(4) Vote     miä en näe mitäid, lavvao takan isun nüd (MSFOu 63: 10)
I NEG-SG1 see.CNG nothing-PRT table.GEN behind[LOC] sit-SG1 now
‘I do not see anything, I am now sitting at the table.’

Typologically the parallel use of prepositions and postpositions is not exceptional but, nevertheless, unexpected as less than 10% of the world’s languages display a mixed order of the adposition and the noun phrase (Dryer 1991, 1992, 2007). The straightforward explanation for this ambiguity is that the long-term contact between western Finnic and Saamic and the neighboring Indo-European languages, most notably Germanic and Baltic, triggered the word order change as some linguists have assumed (Lehtinen 2007: 135).

However, in our paper we suggest that the alleged contact-induced change and emergence of prepositions in Finnic and Saamic on the basis of Indo-European influence is inadequately motivated. The mixed system has parallels in different syntactic patterns, which has triggered the variation in contemporary languages. In fact, both synchronically and diachronically the adposition phrase demonstrates subtle morphosyntactic interplay between case government, adpositions and grammatical relations.

The main rule is that the basic morphosyntactic structure of a postpositional phrase in Finnic and Saamic corresponds to the order of the genitive and noun, whereas the morphosyntactic structure of most prepositional phrases in Finnic presumably corresponds to comparative constructions, historically locational comparatives as Stassen (2011) labels the given subtype. Methodologically, the diachronic perspective urges one to discuss the typology of synchronous constructions and language-internal structural diversity in a broader framework. We allege that the combination of historical linguistics and typology demonstrates those constraints that decrease the influence of language contacts in grammatically specialised functions such as adpositional phrases.

References

Agreement as DSM.

Hallman, Peter
(University of Vienna)

In this talk, I propose that subject markedness in differential subject marking (DSM) constructions is expressed by verb agreement with the subject, in contrast to object markedness, which is expressed by morphological case on the object (DOM). A case study in the diachronic development of the relation between agreement and definiteness in Arabic supports
this claim. In Classical Arabic (prior to 700 AD), only pronominal subjects trigger number agreement on the verb in the neutral word order VSO (1a) (the pronoun can be dropped but the agreement is obligatory in any event). Definite and indefinite subjects occur with default singular (1b) (Fassi-Fehri 1993, among others).

(1)  
|      | (hum)       | l-rijaal-u / rijaal-u-n          |
|      | wasal-uu    | arrived-3p them,3mp              |
|      |             | 'They arrived.'                  |
| b.   | wasal-a     | arrived-3ms the-men,nom / men-nom-indef |
|      | l-rijaal-u  | arrived-3p the-men,3ms           |
|      | rijaal-u-n  | 'The men arrived.' / 'Men arrived.' |

In modern Levantine Arabic, agreement with pronominal and definite subjects is obligatory.

(2)  
|      | (hon)       | the-men       |
| a.   | wesl-o      | arrived-3p    |
|      | tleet baseet | them,3p       |
|      | m'axxariin. | 'The bus driver told us that several buses were stuck in traffic...'
| b.   | wesl-o      | arrived-3p    |
|      | l-erjaal    | the-men       |

Indefinite subjects, however, trigger agreement only when specific (Mohammad 2000 and others). Agreement with an indefinite subject requires that subject to be interpreted as included within the denotation of a discourse antecedent, as Enç (1991) characterizes specificity, and the text below demonstrates (from Hallman 2007). The continuation with agreement in (3a) requires the three buses referred to there to belong to the group of buses mentioned in (3). The continuation in (3b) without agreement does not. "3" is a pharyngeal fricative.

(3)  
|      | 'ell-na 'inno 3iddet baseet 3il'-o bi-3aj'et seer... |
|      | driver the-bus told-us that several buses stuck-3p in-jam traffic |
|      | 'The bus driver told us that several buses were stuck in traffic...'

a.  
|      | ba3deen smi3-na 'inno wesl-o tleet baseet m'axxariin. |
|      | later heard-1p that arrived-3p three buses late |
|      | 'Later we heard that three of the buses arrived late.' [specific]

b.  
|      | ba3deen smi3-na 'inno wesl tleet baseet m'axxariin. |
|      | later heard-1p that arrived-Ø three buses late |
|      | 'Later we heard that three buses arrived late.' [non-specific]

Agreement in both classical and modern Arabic shows the same relationship to the definiteness hierarchy as object case marking does in DOM constructions: the occurrence of the marking correlates with high definiteness for the associated nominal. The diachronic development of Arabic shows a lowering of the cutoff point for markedness for subjects, and in modern Arabic, the correlation of agreement and subject definiteness is exactly parallel to the correlation of case marking and object definiteness in typical DOM languages such as Turkish, where non-specific objects are not case-marked but specific, definite and pronominal objects are. These observations support the claim that agreement is to subject marking what case is to object marking. The fact that agreement and case tend to be complementary (Greenberg 1966, Keenan 1976) explains Aissen’s (2003) assessment that subject markedness (as case) is inversely correlated with definiteness. When we take agreement to represent subject markedness rather than case, the correlation is the same for subjects and objects: the more definiteness, the more markedness.

References
Frequency effects in translation: further refining the notion of gravitational pull.

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The gravitational pull hypothesis (Halverson 2003) was put forward as a tentative explanation of some of the linguistic patterns posited for translated text (or ‘translation universals’). The hypothesis built on Langacker’s theory of cognitive grammar (1987/1991, 2008) and the distributed feature model of bilingual representation (de Groot 1992, 1993). The key idea was that the particular configurations of bilingual schematic networks could be used to predict patterns of over- or underrepresentation in translational corpora.

In later work, two main problems with the original formulation were recognized (Halverson 2010a). The first of these was the theoretical conflation of what are now recognized as three distinct potential sources of translational effects deriving from schematic networks. These three potential sources are: 1) the cognitive status (as prototype/schema) of the target language item (gravitational pull proper), 2) the patterning and strength of links within the bilingual network, and 3) the cognitive status of the source text (ST) item. The second problem is of a methodological nature and concerns the need to combine observational data (corpora) with experimental data in cognitive linguistic endeavors. A third issue that has been discussed separately (Halverson 2010b, 2012) concerns the relationship between translation and other forms of bilingual language production.

In this paper, I address all three issues through the discussion of the role of frequency in cognitive linguistic models of translation and bilingual cognition. The relationship between frequency and cognitive status is discussed with a methodological starting point in Schmid (2010), though the broader issues concerning the relationship between cognitive status and corpus frequency are also recognized (see also Gilquin (2006)). In addition to the comparison of frequencies across corpora to test for effect type 1, this paper adapts Schmid’s ‘attraction-reliance’ measures to a translational environment to test for effect types 2 and 3 above in corpus data.

In the paper, the hypothesis is tested with using data for one particular schematic network: the polysemous verb get. First, independent corpus-analytical studies of get (Berez and Gries 2008) and of get and its Norwegian counterparts (Ebeling 2003) are used as a means of establishing a viable model of a bilingual (Norwegian-English) schematic network for this verb. Then corpus data from the English-Norwegian parallel corpus, the British National Corpus and the Translational Corpus of English are investigated to test for the three types of effects. At this point the relative frequency measures from Schmid (2010) are introduced and adapted. These analyses serve to test the gravitational pull hypothesis, and they also illustrate the theoretical refinements to the hypothesis as it was originally formulated. The methodological issue of teasing apart the three potential sources of effects is also addressed. The measures adapted here will also be considered with an aim to further developing more sophisticated multivariate statistical tests for this hypothesis. Finally, proposals are made for the frequency-based integration of experimental data and for the comparison of these analyses with data from other bilingual production modes.

References

Afrikaans, cornerstone of European heritage or creole language?

Hamans, Camiel
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This paper addresses the question of how ideology may influence historical linguistic research and vice versa. The data come from Afrikaans and the approach is a historiographic search through the literature on the genesis of Afrikaans.

Afrikaans is now one of the eleven national languages of South Africa. The origin and descent of this language has long been disputed. On the one hand one finds the South African Philological School (Den Besten 1986) and its forerunners such as Kloeke (1950) who defended a superstrate idea in which linguistic peculiarities of Afrikaans were seen as coming from dialect varieties of Dutch. Kloeke, a Dutch linguist and dialectologist, imputed a strong founder effect to the Dutch dialect that was the mother tongue of Jan van Riebeek, the leader of the first Dutch settlement (1652-1662).

The South African Philological School itself is associated with Apartheid (1960-1994) and the idea that the Dutch settlers, who called themselves Afrikaner Boer later, were sent by God to bring Christian civilization to South Africa and to protect the original inhabitants against murder, rape and violence. The language of these settlers, Dutch, was instrumental in bringing God’s truth to Africa. This school, represented by its most prolific writers J. du Plessis Scholtz and Edith Raidt (Den Besten 1987 and Roberge 2012), was mainly interested in the growth of standard Afrikaans and defended “the idea that Afrikaans gradually developed out of 17th and 18th century nonstandard Dutch under the accelerating pressure of nonnative and sometimes broken Dutch as spoken by French Huguenots, Germans, Khoekhoen (Hottentots), and slaves” (Den Besten 1987: 67). For each feature that could be regarded as a creolism, a possible Dutch or European antecedent was sought and was subsequently proclaimed European under the slogan “if a feature can possibly be European, then it must be European” (Holm 2012: 400).

At the other extreme one finds scholars who defend an opposite view, which says that “Afrikaans is some kind of creole language” (Roberge 2012: 390). Early proponents of this idea are among others Schuchardt (Meijer & Muijsken 1977), Hesseling (1897, 1899) and Reinecke (1937) (Holm 2012: 399). In the days of Apartheid the leading historical linguistic view was that of the Philological School and which followed the Eurocentric philosophy of the Apartheid ideology. Advocates of a creole origin, such as the Dutch Romanist Valkhoff (1966, 1972) were insulted or ridiculed as negrocentric (Van der Merwe 1982: 3, Hinskens 2009: 20). In a less emotional debate Raidt (1983: 191) blames Den Besten and other advocates of a creole genesis for not being able to apprehend the causes of the language changes at the Cape of Good Hope fully (Roberge 2012: 393).

With the abolition of Apartheid the primacy of the Philological School disappeared. Nowadays only right wing extremists, in South Africa and the Netherlands, defend an exclusive, direct and strong lineage from Dutch dialects to Afrikaans. Young Afrikaans poets and singer songwriters are proud to call themselves bastardized and Creoles and their language creolized (De Vries 2012: 137). They claim to belong to Africa and not to Europe anymore. The genesis of their language is an argument for this claim.

In this presentation data from Afrikaans will be presented with which the two schools tried to prove that they were right.

The result, or conclusion, of this paper will be a reminder that historical linguists only should take a position in
ideological debates if they do so responsibly, free, as much as possible, of any unwarranted a priori preferences for one view or the other.

References


Switch-reference description using experiential evidence.

Hammond, Jeremy

(MPI, Nijmegen)

In this paper, I present results from experimental data on switch-reference in the Oceanic language Whitesands (ISO: TNP), providing an evidence-based description of the system. Whitesands, like its sister languages of the southern Vanuatu subgroup, uses a switch-reference system across clauses primarily marking coreference (Lynch 1983, Lynch 2001:177, Crowley 2002:201, Hammond submitted). I present a description of the system in its most canonical form for Whitesands. I then tackle the properties of antecedents for the same subject clauses using two different experiments. I address the following questions: Does the Whitesands’ system support claims that switch-reference systems are potentially sensitive to discourse topicality (Reesink 1983) or other extra-syntactic devices (Roberts 1988)? Furthermore, what is the preferred antecedent for Whitesands speakers in extended discourse?

The m- ‘ER’ inflection is typically used when two adjacent predicates share the same subject. The m- replaces the person agreement and tense operators in the second clause. In (1) the m- indicates coreference of the subject of the predicate with the subject of the preceding predicate. The clause m-l- eru is underspecified for person and tense when taken out of context and is thus ungrammatical as in (1’).

(1) k-l-eni ama [m-l- eru]
    3.NPST-TRIAL-say just ER-TRIAL-see
    They (TRIAL) just talked and saw.

(1’) * m-l- eru
    ER-TRIAL-see

However, in the Whitesands corpus it is clear that a simple “antecedent equals subject” rule does not always hold for same
subject clauses and that a notion of discourse topic might be a potential antecedent alternative. For example, there are
topic chains that use the Echo Referent for continual reference whilst skipping immediately adjacent non-topical subjects. 
Further, there are forms where the prefix m- combines previously distinct arguments into a single argument slot.
The first experiment presented here is a production experiment where speakers had to extend natural discourse 
using video and audio stimuli. The items were of four types and these were controlled for alignment of grammatical relations and topicality. The results suggest that a highly topical entity can indeed trigger a coreference pattern.
The second experiment presented is a forced choice comprehension task. I investigate the relationship between 
same subject clauses (coreference) and antecedent types. I test what alternative constructions are considered grammatical.
I conclude that the switch-reference clauses are much more likely to be aligned with a topical referent that is also the 
subject of the preceding clause than in other configurations tested.

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Voilà is known as a recurrent deictic marker in spoken French. Bruxelles and Traverso (2006) study the use of the marker in a professional context where architects discuss their projects in the office. As could be expected, the architects use deictic markers to highlight different features of their models. One observation made by the authors is that voilà is not restricted to deictic use alone, but carries a number of interactional functions. In a perspective of pragmaticalization (e.g. Dostie 2004, Dostie & Pusch 2007, Hansen & Rossari 2005), voilà has undergone a number of semantic changes to gain interactional functions.

In this paper we study the usage of the French marker voilà in spoken French by very advanced Swedish learners. It has been observed that even frequent exposure to discourse markers is not sufficient for their acquisition and appropriate use (Romero Trillo 2002). Our approach here is mainly descriptive and we use a method influenced by conversation analysis as a tool to investigate the functions of voilà. The Swedish learners are compared to a corpus of productions from native French speakers with identical tasks. We also apply quantitative methods to determine the ‘degree of pragmaticalization’ in the use of voilà (see Romero Trillo, 2002; Hancock 2012). By pragmaticalization in L2 we mean the development of non deictic and textual/interactional functions of voilà. The degree would reflect the extent to which the learners make use of the interactional functions of the markers.

Our data is a corpus of transcribed recordings, altogether with 20 speakers of French (10 non-native speakers with Swedish L1 and 10 native speakers of French), and comprises two different tasks. In the first task (The telephone conversation) the speaker has to call his boss to ask for two days off and the length is about 2 x 6000 words. The second task (the semi-informal conversation) is about 2 x 30 000 words. The subject of the latter conversation is studies, professional experience, and hobbies. The non-native speakers have lived for at least 10 years in France, where they arrived at the age of 20 to 25. They are highly integrated in the French society and are considered bilingual in French and Swedish.

We ask the following questions: To which extent is voilà pragmaticalized in the use of the non-native speakers? That
is to say, do we find the same textual/interactional functions in the learners’ speech as in the native speakers’ production? Secondly, do the functions have the same quantitative distribution in the two speaker groups? The third question concerns the difference between the two tasks: Could the same functions of the marker be found in both tasks? We expect that the learners, in spite of long exposure to the target language, have not fully pragmatized their use of voilà, at least not from a quantitative point of view.

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The syntax of modal polyfunctionality revisited. Evidence from the languages of Europe.

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There is a plethora of studies dedicated to the semantics and the syntax of modal constructions. Syntacticians are especially interested in the syntactic representation of modal polyfunctionality as found for example in the English modal must:

(1) In future you must try to get here earlier. (deontic)
(2) It must be later than I thought. (epistemic)

Whereas (1) expresses an obligation imposed by regulations or by the speaker’s will, (2) receives the interpretation of a logical deduction in the sense of ‘in light of what I am seeing I conclude that it is late’. This ambiguity is not an idiosyncratic feature of English or the Germanic languages, as it is also found in other non-related language families like Slavonic and Indo-Arian. Notwithstanding this, one has to realise that the most influential studies theorizing about the syntax of modal constructions deal with English and other Germanic languages. It demonstrates a strong bias towards this language family and a lack of cross-linguistic studies.

In our contribution, we would like to broaden the empirical base by giving a first account of cross-linguistic morpho-syntactic variation among modal constructions. The main question we are going to address is: what are the syntactic features which are cross-linguistically connected to polyfunctionality? We will focus on a) the distinction between verbs and auxiliaries, b) raising vs control and c) coherence of verbal complexes. We will do this, first, by presenting an overview of morpho-syntactic variation of modal constructions and, second, by contrasting select claims and discussions presented in works on the syntactic make-up of Germanic modal constructions with typological data. The data we are going to discuss are mainly taken from the volume ‘Modals in the languages of Europe. A reference work’ Hansen & de Haan (2009) which covers all major languages spoken in Europe. The authors claim that modals are generally characterised as polyfunctional, morphologically autonomous expression of modality which show a certain degree of grammaticalization. ‘Polyfunctional’ means that modals can express more than one meaning type (dynamic, deontic and epistemic), which distinguishes them from lexical means of expression like e.g. adjectives of the type necessary. This relative semantic uniformity of modal constructions, however, contrasts with their structural diversity with respect to the following features:
i) the syntactic encoding of the subject argument,
ii) assignment of the subject agreement marking to the modal and/or the main verb,
iii) TAM marking on the modal and/or the main verb,
iv) presence or absence of an auxiliary or light verb.

In the second part of the paper we will try to correlate these cross-linguistic findings with theoretical works on Germanic modals which discuss the syntactic structures behind modal polyfunctionality. As a point of departure we will use a few hypotheses that were presented e.g. in Abraham (1998), Reis (2001) and in Barbiers (2005); i.e. we will discuss whether modal polyfunctionality depends on:

Hypothesis 1: the auxiliary – main verb distinction,
Hypothesis 2: complexity mismatch (raising and control), or
Hypothesis 3: the coherence of verbal complexes.

We will put forward typological evidence in favour of Hypothesis 2.

References

A synchronic and diachronic study of the auxiliary verb ‘zou’.

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Modal auxiliaries typically express modal meanings, but the Dutch modal zullen 'shall' is a special case in this regards, since next to some modal meanings it expresses predominantly a temporal meaning (future). The preterite form zou 'should' is even more special since it serves as the past time of zullen only in roughly 20% of its occurrences. For the rest, it serves functions which zullen does not, including the marking of evidentiality, hypotheticality and counterfactuality. In addition, zou very often functions as a modifier of another modal, as for example in zou kunnen 'should can', or zou moeten 'should must'. All of this indicates that zou has become a separate auxiliary, independently of zullen. This paper will analyze and compare the different meanings and uses of zou in Modern Dutch (1980 and onwards) and Early New Dutch (1550-1650).

The first aim is to figure out whether the meanings and uses of zou correlate with specific grammatical patterns of their host clause, such as patterns of indirect speech, embedding under mental state predicates, or the occurrence in the protasis or apodosis of conditional structures. The second aim is to describe the development of these meanings and uses as well as the development of the grammatical patterns.

The study is corpus based: I have analyzed a sample of 200 instances for Early New Dutch, and two samples of 200 instances for Modern Dutch, one exclusively written, one exclusively spoken. These samples were drawn from the representative Corpus Gesproken Nederlands (Nederlandse Taalunie 2004), the CONDIV Corpus (containing newspapers, Gronstael et al. 2000), the online Digitale Bibliotheek voor de Nederlandse Letteren (http://www.dbnl.org) and other reliable internet sources for non-fictional prose. The data were selected on the basis of representativity (geographical criteria and text genres) and (for the written data) comparability across the two periods. All instances have been analyzed in terms of their meaning or function (as proposed in a cognitive-functional model, e.g. Nuyts 2001, 2008), as well as in terms of a range of structural and functional features of the clause in which they appear (e.g. grammatical pattern, type of state of
affairs, temporal structure, presence of other modal forms, etc.).

Preliminary results: Zou does not express any modal meanings in either period. Apart from its use as the past tense of zullen, its most important function in both periods is the marking of hypotheticality of the state of affairs (I assume this is not the same as expressing epistemic modality). The evidential use probably developed from the hypothetical use. In addition, in Modern Dutch zou often serves as a politeness marker, especially in combination with other modals and with the verbs zeggen ’say’ and niet weten ’not know’. These combinations also occur in Early New Dutch, but usually with zou expressing hypotheticality. The findings suggest that the pragmatic uses of zou developed from the hypothetical use.

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Written requests in German and Japanese emails.

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The observation that email requests written by Japanese learners of German often fail to meet politeness requirements prompted me to conduct research on German and Japanese writing styles. The aim of this study is to account for frequently observed mistakes in learners’ texts, the results of which may contribute to developing teaching materials that enable Japanese students to write German emails more appropriately. The research questions underlying my study are: “In what ways do German and Japanese email requests differ in terms of their structure, content, and language use?” and “What difficulties do Japanese learners face when writing such emails in their L2 German?”.

In order to describe differences between German and Japanese writing styles, a database consisting of 200 L1 request emails, written by German and Japanese students, was created within an experimental framework (100 German and 100 Japanese emails respectively). In relation to the second research question, 40 emails written by Japanese students in their L2 German were collected in order to investigate the characteristics of their interlanguage.

Based on findings in text linguistics and interlanguage pragmatics, the formal, structural, and linguistic properties of the L1 German and L1 Japanese emails were analysed qualitatively and quantitatively. The analysis aimed to uncover which individual text parts, such as the greeting, reasons for the request, the farewell statement, are commonly used in the languages under investigation and how they are realised linguistically. Of particular interest was the performance of the request sequence. After establishing the characteristics of the L1 emails in both languages, the L2 German emails were also analysed in the same way and compared with the L1 results.

In relation to the first research question, the results reveal structural differences in German and Japanese writing styles as well as differences regarding content and language use. While German emails structurally adhere strictly to the writing styles of German letters, containing such items as a greeting, a farewell statement and the writer’s name at the end, the text norms of Japanese emails are more flexible in this regard. At the content level German writers make extensive use of expressions of gratitude and promises of forbearance in order to support their request, while Japanese writers prefer apologies for the imposition and repetitions of the request. Also, German writers express themselves more individually by using creative forms of expression, while Japanese writers are more formal by making extensive use of routine formulae.

The L2 German emails indicate transfer of structural and linguistic characteristics of the learners’ L1 Japanese as well as use of target language structures and linguistic forms, which are sometimes inadequately expressed. Given the sensitive nature of making a request, these results may help to explain, why learners sometimes fail to meet politeness requirements in their L2, and may also serve as an empirical basis for establishing contrastive German-Japanese teaching materials.
How widespread is transitive encoding?
Hartmann, Iren and Haspelmath, Martin
(MPI, Leipzig)

It is often taken for granted that languages have a large number of transitive verbs, or even that the typical two-argument verb is transitive. But we know that languages differ in the extent to which they make use of transitive encoding (e.g. Hawkins 1986 on English/German contrasts: in German, verbs like ‘help’ and ‘follow’ are not encoded transitively). Typological studies such as Tsunoda (1985) and Malchukov (2005) have tried to formulate generalizations concerning the kinds of verb meanings that tend to be coded non-transitively in different languages. But so far there has been no serious published attempt to quantify transitive encoding: How strongly do languages differ? Is English atypical in the prominence it accords to transitive encoding? There seem to be three major obstacles to such quantification: how to define transitivity cross-linguistically, how to sample verbs, and how to get systematic cross-linguistic data.

In this presentation, we report on a major study of valency patterns in 35 languages from around the world, which allows us to overcome the data obstacle: We brought together a consortium of 35 author teams (experts in their respective languages) to provide a dataset of about 80 verbs with detailed valency information. The individual datasets are comparable because they consist of counterparts to the same set of 80 basic verb meanings. (The aggregated database, called ValPaL [=“Valency Patterns Leipzig”] will be published online, so that our results can be easily verified.)

As for the two first obstacles, we basically follow the path of Greenberg (1963): We define our comparative concepts in a rigorous way, but we do not make an attempt to justify them, being content with some intuition-based decisions. This concerns, in particular, the choice of 80 verb meanings: We tried to include verb meanings of diverse kinds, which seem to us reasonably representative. As argued by Lazard (2005), intuition-based decisions are unavoidable in typology and do not detract from the methodological rigour of the enterprise. Our definition of transitivity follows Lazard (2002) and Haspelmath (2011) in spirit: We start out from the typical transitive verb ‘break’ and define “transitive encoding” as the encoding that is used by this verb. A verb is considered transitive if it contains an A and a P argument, and A and P are defined as the arguments that are coded like the ‘breaker’ and the ‘broken thing’ roles of the ‘break’ verb. We have found that this definition appears to give the same result as the criterion of “major two-argument verb class” (Witzlack-Makarevich 2011), but it is easier to apply.

Our findings are not particularly surprising: Languages differ in the extent to which they use transitive encoding in their ca. 80 sample verbs, but not dramatically: All our 35 languages have the transitive class as their major verb class, so the prominence of transitivity seems to be a robust language universal. What is perhaps most surprising is that English is not extreme in its degree of transitivity prominence.

Comparative standard marking in contact languages: evidence from APiCS.
Haspelmath, Martin and Michaelis, Susanne
(MPI, Leipzig)

Comparative constructions of inequality in contact languages show an unexpected high degree of variation, as we will discuss on the basis of data from the forthcoming Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures (APiCS, Michaelis et al. 2013). In this talk, we are primarily interested in the coding of the standard. In the English sentence John is taller than Peter, the standard, Peter, to which John (the topic) is compared, is marked by the particle than. Another example comes from Nigerian Pidgin (Faracas 2013) where a verb meaning ‘surpass’ (pas) marks the standard (yù):

1SG.SBJ be.big 2SG.OBJ
1SG.SBJ be.big surpass 2SG.OBJ

‘I am bigger than you.’

The most prominent strategy of standard marking within the APiCS languages is the particle marking known from English
(than) and French/Portuguese (que). The second most important construction involves ‘surpass’ verbs, be it as a secondary serial verb introducing the standard (cf. the example from Nigerian Pidgin), or as a construction with a primary ‘surpass’ verb, as in the example from Lingala (Meeuwis 2013):

\[ \text{Pierre a-lek-i Jean na molai} \]
\[ \text{Pierre 3SG-surpass-PRS.PRF Jean in tallness} \]

‘Pierre is taller than Jean.’

Mainly in English-based contact languages, some reflexes of the English degree word more have entered a ‘surpass’ verb construction, cf. the following example from Sranan (Winford & Plag 2013):

\[ \text{John bigi mo ro Peter.} \]
\[ \text{John big exceed Peter} \]

‘John’s bigger than Peter.’

Besides the particle and ‘surpass’ marking, we find locational marking (‘from’, ‘at’), no standard marking at all, or a construction which contains two separate predications, so-called conjoined marking.

The geographical distribution of the different standard marking strategies is not random, but we see clear areal effects: Central African contact languages with either African or European lexifier languages tend to show ‘surpass’ marking. ‘Surpass’ marking also extends to the Caribbean (even though not as the only possible strategy). Particle marking prevails in North America, the Caribbean and Indian Ocean. East Africa and areas to the east of it prefer locational marking, whereas Australian contact languages have conjoined marking. A comparison with the world-wide picture (as presented in Leon Stassen’s 2005 WALS chapter) reveals very clear substrate effects.

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Garifuna attributive possession in comparative perspective.

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In this paper, I outline the strategies for expressing attributive possession in Garifuna, an Arawakan language. Furthermore, by comparing the Garifuna data to other languages I will highlight some (areally) unusual features of the Garifuna system. The data underlying the research presented here come from fieldwork currently being carried out by the author in Garifuna communities of Northern Honduras, Central America.

Attributive possession in Garifuna makes a distinction between alienable and inalienable possessed items, the latter being restricted to kinship terms and body parts. Furthermore, some nouns take different classifiers, here referred to as \textit{relational classifiers} following Lichtenberk (1983) depending on the use for which they are intended by the possessor: either, "X’s Y for eating", "X’s Y (meat) for eating", "X’s Y for drinking", "X’s Y for keeping as a pet" or "X’s Y (for general possession)". Relational classification is widely attested in Oceanic Languages (Lichtenberk 1985:106) but it is a rare feature in The Americas, even within Arawakan, and is possibly borrowed from Cariban (Aikhenvald 2012:46).
According to Grinevald (2000:81) the Amerindian relational classifiers are emergent, i.e. less grammaticalized than the Oceanic ones, because the choice of relational classifier depends on discourse context rather than being fixed in the grammar. However, since Grinevald offers no documentation for this claim, I will compare Oceanic, Cariban and Garifuna examples, such as those in (1-2).

(1) Garifuna (my field notes)

'n-eygã "faluma
1SG.POSS-CLF coconut
'my coconut (to eat)'

nu-'niye "faluma
1SG.POSS-CLF coconut
'my coconut (to drink)'

'n-ani "faluma
1SG.POSS-CLF coconut
'my coconut (to dispose of as I please)'

(2) Bau (Oceanic, Austronesian; (Pawley 1973:168)

na ke-na maqo ART POSS-his mango
'his mango for eating (i.e. green mango)'

na me-na maqo ART POSS-his mango
'his mango for sucking (i.e. ripe, juicy mango)'

na no-na maqo ART POSS-his mango
'his mango (as property, e.g., which he is selling)'

At a glance there seems to be little difference between the classifiers of Bau and those of Garifuna, but since Grinevald's statement is dependent on discourse context, I will present as much information in that area as possible.

Fijian, another Oceanic language, also behaves similarly to Garifuna in that its relational classifiers for food and drink are only used if these items are intended by the possessor to be consumed immediately; in other contexts a classifier for general possession is used (Dixon 1989:136).

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'Le mal semble plus profond qu'il n'y paraît.' Evidentiality, modality and cognitive construal of the French verbs sembler and paraître.

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The two French verbs *sebler* and *paraître* are often considered as quasi-synonyms, communicating a judgement of appearance, epistemic modality, or evidentiality (e.g. Bourdin 1986, Nølke 2001, Thuiller 2004, Tutescu 2005, Kallen-Tatarova 2010, Willems 2011). Admittedly, they share roughly the same syntax and the same semantic area, but the degree of semantic and pragmatic convergence of the two verbs depends on the syntactic construction involved. Thus, it is commonly agreed that the impersonal constructions *il semble que* and *il paraît que* trigger distinctly different interpretations, the former conveying an evidential value of hearsay or rumour - *il paraît que Marie est malade* - while the latter can express an evidential judgement of inference - *il semble que Marie soit malade*. On the other hand, followed by an infinitive, the two verbs are generally considered interchangeable without significant change of meaning: *Marie semble/paraît comprendre*. As for the attributive construction, it is usually supposed to convey a judgement of appearance, typically based on immediate perception: *Marie semble/paraît malade*, with nevertheless a more pronounced nuance of direct sensory impression in the case of *paraître*. Finally, the parenthetical use of the two verbs is seen either as a simple variant of the impersonal construction, or as an attenuator similar to utterance adverbs by its syntactic independence: *Marie est malade, semble-t-il/paraît-il*. In addition, with all the constructions, the speaker has the possibility to state an overt experiencer as the source of the epistemic-evidential judgement, usually – but not exclusively – in the form of a personal dative pronoun: *il me semble que Marie est malade; Marie me semble/paraît comprendre; Marie me semble/paraît malade; Marie est malade, me semble-t-il*.

How could we explain that these two verbs of originally quite distinct semantic values have come to function as apparently very close epistemic-evidential markers? What role should be attributed, on the one hand, to the semantics of the verb, and on the other hand, to the syntactic construction in which it enters? Based on a quantitative and qualitative analysis of a corpus of journalistic prose, we propose to present some aspects of *sembler* and *paraître*, in the light of evidentiaional parameters such as type of source of information, access mode and (inter)subjectivity. We will thus be able to show how the interaction of grammatical construction and lexical semantics of the two verbs contributes to different cognitive construals – more or less subjective – of the same situation or event (cf. Langacker 1987, Achard 1998). A brief comparison will also be made with Italian *sembrare/parere* (cf. Kratschmer 2005) and Spanish *parecer* (cf. Cornillie 2007).

References
Directive past participles in German: context, mood and modality.

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In German the past participle is one way to express a directive speech act. In particular in the typological literature this form is mentioned with respect to its rareness in the standard language, its restrictedness to a handful of verbs (Aikhenvald 2010) and to the "aggressive overtones" it conveys (Rooryck & Postma 2007). However, up to now the data on which these statements are based are rather thin. Mostly examples from the military language like (1a) are cited.

A corpus analysis by Heinold (2012), however, shows that directive participles also appear in the German standard and do not necessarily express a heavy face-threat (1b-d).

(1)

a. Stillgestanden!
   'Stand still!'

b. Brust raus und Mut gefasst!
   'Chest out and bear up!'

c. Hereinspaziert!
   'Come in!'

d. Ah, glückliches Düsseldorf, wo Kraftfahrer und Polizisten unter anmutigen Verbeugungen. Bekanntschaften schließen; [...] nichts wie hin und falsch geparkt!
   'Ah, happy Düsseldorf, where drivers and police officers become acquainted by bowing gracefully to each other; [...] let's go there and park illegally!'

e. Du da,... genug geraucht für heute!
   'Hey you...(you have) smoked enough for today!'

A similar claim is made for Dutch, where four different modal classes seem to exist covering very aggressive forms as well as warnings and encouragements according to Coussé & Oosterhof (2012). In this paper I will present new corpus data which illustrate the array of deontic modality that is possible with directive past participles in German. In Dutch verb particles (for instance op-) as well as negation (niet) can be made responsible for the different levels of modal force. I will argue that in German, however, the default interpretation of directive past participles is mostly stable as long as they appear in bare form (1a). Then their interpretation is almost exclusively restricted to the speech act of order/request (Heinold 2012).

An analysis of larger contexts will show that in combination with certain adverbials (schnell, gleich, nun, jetzt, mal) and different addressees either an urging or an appeasing undertone can be created that covers the wide modal range from strict orders to adhortative readings (2a-c).

(2)

a. Du da! Sofort hereinspaziert! – order, very urgent
   You there! Come in immediately!

b. Alle mal hereinspaziert! – adhortative, more invitation
   Everybody come in!

c. Schnell hereinspaziert! – exhortative, urgent
   Come in quickly!

Also certain constructions in which directive participles are embedded can trigger a cohortative interpretation due to their impersonal semantics, as it is the case in (1d) (Da heißt es V-Part! 'There the motto is V-Part!', Nichts wie V-Part! 'Nothing but V-part!). One could even go so far as to say that the participles with weaker modal force are often hardly distinguishable from assertive past participles (1e). All in all this data-driven approach to German directive participles will show (a) that they cover a range of modal force that is wider than usually acknowledged and that (b) this array is caused by the “contextual dependence of the propositional meaning components” in the same way as Kaufmann (2012) predicts it for the German imperative.
Taking the 1460 item list of word meanings from Haspelmath & Tadmor (2009) – henceforth H&T - as a point of departure, we collected word lists for three languages from Mexico, viz. Otomi, Mazahua, and Chichimeca. These languages all belong to the Otopame branch of the Otomanguean family. Otomi (and Mazahua are closely related, and form part of the Otomian sub-branch of Otopame. Both boast several hundreds of thousands of native speakers, and are still passed on to the younger generations. Chichimeca is somewhat more remote genealogically. With around 2500 speakers to date it is heavily under threat of extinction. Like most of the other around 300 native languages and language varieties of Mexico (cf. Gordon ed. 2005), all three of our languages are in close contact with Spanish. As a result, there are relatively few monolinguals. This is manifest in the large number of loan words that found their way into these languages. Thus, according to the section on Otomi in H&T, 9.5% of the entries for this language in the list are borrowed from Spanish. Most of these lexemes have no native equivalent. For Mazahua and Chichimeca we found a comparable situation.

For the work reported in our paper, we proceeded as follows. We selected a number of nouns, verbs, and prepositions that correspond to entries in H&T, and that occur with a relatively high frequency in spoken discourse. We took shared cognates as well as lexemes borrowed from Spanish in at least one of the three languages. For a more or less reliable estimate of discourse frequencies, we based ourselves on a corpus of around 110.000 tokens of spoken Otomi, produced by 50 native speakers, recruited from different age groups, professional and social strata, that we collected in earlier research on borrowing from Spanish. On the basis of the dictionaries mentioned below we made a further selection, keeping those elements that appeared to have the richest semantic structures.

For both the native lexemes and the Spanish loans in this set we established the amount of structural isomorphism between the three languages, in terms of shared polysemy (SP) and semantic specialization (SS). As a point of departure for the comparison of the cognates we used the Otomi dictionary that we compiled in a recently completed project. With the help of bilingual native speakers of Mazahua and Chichimeca we established the amount of semantic overlap between the cognates in terms of SP and SS.

In order to establish the original semantic scope of the Spanish loans we employed the Diccionario del Español de México. These elements were then assessed with native speakers of all three languages, (near-)monolingual as well as (near-)bilingual ones.

The paper will present several of the more striking results of these comparisons, and will make an attempt to draw some more general conclusions with respect to both the historical developments in cognates and the effect on borrowing in terms of SP and SS. We will also discuss the respective techniques we used to establish the isomorphisms in the two different situations, and the problems we encountered.

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Searching information necessary to implement the answer.

Questions in Estonian institutional information-seeking dialogues.

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The most important types of sequences in a spoken dialogue are adjacency pairs (e.g. questions and answers, requests and responses etc). Typically the second-pair part of the adjacency pair follows immediately the first-pair part, but sometimes there are insert expansions between the parts. They are dividable into two groups in Interactional Linguistics: post-first insert expansion (e.g. other initiation of repair), which role is to solve the problems of hearing or understanding of the first-pair part) and pre-second insert expansion (PSIE) which role is to establish the resources necessary to implement the answer (Schegloff 2007: 106-109). In example the customer C asks for number of the dermatologists office and before giving the number the operator O formulates an insert expansion question “You mean private clinics, yes” and only after the answer to the question she gives the number.

C: öelge ‘Viljandis mingit (. ) ‘nahaarsti kabineti numbrit.
C: tell me some number of dermatologist office in Viljandi
O: jah, üks= ’hetk,
O: yes, one moment
(...)
O: te mõtlete ’eraklinikuid jah
O: you mean private clinics yes
(0.5)
C: v:õib ‘olla eraklinik.
C: it may be a private clinic

The topic of our presentation is the analysis of the PSIE questions in Estonian institutional information-seeking dialogues.

Our data come from the Corpus of Spoken Estonian of the University of Tartu (Hennoste et al 2008). We have chosen randomly 173 dialogues. There were 859 questions in this data-base and 156 PSIE questions among them.

The method used is interactional linguistics (see Couper-Kuhlen, Selting 2001).

The typology of questions used comes from Nijmegen Max Planck Institute typology of questions (Stivers, Enfield 2010). The formal question has lexicomorpho-syntactic or prosodic interrogative marking and could have also a declarative form (You are married?). A functional question is an utterance which had to effectively seek to elicit verbal (not physical) information, confirmation or agreement. The questions are divided into two groups by proposed answer (a) a question requires information: wh-questions (How old is your mother?), some yes/no questions (Are you married?) or (b) the question asserts some proposition/assessment and requests for confirmation/agreement: some yes/no questions (You’re married, aren’t you?).

Our aim is to analyze (a) which formal types of questions are used for PSIE, (b) how the questions are formulated and (c) in what contexts different formal variants are used.

Our preliminary analysis shows that all formal types of questions are used. There was 282 wh-questions and 40 PSIE among them, 231 yes/no questions which require information (28 PSIE); 300 yes/no questions which require confirmation (55 PSIE); 46 alternative questions (31 PSIE). As we see, PSIE is the main role for alternative questions in our data.

Preliminary analysis shows that PSIE questions are dividable into groups (a) by required type of response and (b) information proposed by the questioner.
Do translation memories impose the paradigmatic over the syntagmatic?

A quantitative analysis of levelling in Dutch and French legal translations.

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Although translations from specialized domains have been compared to other registers and genres in comparative translation studies (Neumann 2011; Delaere, De Sutter, Plevoets 2012), there has been little research on the relation between the specific production process of specialized domain translation and its linguistic characteristics (Biel 2010:1). One feature that is typical for the specialized translation process is the strong reliance on Translation Memories (TMs): Translators are presented with translation suggestions for segments in the source texts that are very similar to previously translated text segments. Experimental studies suggest that the use of TMs influences the cognitive processes underlying the translation activity (see Paulsen Christensen 2011 for an overview). More specifically, Pym argues that “the paradigmatic is imposed more frequently on the syntagmatic” (Pym 2011:1): Instead of producing a sentence in the target language from scratch, translators choose snippets of appropriate translations and edit them where necessary. This amplifies the levelling phenomenon which was identified by Baker (1996: 180-185) as a translation universal: translation show a tendency to be more similar to each other than original texts. In this study, we investigate to what extent translations produced with TM-support show more syntagmatic uniformity than (1) original texts, and (2) than translations produced without TM-support. As a corpus, we use a 50M word translation memory with bidirectional translations of French and Dutch legal texts compiled by the translation service of the Belgian Federal Justice Department between 2004 and 2011. The segments in the TM are time stamped and annotated for translator identity. First, we extract all segment pairs containing highly similar content words. This mimics the fuzzy matching functionality provided by commercial CAT tools and assures that segments are paradigmatically similar, i.e. express a similar conceptual content. Next, we calculate the Levenshtein editing distance for all pairs in order to capture syntagmatic similarity, i.e. the extent to which word order, and functions words are the same. Based on Pym’s (2011:1) theory, we investigate the hypotheses that, given the same level of paradigmatic similarity:

1. the syntagmatic similarity will be larger for segment pairs from translated texts than from original texts
2. syntagmatic similarity of pairs from translated texts increases over time as translators rely more on TMs

These predictions are tested in a mixed-model regression analysis with syntagmatic similarity as response variable, text type (original vs. translated), paradigmatic similarity, target language and time as fixed-effects predictors, and translator identity (for translated texts only) as random effect.

References


Nominal and verbal gerunds in Present-day English. An aspectual distinction?

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This paper deals with nominal and verbal gerunds in Present-day English. Nominal gerunds (or NGs, e.g. (1)) have the internal syntax of a noun phrase (NP), verbal gerunds (or VGs, as in (2)), have clause-like internal structure.

(1) a. (...) [the downing of an alleged Indian spy plane over Pakistan] kept tensions high. (Wordb-USnews, 2002)
   b. We will never accept [the dismantling of our organization] (...). (Wordb-USnews, 2003)

(2) a. And the mother of another soldier killed in Basra demanded the PM set a deadline for [bringing the troops home]. (Wordb-UKRegionalnews, 2004)
   b. Tony Blair has ruled out [enhancing the post by investing it with more powers]. (Wordb-UKRegionalnews, 2001)

While their formal features have been described in detail, the semantic and discourse-functional differences between NGs and VGs remain to be elucidated. The focus of this paper is on their aspectual features. NGs, Quirk et al. (1985) argue, zoom in on an “activity that is in process” (1292) rather than on “the action as a whole event, including its completion” (1551). Brinton (1998: 48) claims that -ing in NGs “does not seem to preserve the aktionsart of the verb” but instead “has the effect of converting a situation into an activity, of making the situation durative, atelic, and dynamic”. Brinton’s analysis, however, is based on single-verb NGs (e.g. coughing, living) and does not take into account the impact of nominal arguments and temporal adverbials on the gerund’s aspectual status.

This paper presents an aspectual analysis of both NGs and VGs based on a set of 500 gerunds randomly extracted from the Wordbanks corpus, distinguishing between (a) the inherent temporal nature of the situation expressed by the underlying VP (i.e. ‘Aktionsart’ or ‘ontological’ aspect); and (b) the aspectual view that is taken of that situation in the clause in which it is embedded (i.e. bounded or nonbounded) (Vendler 1967; Declerck 2006). It maps out the various Aktionsart categories realized by NGs vs. VGs (States, Activities, Accomplishments or Achievements) and the overall aspectual perspective taken on them in the clause.

The results show that the existing aspectual claims about NGs cannot be upheld once their usage context is included in the analysis: (a) a significant number of them turns out to be based on telic VPs (designating an Accomplishment, for instance, rather than an Activity; see (1a and b)); and (b) they are most often construed as designating bounded situations (as in (1a and b)), reinforced at the nominal level by the use of the article (which is characteristic of count nouns or nouns with the nominal (and hence spatial) aspectual property of ‘shape’ or a ‘definite outline’, cf. Rijkhoff 1991: 293). Interestingly, nominal and verbal gerunds do not appear to show fundamental differences in their Aktionsart features: verbal gerunds too are most often based on telic VPs (e.g. (2a)). Whether or not they represent these telic VPs as designating a bounded event, however, is much harder to determine than in the case of NGs (cf. (2a and b)). While an aspectual analysis of NGs and VGs thus reveals great aspectual flexibility of the VP underlying either system (and argues against positing an ‘Activity’ profile for NGs, for instance), it also sets us on the track of differences in terms of the aspectual viewpoint taken on gerunds in their distinct usage contexts and brings to the fore the role played by the determiner as a marker of nominal aspect in NGs.
Introduction
Since the acknowledgment of German as a pluricentric language, codifying Standard Austrian German (SAG) is an ongoing process (see e.g. Ammon 1995, Ehrlich 2009). Every user of a national standard has to be comfortable with its norms, regardless of their dialectal background. Thus every dialect marker has to be left out of a standard norm (Moser 1995). Due to historical reasons (Moosmüller forthcoming), SAG strongly relies on the pronunciation standards of Standard German as elaborated in various pronunciation dictionaries, with “Siebs” leading the way. In 1957, the editors of “Siebs” published an “Österreichisches Beiblatt zu Siebs” (‘Austrian supplementary sheet’). With respect to <-ig>, the “Österreichisches Beiblatt” prescribes the pronunciation with the palatal fricative, with the exception of <-ig> followed by an obstruent (e.g. Königs, beruhigt). In the “Deutsches Aussprachewörterbuch” (‘German pronunciation dictionary’), Wiesinger (2009) also proposes the pronunciation with the palatal fricative in final position, although he states that the speakers of the “moderate standard pronunciation” generally use the plosive. As concerns the Austrian dialects, a mixed picture can be observed (see e.g. Luick 1932, Kranzmayer 1956) with a tendency of the fricative being the prevailing pronunciation. Luick addresses the paradox that with this respect, stage pronunciation and dialects meet (1932: 92). In the Viennese dialect, both the palatal fricative and the velar plosive are in use. Only for practical reasons, Luick recommends the velar plosive for SAG. A study will be conducted to review these claims.

Method
Reading material (Nordwind) and spontaneous speech of speakers of SAG, the Viennese Dialect, and newsreaders of the Austrian electronic media will be analyzed with respect to their pronunciation of <-ig>.

Discussion
The aim of the study is to demonstrate that German Standards can not simply be adopted for setting up a Standard pronunciation for Austria. Additionally, the pronunciation of <-ig> in Austria is a perfect example for demonstrating the problems of prescribed norms and usage based norms. Usage based data collection in Austria (e.g. Kleiner 2010) run the risk of mixing dialect and Standard speakers. In contrast, speakers of the Austrian electronic media largely rely on the pronunciation standards elaborated in Siebs and subsequent pronunciation dictionaries (Wächter-Kollpacher 1995). Thus their pronunciation cannot be called on as being representative for SAG. On the other hand, trained speakers shape the judgment of standard in the general public, which may give rise to confusion. Therefore, it is expected to find both types of pronunciation in every speaker. The predominate pronunciation still seems to be the palatal fricative in Viennese Dialect but the velar plosive in SAG.

References
The stronghold in the Balkans: Early Modern Romanian infinitives.

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The replacement of infinitive clauses with subjunctives occurred late and incompletely in Romanian (Sandfeld 1930). Early Modern Romanian (EMR) texts, such as Moldavian Chronicles (17th – 18th c.), attest the stages of subjunctive spread in the language. This paper argues that the emergence of the subjunctive in EMR arises from language internal factors, hence, the asynchrony with the Balkan phenomenon (see also Demiraj 1970; Philippide 1927).

First, I consider the trigger of infinitive replacement by subjunctives in Balkan languages, i.e., the switch from [-finite] to [+finite] verb forms, justified on grounds of ambiguity in Primary Linguistic Data (PLD) (Roussou 2009). The infinitive had been re-categorized as a noun (Tomić 2006: 413-416). The re-categorization of the infinitive also happens in EMR, but the effects are different:

(i) The nominalized infinitive (e.g., fire ‘be’) is replaced with a short infinitive (not the subjunctive) that lost –re as a mood marker (e.g., fi ‘be’). The short infinitive displays a preverbal mood marker a ‘to’, which I qualify as a syntactic vs morphological event; i.e., bare short infinitives may only generate mono-clausal structures in complex future (1a), but cannot occur in bi-clausal structures unless a ‘to’ is present (1b) - * means ungrammatical if absent.

(1)

\[\text{(i) The nominalized infinitive (e.g., fire ‘be’) is replaced with a short infinitive (not the subjunctive) that lost –re as a mood marker (e.g., fi ‘be’). The short infinitive displays a preverbal mood marker a ‘to’, which I qualify as a syntactic vs morphological event; i.e., bare short infinitives may only generate mono-clausal structures in complex future (1a), but cannot occur in bi-clausal structures unless a ‘to’ is present (1b) - * means ungrammatical if absent.}\]

\[\begin{align*}
\text{(1a) & cela ce va fi înțeleptu nu va vinui,} \\
& \text{he who will be.INF wise not will sin.INF (Ureche 64)} \\
& \text{b. apucatu-m-am și eu pre urma *(a) scrie aceste povești} \\
& \text{began-me-have and I on track of all.the to write.INF these stories (Ureche 64)} \\
& \text{‘I also started to write these stories, by following the others.’} \\
\end{align*}\]

(ii) Alternatively, the switch from [-] to [+finite] involved replacement of the old infinitive with de-indicatives.

(2)

\[\begin{align*}
\text{(ii) Alternatively, the switch from [-] to [+finite] involved replacement of the old infinitive with de-indicatives.}\]

\[\begin{align*}
\text{(2) & cîț s-au tîmplat de au fost în viița sa.} \\
& \text{how.much REFL-has happened DE has been in life his (Neculce 104)} \\
& \text{‘whatever happened to have taken place during his life’} \\
\end{align*}\]

At the time of the two replacements, the subjunctive was not in the picture.
Second, I ask the question ‘why?’: If the nominalized infinitive had successful replacements with α-infinitives or de-indicatives, why is it still the case that the subjunctive has eventually replaced these two constructions? I argue that this was triggered by two factors: (i) the elimination of the complementizer de, which was ambiguous for the mapping of +/-reals modality; and (ii) the loss of finiteness in infinitive clauses, due to scarce evidence for lexical subjects. The subjunctive emerged after the innovation of a mood marker (sā, equivalent to a ‘to’) and started as a sentential complement to verbs of ‘want’ (Frâncu 2009). Unambiguous irrealis modality and unambiguous finiteness made the subjunctive the default option in these environments (but not in others).

To conclude, Romanian preserved the infinitive clause because the nominalization of old infinitives had a different outcome - new infinitives. The latter are strongly verbal and have undergone replacement only as complements to lexical verbs, while remaining productive as complements to N and in adverbal clauses.

References

Nice wheels! The horse, the wheel, the chariot and Indo-European ideologies.

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The interaction between historical linguistics and ideology can be twofold. On one hand, historical linguistic findings may be seized upon — or rejected — by ideologically motivated movements; on the other, they may themselves be influenced by (overt or covert) biases or ideological motivations. I examine a current issue in Indo-European reconstruction which has implications for both types of interaction and conclude that historical linguists must exercise caution, lest they unwittingly support ideologically motivated agendas or get carried away by their own agendas.

The domestication of horses in Ukraine/Kazakhstan (ca. 4000 BC), the introduction of wheels (ca. 3500), and the development of chariots (ca. 2000, southeastern Urals), have important consequences for Indo-European (IE) linguistics, especially in light of the reconstructions *ekwos ‘horse’ and *(k)e(k)lo ‘ erotho- ‘wheel (⇒ chariot’. The most reasonable interpretation is that since PIE had words for ‘horse’ and ‘wheel/chariot’, it cannot be dated earlier than the invention of the wheel (ca. 4000 BC) and must have been spoken near the area where horses were domesticated and chariots were developed, i.e. in the steppes of Ukraine/Kazakhstan. IE speakers in other areas, such as India, must have migrated there. See e.g. Anthony 2007.

This conclusion is being challenged from two sides. Indian nationalists reject the notion that (Indo-)Aryans migrated to India and instead claim that they are indigenous. In their view, only “Aryans”, defined as Hindus, are real Indians; e.g. Talageri 1993ab, 2008.

Publications by Atkinson and Gray (e.g. 2006ab, also Bouckaert et al. 2012) argue that PIE must go back to a much earlier time (ca. 6000 BC), locate its home in Anatolia, and reject the reconstruction of the words for ‘horse’ and ‘wheel/chariot’. Instead, they argue that the words are of more recent origin and diffused in the early IE daughter languages through contact. Various critiques of the general claims and of the methodology they are based on have been published; e.g. Garrett 2006, McMahon & McMahon 2006, Holm 2007. In this paper I focus on the specific claim of post-PIE diffusion of the words for ‘horse’ and ‘wheel/chariot’.

What complicates matters it that others, too, argue for borrowing scenarios, related to different agendas. Gamkrelidze and Ivanov (1995), advocates of a PIE home near the Caucasus, consider reduplicated PIE *kwH-e-kwH-I-o a borrowing from neighboring Near-Eastern languages (e.g. Sumerian reduplicated giil-gul ‘wheel’, giil-gir ‘wagon’), while Parpola (2008) postulates borrowing in the opposite direction, arguing that Indo-Europeans invented the wheel.
I examine the different accounts and demonstrate that

- *ekwoś and *(k)ełklo cannot be explained as late, post-PIE borrowings but must be reconstructed (pace Atkinson & Gray)
- Indo-Aryan migration to India therefore cannot be rejected (pace Indian nationalists)
- Similarities in words for ‘wheel’ between IE and Near Eastern languages probably reflect borrowing by calquing, but there is no evidence to decide who borrowed from whom (pace Gamkrelidze & Ivanov and Parpola).

I conclude that Indo-Europeanists must exercise caution, lest they unwittingly support ideologically motivated agendas or get carried away by their own agendas.

References


The illusion of unagreement: a unified structure for DPs, pronouns and “pro”.

Höhn, Georg
(University of Cambridge)

Unagreement (Hurtado 1985) describes a phenomenon observed in various pro-drop languages (e.g. Spanish, Modern Greek, Bulgarian), involving an apparent agreement mismatch between an third person plural subject DP and first or second person plural subject agreement on the verb (1), cf. Ackema & Neeleman (In prep.) among others.

Certain other null subject languages like Italian and European Portuguese do not allow this construction (2).

(1) Ftiaksame i ximiki ena oreo keik. (Greek)
made.1pl the chemists a good cake
'We chemists baked a good cake.'
In languages with articles, the definite article is obligatory in adnominal pronoun constructions (APCs; "we linguists") in languages with agreement, while non-agreement languages proscribe an article in APCs (3).

This analysis adopts a pronominal determiner analysis the second type of APCs (Postal 1969, Rauh 2003, Roehrs 2005) and Panagiotidis' (2002) analysis of pronouns as involving a silent noun e_n. I suggest that the person features of the subject DP simply remain unpronounced in non-agreement configurations.

The cross-linguistic variation in the availability of agreement results from a difference in the structure of the extended nominal projection (xnP). Agreement is available when person and definiteness features are hosted on separate heads in xnP (4).

Non-agreement languages have regular pronominal determiners encoding definiteness and person on a single head (5).

Unagreement results from non-realization of Pers in (4) as illustrated in (6). Non-realization of D_pers in (5) would not result in the characteristic definite plural DP subject, but in a bare noun. There seems to be an independent constraint in both kinds of languages that a definite D cannot be silent if there is overt material in NumP (i.e. silent only in pronouns and "pro/"). Since in (5) this constraint applies to the head also encoding person features D_pers, it cannot be silent with overt material in NumP, cf. (7). The cross-linguistic variation is hence derived as interaction of the structural difference and the conditions on D-realization.

In extension, if the overtness of Pers depends on demonstrativity (building on Rauh's 2003 observations on German pronominal determiners), then the illicity of overt pronouns in quantificational non-agreement (5) is explained by the fact that quantified phrases cannot be demonstrative.

(5) (*Emêis) polloi taksidíotes agapame ti Thessaloniki. (Greek)
Apart from accounting for the cross-linguistic variation, this theory suggests a unified treatment of the structure of full DPs, pronouns and (at least referential) "pro" in terms of (zero) spell-out of parts of the xnP. Open question include the analysis of null subject languages lacking overt articles and the nature of the constraint on D realization.

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Der Himmel hängt voller Geigen. - The Stative Locative Alternation of German.

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In this talk, I present an analysis of the hitherto undescribed Stative Locative Alternation of German (SLA₀) as exemplified in (1) (examples with a g-superscript are from Google searches). The elucidation of its properties lends support to Kaufmann’s (1995) subclassification of German Stative Localizing Verbs (SLV₀), and highlights the heavily different behaviour of English in this domain (which only has a dynamic counterpart (2); Levin 1993). Moreover, the overt presence of a morpheme – voll ‘full’ – to which the holistic meaning effect known from the English (Dynamic) Locative Alternation and the Spray/Load Alternations can be attributed may help to justify the presence of the same morpheme in English, albeit in unpronounced form.

Properties/Restrictions: (i) The locatum subject of the mit-alternant corresponds to the prepositional object of the basic alternant (promotion of location PO). (ii) The prepositional object of the mit-alternant corresponds to the subject of the basic variant (demotion of locatum subject). (iii) The string voll mit-PO₀ alternates with a ‘holistic partitive’ voller O (cf. the title). With voller O, O must be a bare nominal without a determiner. (iv) The PO has a plural count N head, or a mass N head (3) (*locatum atom). (v) The verb must be the copula (1b), or belong to Kaufmann’s (1995) SLV₀ with a firm supporting object (mainly kleben, stecken, stehen, liegen, hängen and, heavily restricted, sitzen (4)). (vi) The location referent is totally covered/filled by the locatum referent (holistic effect). (vii) The location subject must denote a “surfacy” referent, i.e. a referent with a clear minimally two-dimensional shape (5a) (SURFACE). In the case of stecken (and sitzen?), a holistic three-dimensional affectedness of the location referent is possible (5b).

Syntax: The syntax of the untensed part of (1b) in (6) is compatible with the topicalization data in (7).
Semantics: (8) proposes a semantics for voll+SURFACE, where SURFACE is to capture (vii)/(5a). The lexical entry in (8) projects the syntax of (6) in a type-driven way up to the level of the VOLL node; property (i) of the construction must be accounted for in a different way. (vii) is captured by the surface restriction in the truth-conditions. As it stands, (8) will only yield good results for plural count locatum referents, and not for mass locatum referents (iv); this must be fixed in future work. Moreover, the narrow restriction (v) does not yet follow from (8), and three-dimensional objects whose whole material is affected (5b) are not yet predicted as possible location arguments either.

Outlook: The proposal in (6) and (8) captures most of the properties of SLA₀ in a general way which will facilitate cross-constructional and cross-linguistic comparison. SLA₀ has a dynamic counterpart illustrated in (9). It remains to be seen whether the proposed analysis can be extended to cover this construction as well.

we many travellers love.1pl the Thessaloniki
‘Many of us travellers love Thessaloniki.’
(1) a. **Kartons stehen auf dem Gang.** ‘There are cardboard boxes standing in the aisle.’

b. **6Der Gang steht voll mit […] Kartons.** ‘The aisle is full of cardboard boxes.’

(lit.: The aisle stands full of cardboard boxes)

(2) a. **Bees are swarming in the garden.**

b. **The garden is swarming with bees.**

(3) **6Das ganze Eß- und Kochgeschirr klebt voll mit Speisebrei/⁾Essensresten.**

‘The whole dishes have pap/left-overs sticking to it.’

(4) **6Das ganze Kornfeld saß voll mit diesen Maikäfern.** ‘The whole field had those may beetles sitting in it.’

(5) a. **Das Ei/*Die Hühnerstange klebte voll mit Kot.** ‘The whole egg/*The roost had droppings on it.’

b. **Der Heuballen steckte voll mit Würmern./*Sie steckt voll mit Vitaminen […]**

‘The hay bale was full of worms [sticking in it]./It [the fruit] is full of vitamins [sticking in it].’

(6) 

```
[der Gang]
  i
  VOLL
  mit Kartons
  voll
  steh-
  e₁

+SURFACE
```

(7) a. **[Mit Kartons voll] steht der Gang.**

b. **[Mit Kartons vollstehen] soll der Gang.**

c. ***[Der Gang mit Kartons voll] soll stehen.**

(8) **OVoll + SURFACEΠ = \( \lambda x_1 \cdot \lambda P \cdot \lambda x_2. \lambda f. f_{\text{SVfirm}}(y) \) at place \( x \) \*

‘a function which takes a place argument \( x \), a predicate of non-atomic referents \( P \) and a stative localizing verb with a firm supporting ground \( f_{\text{SVfirm}} \) as arguments and yields true iff the surface of \( x \) is fully covered with a referent/referents \( y \) that has/have property \( P \), and \( f_{\text{SVfirm}}(y) \) at place \( x \)’

(9) **Die Wanne läuft voll mit Öl.** ‘Oil is pouring into the tub (until it’s full).’

References


Clause-final negation in northern sub-Saharan Africa: right periphery, intersubjectivity and areality.

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Clause-final negative markers, although typologically rare, can be found in a very wide range of central and west African languages. This has previously been attributed to the somehow “pragmatic” rather than “semantic” nature of the negative markers by Dryer (2009) or, focusing on the frequent co-occurrence of the clause-final negative markers and multiple negative exponence, to the “inherent focal nature of negation” (Beyer 2009). I argue against these accounts and explain the clause-final position of the negative markers by their origin in other clause-final markers. Furthermore, I relate the fact that such negative markers are so common in this area to another typological feature of the relevant languages, viz. a grammatical category of clause-final markers whose core function is the expression of intersubjective meanings. Combined with the fact that negation is exactly one of those situations, propitious for the use of intersubjective markers, when the speaker’s assertive authority is at stake, frequency effects account naturally for the tendency to conventionalize clause-final negative markers.
Epistemic and evidential markers in Slovak parallel corpuses.

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The paper intends to investigate the domains of evidentiality and epistemic modality in Slovak. Whereas the epistemic units have been investigated in Slovak linguistics intensively, not surprisingly, no official lists of evidential markers in Slovak linguistic works exist. However, by investigating relevant data, it is possible to synthesize a list of what we may consider relevant candidates in the search for evidential units in Slovak.

The paper focuses on five Slovak evidential adverbs from the domain of perception based inference (očividne, evidentne, zjavne, viditelne, zrejme). Modal adverbs in general are considered to be problematic from a contrastive perspective due to their multifunctionality (cf. Aijmer 2005). Descriptive contrastive studies of adverbs have been carried out especially in the functional-semantic domain of epistemic modality (Aijmer 1999, 2001, 2002; Ramón 2006, 2009). The paper investigates these evidential adverbs and their translations in English and Czech parallel corpuses of contemporary texts. The investigation is focused on (i) the translation equivalents chosen to fit in particular context in comparison to the original example, (ii) foregrounding and backgrounding of epistemic function connected with the choice of a particular unit, (iii) the role of context providing specific reference to a particular mode of knowledge.

When working on the database of evidential markers the problem of their delimitation from epistemic units often arises. Evidential markers in general tend to be difficult to translate into a different language because of their varying epistemic values. Epistemic components can be either inherent part of semantic structure of individual markers or can arise on the basis of pragmatic implicatures (Wiemer & Socka 2010). By investigating translation equivalents the evidentiality and epistemic modality interface can be specified more thoroughly. Using epistemic equivalent for evidential adverb is closely connected with the relation between the degree of speaker’s epistemic commitment and the degree of reliability of evidential source.

A corpus-based contrastive study of adverbs reveals wide range of translation equivalents including (apart from evidential adverbs) epistemic adverbs, epistemic modals, evidential and epistemic periphrastic constructions, usually adjectival or prepositional phrases, which function adverbially (Hoye 1997), raising verbs and other epistemic and evidential predicates.

A special attention will be focused on omission of evidential adverbs in the translated texts. It proves the assumption that “since modality does not add anything to the prepositional content of an utterance, it often disappears in the translation” (Aijmer 2002: 97).

The analysis will have three aims: First, we try to delimit individual types of evidential markers in Slovak taking into consideration the epistemic component present in their meaning. Second, we will analyze semantic and pragmatic aspects of evidential and epistemic patterns in implicating the speaker’s attitude towards the evidence s/he has for the proposition. Third, corpus-based investigation of two parallel corpuses makes it possible to study if there are parallel semantic and pragmatic tendencies in translation techniques in two (typologically distinct) languages (English and Czech). The description of various translation possibilities can show us how evidentiality correlates with other closely related functional-semantic domains and what kind of pragmatic extensions evidential adverbs undergo.

References


References


The auditive in Nenets: synchronic analysis and diachronic observations of a non-visual sensory evidential.

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This paper discusses synchronic categorization and grammaticalization of the auditive form found in Nenets. Nenets is an agglutinating language, with SOV constituent order. In the verbal system, in addition to relatively large amount of verbal moods and several non-finite forms, Nenets has a separate objective conjugation encoding information on both subject and object. Furthermore, Nenets uses nominal conjugation when expressing some stative relations.

Nenets has a specific form, the auditive, encoding information perceived by hearing, smelling or feeling, e.g.

\begin{verbatim}
pida laxana-wonon-da (s)he speak-aud-3sg
'She speaks, as I hear.'
\end{verbatim}

The auditive appears also in other Samoyedic languages, but in context of Uralic languages, it is a rarity. In Nenets, there is no grammatical marking for visual evidence, which makes the auditive the only direct evidential. However, there are several mood markers encoding indirect evidentiality, e.g. reported or inferred information, and speaker’s epistemic evaluation of truth-value of the proposition. One of the peculiarities of the auditive suffix is, that it can be followed by only 3rd person suffixes. These personal endings can be seen either as suffixes of the objective conjugation, or, possessive suffixes, which in
Nenets are identical, e.g. *pya-da* start-obj.3sg ‘he started it’ and *nyebya-da* mother-poss.3sg ‘his mother’. In grammars and earlier studies on Nenets, the auditive is usually either included in the list of moods (e.g. Tereshchenko 1965: 902), or, it is regarded as an evidential form with conjugational peculiarities (Perrot 1996). However, it has also been analysed as a non-finite form (Salminen 1997: 115).

The focus of this paper is in morpho-syntactic analysis of the form: How should the auditive be classified? Is it a non-finite or finite predicate? What explains the morpho-syntactic peculiarities and restrictions of the form? The study suggests that the structure and morpho-syntactic restrictions of the auditive can be better understood from diachronic approach. In this perspective, the forms can be seen as possessed non-verbal predicates. The marker of the auditive originates from the word *mo‘n* ‘voice’, and in that perspective the original structure of the auditive can be understood as ‘the voice of (happening something) exists’. Crosslinguistically it is typical for evidentials to evolve from verbs instead of nouns (Willet 1998, Aikhenvald 2004: 271), but, there are languages in which evidentials originate from nouns. E.g. Ainu has a four-term evidential system, all of them evolving from nouns (Bugaeva 2012), and it seems to provide a parallel case for Nenets in evidentials evolving from possessed non-verbal structures.

The framework of the study is functional, and the paper also takes part in discussion on how to define a category of evidentiality and explain and conceptualize grammaticalization of evidentials (see Boye & Harder 2009). The data used in the paper represents mostly the Tundra Nenets variety, but texts from Forest Nenets are used as well. The data from Tundra Nenets consist of published text collections of Nenets sample sentences, folklore materials and stories as well as my own fieldwork recordings.

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**The modern spoken Xibe verb system: synchrony and diachrony.**

Jang, Taeho and Payne, Thomas
(SIL East Asia Group, The University of Oregon and SIL International)

Xibe (also Sibo, Xibo, and Sibe) is a Manchu-Tungusic language spoken by approximately 40,000 individuals in Northwestern China. In this paper we document the verb system of Xibe, as spoken in Yili-Qapqal County of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, using methods and techniques of typological field linguistics, including in-context conversations with native speakers and an extensive text corpus. This research represents the first comprehensive analysis of the verb system of this important minority language. In the second part of the paper, we propose a scenario for the historical development of this system.

We show that the "Verb Complex" in Xibe main clauses consists of a semantically main verb, followed by up to three auxiliaries expressing tense, aspectual and modal categories. Each auxiliary governs a limited set of non-finite clitics hosted by the preceding verb or auxiliary. The overall template for the Verb Complex is the following (‘=‘ indicates a clitic boundary):

\[\text{VERB.STEM} (=\text{INFL1 AUX1}) (=\text{INFL2 AUX2}) (=\text{INFL3 b/}) =\text{INFL4} \]
In this template, auxiliaries in AUX1 position govern a set of inflectional enclitics which we describe as "INFL1". Auxiliaries in AUX2 position govern a distinct (though overlapping) set of inflectional enclitics we term "INFL2". Finally, the last auxiliary position may be filled only by the existential particle bi. This auxiliary governs "INFL3" enclitics. The whole finite Verb Complex is terminated by one of four enclitics or enclitic combinations, =he perfective, =m imperfective, =heku 'perfective negative' and =rku 'imperfective negative'. We refer to this set collectively as "INFL4". Naturally occurring examples of various expansions of this template are given in Table 1.

In the diachronic section we propose that the inflectional enclitics are historically derived from nominalizers, via well-documented processes of grammaticalization. Evidence for this new analysis includes the fact that the last auxiliary in the series is the existential semi-verb bi, which elsewhere synchronically takes nominal complements. In brief, the path of semantic reanalysis is the following:

Someone's VERBing exists => Someone VERBS

Someone's former-VERBing exists => Someone VERBed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text reference</th>
<th>STEM</th>
<th>(INFL1 AUX1)</th>
<th>(INFL2 AUX2)</th>
<th>(INFL3 bi)</th>
<th>INFL4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Dragon River</td>
<td>zhe</td>
<td>-m mutu</td>
<td>-rku o</td>
<td>-m</td>
<td>IMPRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eat</td>
<td>-INF be.able</td>
<td>-NEG become</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'... not able to eat'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wise Daughter-in-law 087</td>
<td>zhe</td>
<td>-m diriv</td>
<td></td>
<td>-he</td>
<td>PERF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eat</td>
<td>-INF start</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'... began eating'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiger 018</td>
<td>zhe</td>
<td>-m ixi</td>
<td></td>
<td>-rku IMPF.</td>
<td>NEG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eat</td>
<td>-INF sufficient</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'... not be enough to eat'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wise Daughter-in-law 105</td>
<td>zhe</td>
<td>-m vazhi</td>
<td></td>
<td>-rku IMPF.</td>
<td>NEG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eat</td>
<td>-INF finish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'... not finish eating'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf Fox 114</td>
<td>zhe</td>
<td></td>
<td>-m bi IMPF.</td>
<td>-he</td>
<td>PRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eat</td>
<td></td>
<td>EXIST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'... had been eating'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clever Foolish 197</td>
<td>beyi</td>
<td>-m hamirku</td>
<td>-he bi PRF.</td>
<td>-he</td>
<td>PRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>freeze</td>
<td>INF cannot.bear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'... was not able to bear freezing'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito 117</td>
<td>xuanji</td>
<td>-m senda</td>
<td>-m bi IMPF.</td>
<td>-he</td>
<td>PERF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>choose</td>
<td>-INF put</td>
<td>EXIST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'... should come to choose'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The use of Italian phrasal verbs by Serbian learners.

Janicijevic, Natasa and Radojevic, Dragana (University of Belgrade)

Although many Italian phrasal verbs (PV), e.g. *andare via* ‘to go away’, *mandare giù* ‘to swallow’, *fare fuori* ‘to kill’, are frequently used in contemporary Italian, until recently they were completely neglected in both theoretical works and pedagogical grammars. Since the pioneer work of Simone (1997), who was the first to recognize them as a separate verbal subcategory and who defined them as *verbi sintagmatici* ‘phrasal verbs’, they have received more attention by other Italian linguists, such as Antelmi (2002), Jezek (2002), Masini (2005, 2006), Iacobini and Masini (2006). Most of these theoretical works focus on their typological, historical, syntactic and semantic aspects, and on their lexicalization, but in pedagogical grammars and textbooks of L2 Italian they still remain a highly neglected topic. The direct consequence of this neglect is relatively low awareness of PV, their forms, meanings, and registers of use among L2 Italian learners. The aim of this paper is to investigate the quantity and quality of input concerning Italian PV to which Serbian learners of L2 Italian are exposed, as well as to analyze the most frequent difficulties that the learners encounter during the process of acquisition of PV.

After briefly discussing the syntactic and semantic features of this particular type of Italian verbs, we compare them with their Serbian equivalents, claiming that Serbian prefixed verbs are the nearest equivalents of those Italian PV whose particle expresses spatial meaning, whereas those PV that bare an idiomatic meaning have as their most frequent Serbian equivalents either a single non-prefixed verb or an idiomatic expression.

Our hypothesis is that native speakers of Serbian have difficulties in acquiring and using Italian PV not only because of the lack of input, but also due to the fact that similar analytic constructions are not present in their mother tongue. In order to prove our arguments, we will use the results of an experiment we conducted on 100 university students of L2 Italian (CEFR levels B1-B2) who are native speakers of Serbian. The students were given a questionnaire consisting of contextualized examples of the use of the most frequent Italian PV with the scope of investigating their present status in the students’ interlanguage. Our results indicate a significantly high level of absence or misinterpretation of these verbs not only on the productive level of their interlanguage, but also on the receptive one, especially in the examples with idiomatic meaning, whereas in the examples with semantically more transparent PV the error percentage is much lower.

Therefore, since our results confirm our hypothesis, we conclude that the main reasons of the unsatisfactory acquisition of Italian PV by Serbian learners are the almost complete lack of adequate input in grammars and textbooks, as well as the absence of such verbs in their mother tongue. Consequently, we give some useful suggestions on different types of input that could improve and facilitate the acquisition of Italian PV not only in the specific case of Serbian L2 Italian learners, but also in the case of other languages lacking PV.

References


The effect of showing and telling to be reluctant to convey bad news.

Jansen, Frank
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Background. In their typology of politeness phenomena Brown & Levinson (1987, 187-188) postulate that a speaker can soften the negative effects of a face threatening act, for example bad news, on the hearer by suggesting that he is reluctant to convey the bad news to him/her. He can show his reluctance by signalling hesitation just before he presents the bad news, by inserting a filled pause, *eh*. An alternative way of indicating reluctance is by using a verbal expression like “I hate to tell you this but ...”. As far as we know, the effectiveness of indicating reluctance as a politeness strategy has never been tested experimentally. In our presentation we will present the results of a series of effect studies in which we tested the effects of pausing or verbal expressions in bad news voicemail messages and e-mails.

Method. In the experiments short bad news messages were designed, for example the cancellation of a hotel reservation and a rejection of an application. Of every message two or more varieties were composed. In the experimental condition of “showing reluctance” we implemented two or three filled pauses directly before the clause with the face threatening fragment. In the condition of “telling reluctance” a clause was inserted in which the reluctance was expressed verbally. The bad news messages in the control condition were presented fluently and without the verbal expressions of reluctance. More than 300 participants listened to or read only one of the messages, listed their thoughts about the message and completed a questionnaire with Likert-propositions about several aspects of the message. With varimax rotation the most relevant evaluative dimensions were selected as dependent variables and the differences between the means for the conditions statistically evaluated.

Results. Showing reluctance by way of *eh* turns out to be an effective strategy for senders who want to improve the impression that receivers have of their relational qualities. Hearers attribute more empathy to them. The downside is that their presentation skills are valued lower. The effects of telling that you are reluctant to convey the message are less impressive. This is in line with a result of an effect study by Jansen & Janssen (2010), who found that two other politeness strategies that capitalize on just telling about your relation with the receiver had no impact at all.

Reference

Subjectivity in the Dutch mental state predicates.

Janssens, Karolien and Nuyts, Jan
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Topic. This paper deals with the question how the ‘subjective’ meaning of the mental state predicates (MSP) has emerged historically, and what this tells us about the status of this semantic notion. We define subjectivity as in Nuyts (2012): an evaluation is subjective if it is presented as being the assessor’s sole responsibility (as opposed to an intersubjective evaluation, which is presented as being shared between the assessor and a wider group of people).

That MSPs such as think or believe can express subjectivity is generally accepted in the literature (e.g. Benveniste 1966, Persson 1993, Aijmer 1997, Simon-Vandenbergen 1998, Van Bogaert 2006, 2009). An example from Persson (1993: 8) is (1).

(1) Look at that girl. I think she is pretty.

Most authors relate subjectivity (defined in different ways though) to notions such as epistemic and deontic modality (e.g. Lyons 1977, Coates 1983, Traugott 1989, Traugott and Dasher 2002, Palmer 2009). Also in the literature on the MSPs, the
subjective use is typically correlated with the epistemic use – cf. the fact that think, e.g., is also a frequent marker of epistemic modality, as in (2).

(2) A: Where is John? B: I think he’s in the library, but you need to check.

Yet, unlike in (2), think in (1) does not appear to have an epistemic meaning: the speaker is not estimating the chances that ‘she’ is pretty. It is rather a pure marker of subjectivity here (in the above definition): it indicates that the aesthetic evaluation (pretty) is the speaker’s personal opinion. This raises the question whether there is indeed a relationship between the pure subjectivity use of the MSPs of the kind in (1) and their epistemic use of the kind in (2). We investigate this issue by means of a diachronic corpus study of four MSPs in Dutch which can express subjectivity: denken ‘think’, dunken ‘think’ (impersonal), geloven ‘believe’ and vinden ‘find’.

Method. We have analyzed the meanings of these predicates, and the historical evolution in them, in corpora from four stages of the language: Old Dutch, Middle Dutch, Early New Dutch and Present Day Dutch. We have collected 200 instances for each period, for each verb (according to criteria such as representativity, e.g. in terms of text genres, and comparability across the periods). For Present Day Dutch we have selected two different samples, one written and one spoken.

Results. The data show that subjectivity is probably the youngest meaning category in all verbs, although it is not always a recent meaning (dunken is already used as a subjectivity marker in Early Middle Dutch), and although it is not equally strongly present in all these MSPs. But more importantly, the data show that the use as a subjectivity marker may but need not emerge out of an epistemic use of these verbs: in some of the verbs it does, but in others it does not. Our investigation thus offers support for Nuys’ (2012) assumption that subjectivity constitutes a meaning category on its own, separate from epistemic modality.

References

Towards a diachronic typology of subject-to-subject raising predicates.

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The received wisdom has it that subject-to-subject raising predicates (= s-s-predicates) like English promise, Polish wydawać się (‘seem’) or Spanish amenazar (‘threaten’) have undergone incipient grammaticalization and arose from non-raising structures (cf. Traugott 1989 and her subsequent work). In this talk, I will re-examine emergence conditions of s-s-predicates selecting infinitive complements in the history of various European languages. First, I will demonstrate that there
are no homogenous environments giving rise to raising patterns. Second, I shall propose a cross-linguistic diachronic typology of s-s-predicates.

In what follows, I distinguish (at least) three different groups of s-s-predicates corresponding to three different development scenarios. To the first group belong predicates that (i) have not undergone any semantic change, (ii) have not grammaticalized at all. Based on Perlmutter (1970), I will show that Old West- and North-Germanic phase predicates are the case in point here. Additionally, since they can embed weather verbs and impersonal predicates in the oldest stages, there are neither empirical nor theoretical signs pointing towards a grammaticalization process.

The second group covers the development of modal verbs taking a non-circumstantial modal base (Kratzer 1977) and it is divided into two subgroups. The first subgroup encompasses epistemic/evidential modals that developed out of their circumstantial counterparts. Assuming that circumstantial modals are s-s-predicates too (Axel 2001, Wurmbrand 2001), they are said to have evolved from control verbs, supplying, in the end, the following pattern:

(a) modal predicates → circumstantial modals → non-circumstantial modals
(control verbs) (s-s-predicates) (s-s-predicates)

The second subgroup, in turn, is meant to contain those non-circumstantial modals that did not evolve from their circumstantial counterparts, but directly from modal predicates, i.e. control verbs. As pointed out by Hill (2011), the epistemic usage of Romanian *putea* (*can*) is a parade example for this pattern. Such a language change forces us to assume two various development patterns for modal s-s-predicates:

(b) modal predicates → circumstantial modals
(control verbs) (s-s-predicates)

(c) modal predicates → non-circumstantial modals
(control verbs) (s-s-predicates)

Referring to the history of the Polish modal *mieć* (*must/be said/be claimed*), I will show that both scenarios (a vs. b + c) are appropriate. Moreover, more diachronic data will be provided indicating that the patterns outlined in (ii) and (iii) can be applied to the development of selected modals in Germanic languages as well.

The last, third group is represented by s-s-predicates that (i) have been grammaticalized, (ii) have undergone a semantic change, (iii) their s-s status is due a bridging structure (e.g. ambiguous context, inanimate subject, embedded DP complement, etc.). To this group mainly belong *promise, threaten*, verbs of seeming and highly grammaticalized auxiliary verbs. In this connection, following van Gelderen (2011), I will outline a raising cycle of verbs of seeming in the history of German. Accordingly, it will be presented that although *scheinen* did not occur in Old High German as a s-s-predicate (cf. Demske 2008), it was nevertheless possible to express a similar kind of attitude towards what is embedded by using *dünken*.

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Switch reference in Iatmul.

Jendraschek, Gerd
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I will present the switch reference constructions (SR) of the Papuan language Iatmul. Data are from my own fieldwork. In a first step, I will describe the morphosyntactic encoding of Iatmul SR-constructions. When an SR-clause and the main clause share their subject referent, a non-finite verb form must be used in the SR-clause. In example (1), this is kukka ‘doing; preparing’; only the verb of the main clause is marked for tense, person, and number, here ki’li’li’. Note that coordinate (a) and subordinate (b) interpretations are equally appropriate here.

(1) ki’ki’da kuk-ka yaki ki’-li’-li’
   [food do-DEP] [ tobacco eat-IPFV-3SG.F]
   a. ‘She was preparing food and smoking.’
   b. ‘She was smoking while preparing food.’

Person-marking in both clauses, plus the absence of tense-marking and non-final intonation in the SR-clause, indicates disjoint reference, as shown in (2). What is typologically remarkable is the fact that the subject switch is not marked by a dedicated morpheme.

(2) ki’ki’da kut-ti’-li’ yaki ki’-li’-li’
   [food do-IPFV-3SG.F] [ tobacco eat-IPFV-3SG.F]
   ‘(While) she was preparing food, she\*i/j was smoking.’

While tense distinctions are neutralized in the SR-clause, they can vary in the final clause. In (3), the SR verb form butdi’ has irrealis reference, but only on the verb in the final clause do we find the irrealis morpheme -kiya:

(3) Pius avla but-di’ wuk-kiya-mi’\n   [Pius self tell-3SG.M] [hear-IRR-2SG.M]
   ‘(When) Pius himself tells you, you’ll hear it.’

Switch reference is also used in tail-head linkage, which is ‘a way to connect clause chains in which the last clause of a chain is partially or completely repeated in the first clause of the next chain’ (de Vries 2005: 363). The occurrence of switch-reference in tail-head linkage enhances the discourse-structuring function of the latter, as tail-head linkage ‘allows the switch-reference marking to be carried over from one sentence to the next’ (Stirling 1993: 17). Both tail-head linkage and the same-subject markers of SR-systems indicate discourse continuity. Tail-head linkage in Iatmul is further attested as a strategy to link independent clauses, where the recapitulated verb is functionally similar to a clause-linking conjunction. This means that tail-head linkage has undergone conventionalization as a coordination device. What has been conventionalized here is not a specific form of a specific lexical item, but the construction as such. As SR-clauses are typically adjoined, they can constitute so-called clause chains. These are iconic in that they reflect a chronological order of events. However, a backgrounded subordinate clause can intervene between two linked clauses (‘skipped clause’) or within one clause (‘centre-embedded clause’) of the chain and thereby make it discontinuous. Iatmul SR-forms are also found in certain types of biclausal subordinate linkage such as manner or causal clauses.

In summary, the Iatmul data confirm that SR-constructions fulfil the double function of reference tracking and text cohesion. At the same time, the Iatmul case is an atypical SR-system for having an apparent ‘different-subject zero-morpheme’.

References


The anaphoric and the recognitional uses of 'sådan en' in Danish NP's in spoken and written texts.

Jensen, Eva Skafe
(The Danish Language Council)

The predeterminer sådan (lit.: 'such') has different functions and different meanings in Danish depending on the NP it is a part of.

(1) sådan en
'such one'

(2) sådan en bue
'SÅDAN a curve'

The type in (1) consists of the predeterminer sådan and an indefinite pronoun; it is only used in contexts of true anaphoric reference with a fully identifiable antecedent, cf. (3):

(3) der ligger en gårdsplads med høns [...] så hvis du har sådan en 'there lies a courtyard with chickens [...] so if you have such one'

In (3) sådan en 'such one' refers to en gårdsplads med høns 'a courtyard with chickens'. The sådan en in this type may always function as an answer to a question what kind?

The type shown in (2) consists of sådan and a full NP with an article and a noun. This type is different from (1) in that it is not anaphoric, and furthermore in that it contains the meaning component 'you know the kind I mean', cf. (4):

(4) og så skal man gå i sådan en bue lidt vest igen
'and so shall one go in SÅDAN a curve slightly west again'
The utterance in (4) would not satisfy a question of what kind - because it carries no information as to the nature of the kind in (4), and there is no antecedent to get that sort of information from either. I propose, that the use of sådan en in (4) may be described in terms of the so called 'recognitional' use identified for demonstratives by Himmelmann, i.e. a use that relies on a "presumably shared knowledge" that doesn't have to be explained further (Himmelmann 1996: 207).

The use in (3) is well known and it is described in academic papers (e.g. Jensen 2000: 54–61; Diderichsen 2007: 189; Wood & Vikner 2011) and in well annotated dictionaries (e.g. Ordbog over det Danske Sprog; Den Danske Ordbog). The use in (4), however, appears to have never been properly investigated. This could be due to the lack of occurrences in traditional written texts. The component 'you know the kind I mean' calls for situations of communicative intimacy, situations more commonly achieved in face to face communication (like spoken dialogue) and in the informal style of certain types of the new CMC-texts, than in traditional written texts of a monologic kind.

In this paper, I will present my findings of the two uses in three different corpora representing different text situations: One corpus of traditional written texts (KorpusDK), one of spoken dialogues (DanPASS), and one corpus compiled of blogs and tweets (DSN-CMC).

The approach is functional-structural in the sense described in Engberg-Pedersen et al. 1996, and in Boye & Harder 2012.

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KorpusDK - http://ordnet.dk/korpusdk


The mass-count distinction, pancake-sentences and gender system changes in Mainland Scandinavian.

Josefsson, Gunlög
(Lund University)

Two phenomena involving gender in Mainland Scandinavian are “pancake-sentences” and the semanticization of formal gender in Danish, a process that seem to have started in the West Jutlandic dialect. Both phenomena involve a tight association between neuter and non-countability (which includes readings, such as ‘mass/substance’, ‘aggregated substance’, ‘eventivity' etc.). I argue that pancake-sentences and the semanticization of formal gender are parts of the same process.
Pancake-sentences are characterized by neuter agreement on the predicative adjective, despite an apparent lack of a source for such agreement. In (1a) the subject is *morot* ‘carrot’, a common gender noun, and in (1b) the plural *morötter* ‘carrots’. In both cases the predicative adjective agrees in the neuter, and the reading of the NP is that of ‘substance’ and ‘aggregated substance’, respectively. (2) shows that plural agreement on the predicative renders the subject individuated, i.e. countable. To account for agreement and the semantic interpretations, [5] proposes that the subject NPs in sentences, such as (1), is headed by a null neuter class, which is crucially without a number feature, as illustrated in (3). This analysis is easily extended to other types of the pancake-sentences, such as those in (4), where the assumed classifier takes a vP or small clause complement. (5) shows that the subject of this type of pancake-sentences is larger than the overt NP; adverbial modifiers can be added, which indicates a clause-like structure.

The gender system of West Jutlandic differs from the rest of Mainland Scandinavian in being consistently semantic; when a non-countable reading is intended, a noun is obligatorily preceded by a neuter element, primarily *det* viz. *det egetræ* ‘oak wood’, see (6a). (6b) shows that assigning common gender renders the noun a countable reading. I argue that *det* in *det egetræ* is a classifier, see (7), in all relevant aspects identical to the proposed null classifier, heading the subjects of pancake-sentences, as shown in (3).

The West Jutlandic gender system is ultimately due to phonological changes that started around 1000 AD, with a gradual loss of morphology, including grammatical gender distinctions. In this situation, semantics seem to have “kicked in”, and a typical association between neuter and non-countability, and between common gender and countability, became a rule. The process presumably includes a reanalysis of the neuter demonstrative *det/thæt* ‘that, this’ as a classifier. I will assume that pancake-sentences in Standard Danish is a result of a spread of the West Jutlandic classifier construction. More recently, [2] reports an increased use of a semantically motivated use of the pronouns *den* (common) and *det* (neutral), regardless of the formal gender of the antecedent, and [1] a use of the construction *det + noun* in (sub)standard spoken Danish. For Swedish, the main consequence seems to be the possibility of using pancake-sentences, which, according to [4], were introduced around 1900 in Swedish. According to [3], the construction is older in Danish, which makes it plausible that it has spread from Danish.

(1)

a<br>
Morot är gult. *Carrot (viewed as a substance) is yellow.*

b<br>
Morötter är gult. *Carrots (viewed as an aggregated substance) are yellow.*

(2)

a<br>
Morötter är gul-a. *Carrots (viewed as an individuated entities) are yellow.*

(3)

(4)

a<br>
CLASSNEUT ... två älskare är omoralisk-t. *To have two lovers is immoral.*

b<br>
CLASSNEUT ... [henne i en small clause vore trevlig-t. *To have her in a sports car would be nice.*
To have two new lovers every day is immoral.

West Jutlandic

'oak wood'

'that oak tree'

morot/morötter/HA två älskare/HA [henne i en sportbil]sc
carrot(COMMON)/carrot.PL/HAVE [her in a sport car]sc

Expanding the typology of loanwords: the role of conversational interaction.

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Typologies for linguistic borrowing have focused on differences in form (loanwords versus calques), motivation (need versus prestige, Hockett 1958), and content (cultural versus intimate borrowing, Bloomfield 1933). We argue here that while these are interesting and useful, they don’t allow for a full appreciation of the human and social dimension to borrowing. Borrowing can occur without speaker contact, as with literary loanwords from Latin into English, and even with speaker contact, there can be different degrees of contact, as recognized in Thomason & Kaufmann’s 1988 “scale of borrowability”, where the borrowing of different types of linguistic material correlates with different levels of intensity of contact among speakers.

We claim that the most interesting borrowings for understanding social history through language contact stand outside these typologies and focus less on borrowability or degree of contact than on human interaction. Accordingly, we propose a new typological distinction, arguing for its cogency based on the Balkan Sprachbund.

Our loan typology recognizes loanwords that are closely tied to conversational interactions between speakers; accordingly, we dub them “E.R.I.C.” loans, those that are “Essentially Rooted In Conversation”. E.R.I.C. loans include such typically borrowing-resistant elements as:

• Kinship terms
Numerals
Pronouns
Adpositions
Negatives
Complementizers
Discourse elements (connectives, interjections, gestures)
Vocatives
Onomatopoeia
(Expressive) Reduplication
Expressive phonology
Diminutives
Taboo expressions
Idioms (and phraseology more generally, even shared proverbs)
Secret languages, trade languages, jargons

We argue further that these conversationally based loans arise under conditions of speaker interaction of an on-going and sustained nature, characterizable as intense but simultaneously intimate contact, as opposed to occasional and casual. Such conditions, especially involving multi-lateral multi-lingualism, also engender structural convergence areas, Sprachbünde, as in the Balkans.

Of course, speakers in all contact situations interact verbally, and forms that are typically resistant to borrowing get borrowed in other than Sprachbund-consistent/conducive contexts. But verbal interaction alone is not the issue; rather the nature, the intensity, and the character of the verbal interaction are. Moreover, the preponderance of ERIC loans in the Balkans is particularly striking. Balkan ERIC loans are not just incidental regarding the Sprachbund, but rather are telltale signs of the social circumstances that lead to the structural parallels associated with a linguistic convergence area.

We thus draw a distinction between concrete, informational loanwords rooted in specific interactions involving material culture (foods, goods, etc.), which pass among speakers under very casual contact situations, and those essentially rooted in conversational interactions that need considerable direct speaker mediation for cross-language transmission.

We see ERIC loans as adding to, while intersecting with, existing loanword typologies. For instance, they provide an overarching rubric for contact influences that draws together expressives, gestures, kinship practices, and pragmatic markers in discourse, along with much else. Moreover, the notion of ERIC loans cuts across a taxonomy of borrowing by word-type, implicit in Matras 2009 where “lexical borrowing” and “grammatical borrowing” are treated in separate chapters, encompassing certain types of lexical items and certain grammatical categories.

References

Dynamic defectiveness and the development of suppletion.

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Recent studies of defectiveness (e.g. the papers in Baerman, Corbett & Brown 2010) have primarily emphasized synchronic aspects of missing forms, with frequent attention to modeling such patterns. In this paper I address how defectiveness arises and interacts with other types of irregularity, especially suppletion, in verb paradigms. Some familiar Indo-European data show that, as languages change, the categories typical of a verb paradigm also naturally change and, in the process, what kinds of patterns can be considered defective or suppletive change as well.
As Juge argues in a forthcoming discussion of the aforementioned volume and a collection of papers on deponency (Baerman et al. 2007), the clearest examples of this type of development are the copula and the perfect participle. The Latin perfect passive participle (e.g., *ruptus ‘having been broken’) was missing for many verbs. Interestingly, though, the papers in Baerman, Corbett & Brown (2010) do not present such verbs as defective. This is probably related to the fact that this form was historically a deverbal adjective and was not fully integrated into the verb system. Subsequent changes, however, especially the development of periphrastic perfects with HABERE and ESSE, led to tighter binding of these forms with the rest of the verbal paradigm.

This process of semantically related forms becoming bound together may also result in suppletion. For example, the PIE roots that contribute to the copulas in the various daughter languages were mostly not members of a suppletive paradigm in the proto-language. Rather, roots like *bʰu-, *h₁es-, and *h₂u-s- expressed related notions that in some languages came together and created suppletive paradigms (e.g., English be, is, was). This process, which I call coalescence, is more closely tied to patterns of irregularity like defectiveness than other sources of suppletion, such as the sound changes that rendered the related English forms am and is suppletive from a synchronic perspective. In the latter case, there is no interaction between distinct lexemes. Examining how different types of irregularity (and their subtypes) promises to improve the process of reconstruction, especially for poorly attested families, which can benefit from the establishment of tendencies. It is particularly important to explore such patterns as they relate to semantic factors, which have received far too little attention in diachronic morphology.

Juge also argues that an emphasis on interactions between types of irregularity (or, as he calls it, ‘paradigmatic perversity’) may provide some guidance in seemingly ambiguous cases. For instance, he considers Matthews’s rejection (2007: 313) of the relationship between Latin fīō ‘become’ and faciō ‘make’ as a potentially exceptional case of deponency as a missed opportunity, since the clear cases of a given phenomenon may be few and the outliers can sometimes reveal the most about principles of change.

Juge’s integrationist approach to paradigmatic perversity provides a way to deepen our understanding of some of the most poorly understood parts of diachronic morphology and is also consistent with Joseph’s emphasis on the importance of the periphery (1997).

References

Structural conditions for ergativity: a view from North Russian.

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This paper argues that relevant structural conditions may give rise to the development of Tense/Aspect-split ergativity in a language that is generally not considered ergative. The investigation of the argument encoding strategy of the North Russian be-perfect construction, as in (1), supports this claim.

(1) u lisicy e unesenokuročka.
At fox:PPGEN (BE) carried off:Part-no.N.SG chicken:NOM.F.SG
‘A fox has carried a chicken off’ [Kuz’mina and Nemčenko 1971]

The North Russian perfect is composed of a prepositional phrase, consisting of u ‘at’ and a genitive noun, an auxiliary byt’ ‘be,’ an indeclinable participle in -no/-to or in -n/-t, originating from the past passive participle, and a nominative/accusative object phrase (if transitive). The u+GEN phrase generally expresses possessor, beneficiary, and location in (North) Russian.
but in this construction it encodes an agentive external argument (e.g. the u+GEN is incompatible with unambiguously unaccusative predicates) and appears as a grammatical subject assuming subject properties (e.g. reflexive binding). The construction does not currently feature differential object marking based on any semantic factor, but it seems to have had animacy-sensitive object case variation in the past (Jung 2007). In North Russian, intransitive verbs usually constitute a distinct type of the perfect, taking a participle in –vši, originating from the past active participle. In this construction, the unique argument appears in the nominative. Given the case alignment scheme with oblique subject and nominative object, the perfect construction in (1) is classified as ergative.

The way that this construction encodes ergativity shows that Tense/Aspect-split ergativity may arise even in a typical nominative-accusative language, such as North Russian, via certain syntactic structures that allow obliquely marked subjects. The North Russian perfect construction involves the be-perfect structure and verbal nominalization, both of which condition oblique subject marking (u+GEN), which in turn makes nominative object marking possible. Possessive perfect formation and verbal nominalization typically correlate with ergative marking in be-auxiliary languages (Benveniste 1952, Trask 1979, Bok-Bennema 1991, Johns 1992, Alexiadou 2001). In this respect, morphological ergativity—in particular, Tense/Aspect-split ergativity—is a corollary of the particular structures it is associated with.

This conclusion is also supported from a diachronic perspective. The ergativity in North Russian arose as a transitional stage from the passive to the active, along with the recovery of the demoted agent in the form of possessor. It has been well observed that Tense/Aspect-split ergative constructions develop from the passive and the perfect/past/perfective in this way (Anderson 1977).

References

New data on the evolution of differential object marking in Spanish.

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Differential Object Marking (DOM) is a widespread phenomenon and can be found in many of the world’s languages (Bossong 1998). It consists in an overt differentiation of several classes of objects, particularly universally “marked” objects: prototypical objects are inanimates that contrast with animate subjects. Animate objects tend to be marked in DOM languages (Aissen 2003, 459).

In the case of Spanish, DOM used to be a topic marker in the medieval language, and it evolved diachronically towards a syntactic marker of disambiguation of objects that have prototypical characteristics of subjects (animate objects, above all) or that appear in sentences where they could also be possible candidates for the subject position (like in reciprocal constructions with verbs like substituir ‘substitute’). Now, several authors have observed an increase of DOM with inanimate objects in recent times (from the second half of the 20th century onwards) above all in American Spanish, claiming that there might be an evolution of DOM into “OM”: the “differential” object marker could become, according to Company Company (2002), more and more a generalized object marker, without any distinguishing function within the category of the objects.

In addition to the data on American Spanish varieties, we have observed that DOM seems to be advancing also in peninsular Spanish in recent times: examples with inanimate objects that are metonymically linked to humans (institutions,
cultural phenomena and the like) appear more and more with DOM in the last years certain written genres as well as in oral language. However, we want to claim, against Company Company's supposition, that DOM has still a clearly anchored differentiating function in Spanish and that DOM with inanimates will only be found in clearly marked constructions. In order to show the validity of our hypothesis, we will analyze data from several contemporary Spanish corpora (CREA, Chilean Grial, Spanish Twitter corpus) and show the psycholinguistic evidence of an eye-tracking experiment with 10 native speakers exposed to contrastive data in marked constructions (taken from authentic corpus data) with and without DOM. The result will be a new interpretation of the status of DOM in contemporary Spanish.

References

Discourse meets grammar: the distribution of the definite article and the grammatical encoding of referentiality in an archaic dialect of Hungarian.

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The Hungarian definite article is a fully grammaticalized category to encode definiteness since the Old Hungarian period. As Egedi shows for Late Old Hungarian (Egedi in press), the definite article appears only in the constructions where the referent of the noun phrase is not anchored in another way. As the result of a gradual diachronic change by which the grammatical realization of definiteness spread from context to context, Modern Hungarian makes an extensive use of the definite article even with possessives, demonstratives or (in some dialects) with proper names.

In the Csángó dialect (the most archaic dialect of Hungarian spoken in Moldova, north-eastern part of Romania) the distribution of the definite article seems to resemble that of earlier language stages in that the definite article may be missing in possessive constructions, in case of a generic reading of the noun phrase, etc. But what is most striking about the syntax of the Csángó noun phrase is that the lack of a definite article seems to be in correlation with the information structural role of the noun phrase. When used as the topic of the sentence, noun phrases tend to lack a definite article, and, in case that it is the direct object of the verb that fills the topic position, it frequently calls forth a definite conjugation on the verb. (In Hungarian, the verb agrees not only with its subject, but also with its object if it is represented by a definite noun phrase.) É. Kiss 2010 argues that definite conjugation in Hungarian emerged as an agreement marker with a topicalized object (cf. differential object marking in Dalrymple–Nikolaeva 2011), and its function was to signal the topic function of the object after the -t ending lost its role as a topic marker and became a general accusative marker. As topics are definite descriptions, agreement with a topicalized object could easily translate into agreement with a definite object. In the research to be presented I tried to outline the exact distribution of the definite article in Csángó, to find both the diachronic and contact-induced aspects of its synchronic system, and to propose an analysis that can account for both the differences in the syntactic structure of the Standard Hungarian and the Csángó noun phrase and the interaction of grammatical encoding and information structure in this segment of syntax. As no previous literature on the Csángó noun phrase or referentiality encoding is available, the results may also pertain to reasearch on historical linguistics of Hungarian that until quite recently was limited to descriptive statements. More generally it can facilitate our understanding of the language specific grammatical realization of the universal semantic and pragmatic notion of definiteness.
Modal existential wh-construction in Lithuanian.

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In his recent research on modal existential wh-constructions (or MECs) in the world’s languages, Šimik (2011) mentions Lithuanian among the 27 languages where this structure is attested. The Lithuanian MEC is an existential sentence type containing (i) a form of the existential verb būti ‘be’, (ii) the wh-word, and , typically, (iii) the infinitive (cf. Rappaport 1986 and Babby 2000 for Russian). The type is attested both in positive and negative forms:

(1) Ketinau rašyti pareiškimą, kol dar yra kam pasiskysti.
    plan:1PAST write:INF application:ACCsg till still be:3PRS who:DAT complain:INF
    ‘I was planning to hand in an application, as long as there still is someone/there is somebody to be found to complain to.’

(2) Nesvarstė, nebuvo kada svarstyti.
    not-consider:3PAST not-be:3PAST when consider:INF
    ‘He wasn’t thinking, there was no time to think’

The paper focuses on one language-specific aspect of the construction, i.e. the verb form following the wh-word. Šimik (2011:45) claims that MECs in all languages are predominantly non-indicative; thus according to the grammatical mood a language uses in MECs, three groups can be distinguished: (1) those that accept infinitive, (2) those that use subjunctive and (3) those that accept infinitive and subjunctive.

According to our data, Lithuanian seems to belong to a distinct group, which allows the use of infinitives, participles, as well as subjunctive and indicative verb forms. Viewed from this perspective, the Lithuanian data present a counterexample to the cross-linguistically attested modality of circumstantial possibility expressed by MECs – indicative verb forms convey not possibility, but generic or habitual modality. It seems that the Lithuanian MEC which employs subjunctive/infinitival/participial and indicative forms may be unique, cf.: Nėra (yra) kas ją prižiūrėtų (subjunctive) ‘There is no one/there is somebody to look after her’; Nėra (yra) kas daryti (infinitive) / kas bedarq (participle)/ kas daro (present indicative) ‘There is nothing (something) to be done’.

The data for the present analysis were retrieved from the Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian language. The total number of MECs in the 38,659,673-word corpus (including the section of spoken Lithuanian) is over four hundred. Even though structures with indicative forms are relatively rare (98 occurrences), they are fully productive in contemporary Lithuanian and are found in all genres of literary and non-literary texts.

To explain the diversity of main verb forms in MECs, Holvoet’s (1999) approach towards a historical development of infinitival relative clauses in Baltic and Slavonic languages is employed. The paper also discusses the distribution of MECs in the corpus in relation to the range of wh-words found in MECs and the verbal forms the structure accepts.

References

Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian language. http://tekstynas.vdu.lt
In this talk, I will revisit Joseph's (2001) distinction between “comparative syntax of Balkan languages” and “comparative Balkan syntax” in light of the change of focus from macro-parameters to micro-comparative syntax, in which the languages being compared are particularly close to one another, the rationale being that it is easier to search for comparative syntax correlations across a set of more closely related languages than across a set of less closely related languages, since in this way there will be fewer variables to control for, which in turn increases the likelihood of hitting upon the valid correlations (see much recent work by Kayne). Naturally the notion of closeness here applies to the relevant dimension, namely morpho-syntax, which for the languages constituting the Balkan Sprachbund is given as a matter of definition. (As an important aside, note that taking morphology seriously is absolutely central in the context of micro-parametric variation, as that is basically the only clue to structure.) Two specific case studies that I will discuss in this light concern microvariation in clitic doubling patterns, and unaccusative verbs, illustrating yet again that while syntax is inert, the set of syntactic primitives constrained, and the ordering of elements universal, what may vary is the specification of the lexical items and the actual realization of functional structure.

Returning to Joseph’s distinction mentioned above, though differences at the micro level may or may not turn out to be theoretically interesting, even in the context of identifying so-called “Balkanisms”, focusing on microvariation – as did Sobolev (2004) whose conclusion was that the set of typical Balkan properties should be relativized, or Joseph (2001) on the similarities and differences of the functions of the modal negation items mos and mi(n) in Albanian and Greek respectively, as well as on their emergence (as a Balkan innovation) and spread (through contact) – is still advantageous for questions bearing on micro-parametric variation and change, especially if universals constrain change, and grammaticalization (and innovation) is optimization (Kiparsky 2008).

Moreover, though as Joseph (2011) remarks “morpho-syntax is perhaps the most complicated domain of convergence in the Balkans”, comparative Balkan syntax might actually also impinge on issues whether syntactic convergence is due to code-switching (Pfaff 1979), e.g. through borrowing of function words (cf. Treffers-Daller 1991 and Heath 1989 who argue that borrowings originate in code-switching), or alternatively whether syntactic convergence may lead to code-switching by taking place “around the switch, [...] in order to ease” (Clyne 1987) it.

References
Adpositional systems in contact: the case of Cappadocian Greek.

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Cappadocian Greek (henceforth Cappadocian) figures prominently in the linguistics literature as a par excellence example of “heavy borrowing” (Thomason & Kaufman 1988: 215) in which the effects of contact with Turkish are clearly identifiable on all levels of analysis, from phonology and morphology to syntax, semantics and discourse (Janse 2009 provides an overview). This paper examines a series of contact-induced changes in a domain of Cappadocian grammar that has received little, if no, attention: adpositions.

The two languages differ greatly with respect to their adpositional systems. Cappadocian has inherited a prepositional system that consists of simple and compound members; e.g., se ‘at/to’, me ‘with’, apes se ‘in(side)’, dama me ‘(together) with’ (for the distinction, see Hagège 2010). Turkish, in contrast, is exclusively postpositional displaying an array of bare and possessive-marked postpositions; e.g. için ‘for’, beri ‘since’; iç- ‘in(side)’, ön- ‘in front of’ (Göksel & Kerslake 2005).

The investigation of a substantial corpus of Cappadocian texts (Costakis 1959, 1962; Dawkins 1916; Kesisoglou 1951; Mavrochalyvidis & Kesisoglou 1960) reveals a number of noteworthy instances of both pattern and matter replication in the adpositional system of the language (in the sense of Matras & Sakel 2007):

A. Replication of head-final order. In non-contact Greek varieties, all adpositions precede their complements. In Cappadocian, only simple adpositions do. Compound adpositions, which consist of an adverb and a simple preposition, have developed into circumpositions: the original preposition remains preposed to the complement whereas the original adverbial element is postposed (1). This clearly models on Turkish postpositional phrases (2).

(1) Phloïtá Cappadocian
so nekliʃa ombro
‘in front of the church’

(2) Turkish
kilise-nin ön-ün-de
‘in front of the church’

Circumpositional ordering of the Cappadocian type is not unknown to other Greek varieties; it is, however, a clearly marked option. We can therefore conclude that language contact favoured these marginal variants, promoting them to the status of unmarked defaults by virtue of their similarity to the corresponding Turkish pattern.

B. Borrowing of postpositions. Certain Cappadocian varieties have incorporated Turkish postpositions wholesale including their positioning relative to their complement. The cases in which this is found involve the borrowing of postpositions denoting both peripheral – non-temporal, non-spatial – and central, temporal meanings:

(3) Mistí Cappadocian
ap extes bæri (cf. Turkish beri)
‘since yesterday’

(4) Ulaghást Cappadocian
ap to sevdusi itʃin (cf. Turkish için)
‘because of love’

When borrowed into Cappadocian, Turkish postpositions assume the role of the adverbial element of circumpositions: (a) they retain their relative positioning after the phrasal complement; but, (b) they have to combine with a native, simple preposition to form a circumpositional phrase.

The paper discusses the implications of these findings for the typology of adpositions, both from a synchronic and a diachronic perspective. It focuses on the apparent cross-linguistic rarity of circumpositions and on the predictions that have been made in the language contact literature regarding the borrowability of adpositions in relation to other linguistic elements.

References
A diachronic perspective on the semantics of infinitive clauses in Greek.

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It has been observed that New Testament (NT) Greek avoids the aorist infinitive in declarative infinitive clauses dependent on verbs of saying and thinking (hereafter DInf); cf. Burton 1898: 53, Fanning 1990: 401. This avoidance is uncharacteristic of the Classical Greek syntax, where DInf containing an aorist infinitive seem to have been a common phenomenon (e.g., Plato, Apol. 33 b6, Symp. 178 b3 Resp. 377 e8, 586 c3 Hdt. 1.2.1, 1.129.7, 4.131.1, 4.151.9, 6.68.5, Thuc. 1.67.3, 4.83.5). It has also been suggested that DInf are characterized in NT Greek by (1) significantly frequent use of the perfect infinitive as well as of the present infinitives of stative verbs, and (2) avoidance of non-stative present infinitives (Kavčič 2009).

The paper argues that, while the aorist is avoided in DInf, it is markedly more common in finite dependent clauses introduced with ὅτι/ὅ. In addition to the NT, the corpus examined consists of around 150 private and official papyri documents dating from the 1st and early 2nd centuries AD (apprx. 30,000 words). Despite evident parallels between the language of the non-literary papyri and NT Greek the former also contain higher frequencies of the future infinitives, used within DInf, than the latter. Nevertheless, the avoidance of the aorist infinitives is evident in both NT Greek and in the language of the non-literary papyri. On the one hand, the evidence from Hellenistic/Roman Greek (HRG) therefore seems to indicate that the aspect and Aktionsart played a role in the competition between the infinitive and non-finite complements. It has been suggested that DInf mostly express states in NT Greek (Thorley 1989: 296). (Thus the HRG construction could have parallels in English clauses of the type I believe her to be intelligent.) Nevertheless, this explanation is faced with the problem of the merger between the aorist and the perfect in HRG (cf. Horrocks 2010: 176, Chantraine 1927, McKay 1980). If the aorist had merged with the perfect by the 1st century AD, then the avoidance of the aorist infinitives and the high frequency of the perfect infinitives is not the expected situation.

As a consequence, the paper also points out the complexity of the relation of these tendencies to other developments in HRG, which include the aforementioned merger between the aorist and the perfect, the emergence of the periphrastic future forms (cf. Markopoulos 2009: 46–86), and the increasing tendency to employ passive constructions in the infinitive clauses dependent on the verb κελεύω "order" (cf. Milhevc Gabrovec 1972). This development, in addition to the acceptability of non-stative passive infinitives within DInf in HRG, will be used in support of the assumption that, in diachronic terms, the subject of Greek DInf increasingly tended to avoid the semantic role of agent.

References
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Based on personal fieldwork data as well as on the available literature (including Miller 1953; Grjunberg 1963; Authier 2012), a series of maps will show the geographical distribution of a number of selected grammatical features. Particular emphasis will be placed on features not found in Persian, which is the closest relative of the Tat languages and historically represents the main contact language of the Taleshi dialects:

- extension of the light verb ‘make’ (saxtan) vs ‘do’ (kardan) in the formation of compounds
- presence/absence and value of the mi- prefixed verbal forms
- presence/absence and value of the be- prefixed verbal forms
- extension of the use of the bi- prefixed verbal forms (modal)
- construction of possessive NPs
  o juxtaposition
  o ezafe
  o possessive suffix
  o dative-marked possessor
  o ablative-marked possessor
  o dedicated genitive preposition
- locus of expression of instrumental-comitative marking
  o preposed
  o postposed
  o circumposed
- expression of optative mood
  o subjunctive
  o subjunctive + particle
  o special verb form
- construction of possessive predicates
  o transitive (have)
  o inverse (dative possessor)
- formation of the causative of transitive verbs
  o with ‘leave’
  o with ‘do’
  o with ‘give’
- formation of the passive construction
  o with ‘come’
  o with ‘be’
- formation of the progressive aspect
  o with participle + ‘be’ periphrasis
  o with inflectable copula-like free word
  o with special morpheme
- formations expressing categorical future (“prospective”)
  o prefixed
  o particle
  o suffixed
- expression of comparison with NPs and clauses
  o initial (conjunction)
  o final (converb)
  o other
- construction of relative clauses
The aim of this overview will be to assess the amount of Azeri code-copying found in the Iranian languages of Azerbaijan, and to identify features of these languages which are not attested in Modern or Middle Persian but which equally cannot be attributed to Turkic influence.

References

Learning cues for accurate L2 production: determinants of clause order in complex sentences.

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Recent corpus-based research has demonstrated the effects of numerous semantic, discourse-functional and processing-related factors on the relative ordering of main and subordinate clauses in complex sentences in English (Diessel 2008, AUTHORS 2013). Focussing on complex sentences involving two semantic types of adverbial clauses (ACs), the present study investigates to what extent clause serialization choices made by German advanced learners of English are governed by the same factors as those made by expert writers. Equivalently, we ask which distributional cues advanced learners rely on when planning complex utterances involving multiple clausal constituents.

We compiled an advanced learner corpus comprising 50 term papers produced by German students of English linguistics in their second and third year of study (N ~ 216,000) and a same-sized control expert corpus of peer-reviewed articles appearing in various journals on language studies published by Elsevier. The target-constructions were identified by matching a set of subordinators in the two corpora, yielding a total amount of 1,471 data points. The target structures were subsequently annotated with information pertaining to 6 variables which target semantic, discourse functional and processing-related quantities that have been shown to influence clause order in previous studies (Diessel 2008, AUTHORS 2013) listed below.

1. Structural complexity of AC
2. Proportional size of AC
3. Presence of a cross-sentential anaphoric item
4. Balancedness/deranking of verb forms in ACs
5. Semantic subtype
6. Subordinator choice

Due to some variables being highly correlated (complexity and proportional size of AC, semantic subtype and subordinator choice), we employed a random forest technique to assess the importance of each variable in predicting the relative position of the AC (ModelSpecs: Random forest of 500 conditional inference trees with bootstrap aggregating, variable importance assessed via conditional permutation variable importance; cf. Strobl et al. 2008).

The analysis reveals that expert clause ordering is most strongly governed by the choice of subordinator, which reflects the effect of subtle semantic differences on clause positioning (Quirk et al 1985: 1098ff.). The second most important variable is the presence of an anaphoric item, indicating a bridging function of the AC (Verstrate 2004) followed by the relative size of the AC. In learner language, it is the presence of a cross-sentential anaphor that is the strongest
determinant of clause position, relegating subordinator choice to a secondary role. Learners also rely less than experts on proportional AC-size and, also in contrast to experts, their choices are more strongly co-determined by the semantic type and the complexity of the AC, which play only marginal roles in expert language. In summary, our results suggest that German advanced learners of English tend to underestimate the role of subtle semantic differences associated with subordinator choices and overestimate the role of structural factors and organization levels that are not very relevant to the expert. More generally, our results corroborate prior experimental research, which found that L2 learners only gradually reach expert levels in cue strength and reliability (cf. Ellis and Robinson 2008: 8).

References

Italian discourse markers: acquisition strategies in L2.
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In this paper I would like to discuss the acquisition of Italian discourse markers (DMs) that are used to organize and/or to structure a text (according to the classification proposed in Bazzanella, 1995, 2006). The data contains texts of different genres written by my students (advanced level) during the course of written Italian that I held at the University of Oslo from 2007 to 2011, as well as master’s theses.

First of all, I will analyse typical errors, that often concern the word order (e.g. anche, ancora, in effetti) and the functions of the DMs (e.g. the erroneous use of insomma, infatti, in teoria). After that I will describe some important features of DMs and will propose some possible exercises that can help to “catch” these features and to acquire the correct use of a DM (for some types of exercises see Khachaturyan, 2011).

To conclude, I will discuss the role of the parallel corpus in the process of teaching and acquisition of DMs.

References

Ideophonic predication in Komi.
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Komi, a Finno-Ugric language in Northern Russia, has a considerable number of ideophones, often exhibiting reduplication, expressing visual, acoustic, haptic, or motoric perceptions. However, these notions cannot always be identified unambiguously, and an ideophonic expression often designates a complex perception event as, e.g., buz in (1) which
describes the sound of a liquid splashing on the floor, involving a notion of downward movement. Based on a corpus of narrative texts, as well as on existing accounts of the topic in question, one may observe three basic syntactic ways for Komi ideophones to enter a predication:

(i) The bare ideophone constitutes a predicate; subject and indirect object arguments may be accomodated, or overt—as, e.g., the pronominal subject in (1)—, and the predication may involve localizing adverbials or other modifiers.

(ii) The ideophone becomes a verbal predicate with argument positions and full access to the verbal paradigm. In this case the ideophone undergoes verbal derivation, involving specific suffixes, or it becomes a preverb to a carrier verb as, e.g., tšaš in (2). While the latter process is productive and open to any new ideophone, suffixal derivation is not; here we face rather conventionalized elements whose ideophonic origin is not always transparent. Type (ii) seems to be preferred if the ideophonic predicate is transitive as in (2).

(iii) The ideophone accompanies a predication as an adverb with wide (sentential) or narrow scopus. Such an adverb may consist in a bare ideophone, or an adverbial derivation of an ideophone, or a paradigmatic adverbial form of a derived ideophonic verb, or in a formation in which a 3rd person singular present tense form of a carrier verb with an ideophone in its preverbal slot functions as a verbal adverb to the main verb as, e.g., in (3). This peculiar pattern is found exclusively among ideophonic predications.

(1) Komi, Vym’ dialect (Zhilina 1998: 423)
Context: In order to brew beer the subject referent fills mash into pots and puts them into the oven, but the pots turn out to have holes through which the mash runs out.
Kod-ös šuj-ö, sija i buz.
which-ACC put.in-PRS3SG this also IDEO
‘(No matter) which one she puts in, it goes buz.’

(2) Komi, Izhma dialect (Mal’ceva 1944: 147)
Babuška šin-sō tšaš-vart-a-s
grandmother eye-ACC3SG ideo-hit-FUT-3SG
‘Grandmother teared her eyes open (in surprise).’

(3) Komi (Lytkin 1955: 250)
Völ-i tšiń-šidź-ö lōń
be-PST3SG IDEO-hit-PRS3SG quiet
‘There was a tensed silence.’

Judging from the variation observable in Komi ideophones are to be considered a word class of its own with no clear determined access to predication, differing therein from nouns or verbs (cf. Bartens 2000: 25, “Ideophones constitute a word class of the sublinguistic level which may enter the slots N, Adj, V, Adv of the syntactic level”). The current investigation searches for parameters of the varying predication strategies for ideophones as transitivity, productivity, and others. Attention is also payed to adnominal uses of ideophones as well as to similar patterns in the closely related Udmurt language.

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A corpus-based study of second person impersonals:  
Russian constructions with the indefinite you and their translations into English. 

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The aim of present paper is to reveal to what extent original Russian impersonal second person constructions correspond to the ones in the English translations using the parallel translation Russian-English sub-corpus of The Russian National Corpus. Second person impersonals (they are called "generalized-personal" constructions in standard grammars of Russian) seem to be widely attested cross-linguistically (Jespersen 1924; Laberge & Sankoff 1979; Siewerska 1984):

English  
(1) You never know what to do in such cases;

French  
(2) C'est pas avec des guerres que tu réussis à faire un pays
   ‘You don’t build a country with wars’;

Russian  
(3) Ego ne peresporiš'
   ‘You cannot out-argue him’ (= ‘It’s no use arguing with him’);

Latin  
(4) Memoria minitiur nisi eam exerceas
   ‘Memory weakens unless you practice it’;

Polish  
(5) Naigorsz to że nikomu nie możesz wierzyć
   ‘The worst thing is that you cannot believe anyone’.

Nevertheless, as far as I know, these constructions have not yet been the subject of typological studies. Presumably, we can assume that the most widespread referential interpretation associated with the indefinite you is the universal one, exemplified in (1) through (5). In addition, as has been shown in (Siewerska 1984: 242-245), the indefinite you in English invariably involves the addressee in the range of the potential referents of the subject. The same, probably, applies to constructions with indefinite you in other languages.

An additional peculiarity of the second person impersonal ("generalized-personal") constructions in Russian is that they are very often used with reference solely to the speaker. The data taken from the corpus show that universal uses of second person impersonal are, mainly, rendered into English by the similar means, see (7) and (8) whereas translations of the speaker-oriented constructions often contain first person pronouns, see (9) and (10):

(7) Lučše poterjat’ darom pjat’ let, čem potom vsju žizn’ zanimat’sja delom, kotorogo ne ljubiš’  (Chekhov. A Dreary Story)
   ‘Better to have lost your five years than have to spend the rest of your life in doing work you do not care for’;

(8) Gljadja na ličo, nikak ne pojmeš’, kakogo on zvanija (Chekhov. Gusev)
   ‘Looking at him you could not make out of what class he was’;

(9) I duša tože nespokojna. Postojanno boišja za detej, za muža (Chekhov. The New Villa)
   ‘My soul, too, is troubled; I am in continual fear for my children, my husband’;

(10) I stala ona po sosedstvu k mne za každym pustjakom obraščat’sja. Nu, prideš’, rasporjadišja, posovetueš (Chekhov. Peasant Wives)
   ‘She got into the way of turning to me for every little thing... Well, I’d go over, set things to rights, and give advice’.
Typological studies of reflexivity: the state of the art.

Koenig, Ekkehard
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After several decades of typological and other empirically oriented cross-linguistic work on reflexives (Faltz, 1985; Geniušienė, 1987; Huang, 2000; Koenig & Siemund, 2000; Frajzyngier, 2000; Lust et al., 2000; Rousseau, 2007; Koenig & Gast, 2008; Haspelmath, 2008; Everaert, 2012, etc.) it seems useful and appropriate to take stock of its major results as a basis for future work, especially since the goals associated with such work have been seriously called into question recently (Evans & Levinson, 2009).

In my state-of-the-art report an attempt will be made to summarize the following aspects of these studies:

- Cross-linguistic patterns and limits of variation in the domain of reflexivity, formulated in terms of Greenberg-style implications and implicational hierarchies
- Formal and distributional properties of reflexive markers identified across languages: formal complexity, interaction with the category of person, possible grammatical functions, distribution in terms of predicate types, possible antecedents, binding domains, contrast to related categories (intensifiers, middle markers, etc.).
- First attempts to develop a canonical typology for reflexives (Everaert, 2012) which try to draw a distinction between clear, indisputable instances of reflexive markers and less typical or even marginal instances.
- Recent descriptive contributions to the identification and analysis of reflexive marking in lesser known languages. These analyses have cast strong doubts on the view that there are languages without reflexive markers.

Results of this survey will then be used to address topics and questions formulated in the program for the relevant workshop and phenomena that provide serious challenges to current theorizing will be identified. The following questions will be discussed:

- Is it possible in all languages to draw a clear distinction between reflexive anaphors and logophors, on the one hand, and reflexive anaphors and intensifiers, on the other?
- Are there clear cases of reflexive markers in subject position?
- Can reflexive markers generally be subsumed under the category ‘anaphor’?
- How relevant are typological generalizations to formal approaches (data source and testing ground?) and how much inspiration did formal approaches provide for typology?
- How clear and relevant are the limits of variation (“universals”) identified in typological generalizations.

References


Applicative morphology in Shiwiar.

Kohlberger, Martin
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Shiwiar is a Chicham (Jivaroan) language spoken by 1,000 people in the Ecuadorean Amazon. Shiwiar is previously undescribed and undocumented, and all data presented in this paper were collected by the author through fieldwork between 2011 and 2012. It is a language with rich verbal morphology, but complex morphophonological alternations often make it difficult to tease apart individual suffixes. Additionally, some verbal suffixes with identical surface forms are used for a wide variety of grammatical operations, begging the question of whether they are in fact homophonous suffixes with different functions, or whether they are a single suffix with a broad function. This paper will focus on one such complicated case: the Shiwiar verbal morphemes –ru and –tu.

The suffixes –ru and –tu are used primarily in Shiwiar as applicative morphemes. They have identical function but are in complementary distribution, which is fixed and clearly lexically-determined, i.e. every verb root selects either one or the other. However, it is not clear what factors originally motivated their distribution, as the two resulting verb groups do not form a phonological or semantic natural class. In terms of their function, these suffixes are extensively used as applicative morphemes: they increase the valency of a verb by promoting an oblique object into a core (object) argument position. By and large, the promoted arguments are beneficiaries/maleficiaries and locatives.

Interestingly, the applicative suffixes –ru and –tu also seem to have less expected uses. Firstly, they function as verbalisers in Shiwiar. Although they are no longer productive verbalisers, both suffixes can be found in a number of denominalised verbs for natural phenomena. Secondly, the suffixes –ru and –tu are used as object markers. In this latter usage, they can cause ambiguity between an applicative and an object reading.

The fact that the two allomorphs are distributed in the same way in all cases (i.e. when they are used as prototypical applicatives, as verbalisers or as object markers) suggests that they are probably one and the same morpheme. I will conclude by showing how all three uses of the –ru and –tu suffixes can be linked, and will provide a diachronic explanation for their current distribution.

Towards a typology of person-number agreement in Mande languages.

Konoshenko, Maria
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The phenomenon of agreement has been widely discussed in linguistics. As for the languages of Sub-Saharan Africa, Bantu family (niger-congo) is most popular in this respect, Atlantic (niger-congo) and Kru (niger-congo) languages being slightly lower on the charts (consider e.g. [Corbett 2006], [Blake 2008] for general discussion of agreement).

To my knowledge, Mande languages have never been mentioned by typologists with relation to agreement. There are two reasons of this gap: first, lack of proper analysis within modern theoretical framework conducted by Mandeists themselves; second, lack of so to say “scientific public relations” which would attract the attention of general typologists to the phenomenon of agreement in Mande languages. My talk is aimed at restoring justice in both cases.

The framework I adopt in my research is grammatical vs. anaphoric agreement typology introduced in [Bresnan & Mchombo 1987]. There are three types of agreement markers: syntactic, ambiguous and pronominal (anaphoric). An agreement marker is syntactic if it is obligatory and cannot occur without an overt controller in the construction. Ambiguous markers are also obligatory, but they can occur without a local controller and have anaphoric function. Pronominal markers are in complementary distribution with full NPs thus being used for anaphoric agreement (with non-local controllers).
In my talk I will concentrate on local agreement, so pronominal (anaphoric) markers will be excluded from the discussion. At the same time, Mande languages do not have purely syntactic agreement markers (another reason why Mande have not been traditionally described as having agreement). Hence, we will consider ambiguous markers only. Bantu, Atlantic and many other Niger-Congo languages have noun classes and, consequently, display noun class agreement. However, Mande languages lack noun classes, but have person-number agreement.

The possible targets of agreement attested for different Mande languages are predicates, possessed nouns and postpositions (cf. [Siewierska 2004: 127-148] for similar typology). Agreement markers are fused with function words (predicative, possessive markers or postpositions), so special portmanteau morphemes appear. Cf. the following examples (portmanteau markers are given in bold type):

(1) Predicates

dan-gweetaa (south mande) [Vydrin, 2010]

Gbâtô yî mȅ-nû ûôî bû-pê gû
Gbato 3SG.EXI man-PL deprive\NEUT eat-thing\IZF in

‘Gbato doesn’t share his food with others’, lit. ‘Gbato he doesn’t share his food with others’.

(2) Possessed nouns

looma (south-west mande) [Mishchenko 2010: 102]

dìà zûnù-i ná pêlé-i
1SG.PI\elder.sibling man-DEF 3SG.POSS house-DEF

‘My elder brother’s house’, lit. ‘My elder brother his house’.

(3) Postpositions

kpelle (south-west mande) [Konoshenko 2010: 53]

yàá téê bó ñéwàà diê
2SG.RES truth say guest.PL 3PL.on

‘You (sg.) have told the truth to the guests’, lit. ‘You have told the truth to them the guests’.

Thus, I will show that many Mande languages do have agreement and that they display hierarchically organized variation in different parameters, such as possible targets of agreement, grammatical conditions of agreement and the structure of agreement paradigms.

References:


An instance of DSM in a family of nominative/accusative languages.

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This paper addresses a Differential Subject Marking (DSM) phenomenon in Turkish and other Turkic languages which parallels Differential Object Marking (DOM), rather than being a mirror-image of it. DOM, with respect to overt Accusative marking of the DO, has been widely described in traditional, typological and formal literature on these languages. However, DSM in these languages has been described to a much lesser extent. DSM is found with respect to Genitive marking on the subjects of embedded nominalized argument clauses and on the subjects of (a subset of) nominalized adjunct clauses, with the latter receiving (potential) Genitive marking in only one type of nominalization, while the former receives such (potential) marking in all types of nominalization. There are three aspects of this DSM phenomenon which this talk addresses:

1. In all instances, the subjects that do show up with overt Genitive are specific, and are either focalized or topicalized, and they can scramble away from the verb, both leftwards and rightwards. The semantic/pragmatic feature of relevance is referentiality/specificity, i.e. the same feature which is relevant for DOM in these languages, too. Animacy plays only a secondary role, only insofar as non-animate are likelier to be non-specific/non-referential.

   Where the Genitive does not show up on the relevant subjects, the subject is non-specific/non-referential, and it typically cannot be moved away from its immediately pre-verbal position. In other words, morphologically bare (i.e. Genitive-less) subjects in a potentially “Genitive-checking” syntactic environment are preceded by constituents such as direct objects and obliques (where such constituents are licensed by the nominalized predicates) and by VP-level adjuncts, while overtly Genitive subjects typically precede such constituents. In this respect, too, DSM parallels DOM in such languages, which are Nominative/Accusative languages and not ergative ones.

2. Since underlying direct objects are subject to DOM and since derived subjects (of a nominalized clause) would have to respect DSM (under similar semantic/pragmatic conditions), it is difficult to attribute apparent DSM of derived subjects to genuine DSM. However, given the possibility of Intransitive Passive in these languages, I attribute apparent DSM of derived subjects to DOM rather than DSM.

3. I further show that formal (clausal and phrasal) properties leading to DSM (as well as to DOM), i.e. conditions for the licensing of structural Case (such as Genitive and Accusative) override factors for DSM (and DOM) based on the relevant semantic/pragmatic features (i.e. specificity/referentiality).

   In other words, if the language has, for example, morpho-syntactic requirements that require an overt, morphological realization of a structural case, such realization is obligatory, independently from pragmatic/semantic requirements which would otherwise necessitate absence of overt structural case. For example, in Turkish and many other Turkic languages, a noun phrase which bears a person-number agreement marker must also exhibit overt accusative marking, even if the phrase is non-specific. Conversely, certain nominalized adjunct clauses prohibit genitive marking of their subject, even if the subject is specific. This is true for both underlying and derived subjects.

Evaluative morphology – a feature of SAE languages.

Körtvélyessy, Lívia
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The paper discusses evaluative morphology as a feature of Standard Average European languages. The proposal is based on evaluation and comparison of two samples – a sample of SAE languages (71) and a global sample (132). The choice of languages and their typological identification is based on the World Atlas of Language Structures (Dryer, Haspelmath, 2011). Basically, the principles of convenience and random sampling were followed. The analyzed data was obtained by means of data sheets. The data sheets were completed by informants – experts in morphology and typologists, and on the basis of
Whenever possible both methods were combined. For the sake of analysis a new parameter was introduced – the evaluative morphology saturation. This parameter reflects the word-formation, the semantic and the word-class aspects of evaluative morphology in individual languages. This approach divides languages of Europe into 5 groups with saturation values ranging from the highest value to zero (languages without evaluative morphology). The saturation values were projected on a map of Europe that shows the core/nucleus of SAE as well as its periphery. From the geographical point of view the core SAE languages according to the parameter of evaluative morphology cover the Mediterranean region, the majority of Central and East Europe countries (with certain exceptions, e.g. Hungary), and a great part of Southern Europe. From the point of view of the genetic classification of languages, it is the territory of Indo-European languages, basically Romance and Slavic genera. The projected saturation values demarcate the borders of SAE language area. It is also assumed that the saturation criterion and a two-sample principle could be introduced to other fields of SAE analysis for the sake of arriving at a unified methodology of SAE feature evaluation.

Reference

Convergence and divergence in the classification of Dargwa languages.

Koryakov, Yuri
(Russian Academy of Sciences)

Dargwa, officially treated in Soviet times as a single language of the North East Caucasian language family (Nakh-Daghestanian), in fact represents a language group whose depth can be compared to e.g. Germanic languages [Koryakov, Sumbatova 2007]. The aim of our research is to produce a classification of Dargwa (Dargwic) languages based on objective criteria. What subdivisions are found within the Dargwa branch, what are their relationships, was there convergence between different languages?

Earlier classifications of Dargwa "dialects" were either founded on only one feature or constructed on the basis of geographical principles. In the absence of generally accepted reconstructions, we have decided to use the lexicostatistical method of cognate rates [Starostin 2000]. First of all, lists of 100 words of the basic vocabulary (as proposed in Swadesh 1955) were collected in 34 Dargwa villages, and then processed (loanwords eliminated, cognates established). Based on these data, a matrix of cognate rates was created by means of the Neighbour-Joining method [Saitou 1987], which has allowed us to define dialect clusters that can be treated as separate languages and distances between them. Those relationships are visualised in the chart [see Figure 1].

As a result, Dargwa languages have been divided into 4 groups: North-Central, South and two isolates – Chirag and Kaitag. The first group (5–6 languages) is centered around the largest Dargwa language — North Dargwa. The second one at first appears to be a a typical language continuum (development of a dialect continuum), some of its 5–6 languages being spoken only in single villages. But upon a closer view, the South Dargwa group does not seem to form a true genetic clade. It means that its members were part of a greater dialect chain that have partially converged through geographical proximity. Consequently, no proto-language can be reconstructed for them. Such conclusion can be drawn from two facts: first, from the analysis of the pattern of cognate rates: they are rather high for nearest geographical neighbors but drop drastically in direct proportion to the distance between locations. The second argument is that no lexical innovations that are exclusive for South Dargwa can be found.

Thus, the following historical scenario can be reconstructed. At a relatively early date, the speakers of most dialects of the Proto-Dargwa language settled in the southern part of the modern Dargwa area, with only one group of them having moved to the North. The dialect of the latter group was the ancestor of North-Central Dargwa. Also, at least two other dialects were isolated from the rest rather early – Proto-Chirag and Proto-Kaitag. The rest of the dialects stayed where they were and developed independently, being in contact only with their nearest neighbors. Hence, there was never a period of linguistic unity in which Proto-South-Dargwa could have existed, and during which common South Dargwa innovations could have occurred.

This hypothesis could be eventually proved or disproved when comparative historical phonology and morphology are developed and phonological and morphological innovations are established.
Figure 1. Classification chart of Dargwic languages.

References

Orthography as a reflection of socio-cultural history: the case of Afrikaans

Kotzé, Ernst
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The development of the orthography of Afrikaans, in conjunction with its standardisation, is deeply embedded in the socio-cultural and political history of South Africa. The initial stage, when a distinct complex of Dutch-related varieties started to crystallize at the Cape during the 17th and 18th centuries, took the form of a religion-based initiative, as imams utilized vocalised classical Arabic (according to the tradition of tajweed) to write down the principles of Islam in the madrassahs during the 19th century, based on the spoken vernacular used by Cape Muslims in and around the Cape Peninsula. This is a tradition which lasted for more than a century, involved some creative and innovative orthographic engineering, and came to an end when Cape Muslim Afrikaans was eventually transliterated into Roman script. At approximately the same time, a two-way conflict developed among (especially white) Christian speakers of Cape Dutch (or Afrikaans in the making) around the exclusive acceptance of the colonial language, English, on the one hand, and that of Dutch as standardised code or a form of Afrikaans (for which a Roman orthography had not yet been devised) on the other, alongside the use of English. Prior to the recognition of Afrikaans as official language in 1925, the orthographical standard was determined to a large extent by a period of relexification from Dutch, but also by adaptations to accommodate the differences in pronunciation.
between the two languages. The contribution of the Cape Muslim community to the orthographic form of Afrikaans had been largely ignored during the period of white political dominance. Since the advent of democracy in South Africa, however, new debates around norms of standardisation, and the concomitant issue of orthographical change have come to the fore. On the one hand, arguments are put forward to restandardize the language by incorporating the hitherto nonstandard varieties at various levels of linguistic description, such as the lexicon, syntax and phonology. On the other, a process of destandardization by default is already underfoot, as the present government tacitly acknowledges the supremacy of the erstwhile colonial language, English, across the board in communicating with its citizens, to the detriment of the other 10 official languages, including Afrikaans. As a result, the knowledge base of experts in the field of orthography is being eroded, so that the debates around restandardisation have all but become irrelevant, unless the functions for which standard languages, and in the case under discussion, Afrikaans, are utilised, are retained in the long run. Against this background, the diachronic development of Afrikaans orthography will be traced up to the present, while tendencies of change will be identified and a possible prognosis made.

Postnominal relative clauses in historical Basque.

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Typological properties of Basque are usually summarized along these lines: “Its basic word order is SOV, and it exhibits virtually all the typological characteristics commonly associated with SOV word order. Apart from lexical adjectives, all modifiers are preposed, and this includes large and syntactically complex modifiers like genitives and finite relative clauses” (Trask 1998:320). While accurate for the modern Basque, this view of the language has been questioned for earlier stages of Basque (e.g. Lakarra 1995, 2011). Among the features that are in conflict with the properties of a “well-behaved SOV language”, we find postnominal relative clauses, illustrated in (1). They are attested in all dialects, but has only been retained in northern varieties (as a marked form). (2) is an example of a prenominal relative, which prevails in modern Basque.

1. gizon [lur asko dauka-n]-a
   man land a.lot have.3SG-COMP-DET
2. [lur asko dauka-n] gizon-a
   land a.lot have.3SG-COMP man-DET
   ‘a man who has a lot of land’

Both constructions are head-external, embedded and marked with a clause final complementiser and differ only in the order of the constituents. The clause final complementiser makes the postnominal relative clause typologically interesting, as it is a counterexample to one of the universals proposed by de Vries (2005): “Relative complementizer particles are clause-final in prenominal relatives, and clause-initial elsewhere”.

Even though the existence of postnominal relatives has not passed unnoticed in Basque linguistics (e.g. de Rijk 1980, Oyarzaabal 1987), their history has not been examined in detail. The goal of the present paper is thus to study the properties of this construction and its competition with the prenominal variant in historical Basque (16th—20th centuries). Factors that might have contributed to the loss of the postnominal construction will also be discussed. Hendery (2012) argues that language contact is the most frequent reason for a change in relative clauses. In the case of the Basque postnominal construction (not mentioned by Hendery), it could not play a role, as Romance languages have postnominal constructions. Instead, the loss seems to be related to other changes in the word order. Basque provides thus further evidence for the generalization proposed by Lehmann (1984:394) and modified by Hendery (2012:207), namely that the gain of a new prenominal and loss of postnominal relative happens when the language undergoes significant changes in the word order. In the case of Basque, particularly relevant are several constructions which nowadays have preposed modifiers, but were also used with postposed modifiers: non-finite relative clauses, genitives and phrases with the relational suffix (derived adjectival modifiers). These constructions and changes in frequency of the different orders will also be examined in order to assess their influence on the relative clauses.
This paper seeks to explore the manner in which Macedonian orthography has been a locus for both internal and external contestation of language planning and linguistic identity. Since the partition of Macedonia following the Balkan wars of 1912-13, the Macedonian language has developed asymmetrically in the countries in which it is spoken. While some reference will be made to orthographic encoding of Macedonian in Greece, Bulgaria, and Albania, particularly in the years prior to the codification of Macedonian in 1944-45, emphasis will be on three periods of orthographic conflict in Vardar, Macedonia, the region that became the Republic of Macedonia. During codification in the 1940's there was intense debate and conflict over the orthography, and two different commissions had to resolve the issues between Republic and Federation (see, for example, Friedman, 1993, Risteski, 1988). Friedman notes that the alphabet was a major source of conflict in the early stage of corpus planning, in particular the representation of palatals and schwa. The second period of orthographic conflict occurred in the late 1980's when a public debate arose concerning Macedonian orthography and one of Macedonia's national parties raised orthographic proposals, including a proposal to introduce schwa, that would have brought Macedonian orthography closer to Bulgarian. This was a period of internally imposed conflict. The final period to be examined is the contemporary one in which Cyrillic and various Latin scripts compete in the linguistic landscape as well as in on-line fora debates about different proposals for orthographic reform (v. for example Kramer and IVkovic 2012). This final period is one of both locally and globally imposed conflict.

The iterative nature of orthographic conflict will be examined using historical data from Macedonian archives, published accounts of the first congresses and the language debates around orthography, newspaper articles published in the 1980's and 90's, as well as a survey of current debates and language usage in on-line fora. Next year, 2013, marks the centennial of the partition of Macedonia. This paper will demonstrate how shifting borders undermines national cohesion, and allows all levels of language planning to become sites for identity formation, cohesion, and conflict.

References
Universal constraints on Balkanisms.

Krapova, Iliana and Cinque, Guglielmo
(University Ca’ Foscari)

In our talk we would like to discuss one morphosyntactic feature common to various Balkan languages which, though possibly a consequence of contact or substrate influences, can nonetheless be shown to be conditioned by general laws, common to all languages; in other words by the way Universal Grammar is conformed.

Our case concerns the morphological syncretism of Dative and Genitive Case in the Balkan languages (in some – Bulgarian and Romanian – the Dative appears to have subsumed the Genitive; in others – Greek – it is the Genitive that appears to have subsumed the Dative). Much as in Topolinska (2004) we distinguish the syntactic notion of Case (understood as a relation of dependence of a noun phrase on either a verb, a noun, a preposition, or an adjective) from its morphological realization, and argue that the syncretism only affects the latter realization, while syntactic Cases remain intact, and syntactically distinct. We show, for example, that despite their morphological identity NP internal (and one type of NP external possessive) “dative” clitics in Bulgarian are actually syntactically genitives while other NP external possessive “dative” clitics are syntactically Dative.

After motivating this distinction (which many authors fail to make – cf., e.g., Haspelmath 1999), and after discussing in its light the diachrony of the morphological syncretism, we will explore the plausible theoretical possibility developed in Caha (2009; cf. also Blake 1994; Baerman et al. 2005) that only contiguous cases on the Case Hierarchy (such as Dative and Genitive, but not, say, Dative and Nominative) can syncretize. The Case Hierarchy is universal, and in this sense it can be said to have guided the grammatical changes in question, at least in the Case domain.

We will show that the Case Hierarchy also enters in complex interactions with the Animacy Hierarchy in regulating other Balkan phenomena, like e.g. Multiple Wh-fronting, which is presumably carried over to Romanian from Slavic (Bulgarian) on a contact (or substrate) basis.

In a nutshell, our answer to the challenge put forward in Joseph (2001) will be that Balkanisms are language-specific particular choices arising from contact (bilingual) situations regulated by the general principles of Universal Grammar.

References

The intensifying function of modal particles and modal elements in a cross-linguistic perspective.

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(University of Zadar)

The aim of the paper is to discuss the intensifying function of modal particles and equivalent modal expressions in a cross-linguistic perspective. This issue has not received much attention in the literature, so far. The main hypothesis is that some modal particles in German and Croatian and corresponding modal elements in English express different degrees and types of intensity which represents an additional aspect of meaning extending their basic function of relating the respective utterance to a verbalized or unverbalized pragmatic context (cf. Diewald 2007, Diewald/Kresić 2010).

Intensity is defined as “the quality of language which indicates the degree to which the speaker’s attitude toward a concept deviates from neutrality” (Bradac/Bowers/Courtright 1979: 258). It is also one of the basic cognitive concepts, together with space, time and quantity (Wingender 2005), through which we conceive the world around us. Intensity can
be expressed with prosodic, syntactic and lexical means (intensifiers), among which we can find adjectives, adverbs, nouns, particles and verbs.

Modal particles are non-inflecting items that constitute a clear-cut functional class in German and Croatian, mainly occurring in spoken discourse. Some of the members of this category are: ger. *ja, denn, eigentlich, doch, schon*, cro. *ma, pa, a, baš, etc.* Modal particles are defined as a word class that is characterized by the clustering of specific formal, structural, and functional features, such as: syntactic integration, lack of constituent-value, lack of referential meaning, but expression of functional, pragmatic meanings by referring the utterance back to a pragmatically given unit (cf. Diewald 2007). This specific pragmatic function is expressed with the help of modal particles in German and Croatian, whereas in English and some other languages it is accomplished by elements belonging to other formal word classes or other types of linguistic expression, such as intonation and tag-questions.

The aim of this paper is to shed light on the intensifying aspect of particle meanings, first discussing English with the most explicit intensifying function on the lexical level (e.g. *Why on earth did she just leave?*), and then covering a range of corresponding particles in German (*Warum ist sie bloß einfach so gegangen?*) and Croatian (*Ma zašto je samo tako otišla?*). The corpus used in this study consists of 1470 «Fill the gap» answers of native speakers of German, Croatian and English who were asked to supply missing modal particles and modal elements in sentences in which their use is obligatory in a pragmatic sense. The main result of the analysis is that the degrees of intensity expressed with the help of some modal particles and equivalent modal elements in German, English and Croatian can be classified on the upper part of the intensification scale and can be categorized into different types of amplification. This intensifying function is treated as an additional semantic aspect of modal particles which contributes to the expression of emotional and connotative meanings.

References
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Stereotypes of English as a lingua franca in Europe: an experimental study.

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English has slowly but steadily established itself as a lingua franca in a globalised world. This fact is giving rise to a new linguistic reality, in the context of which the status of the languages of the various European nation states is affected in various manners and to various degrees. In this paper we examine the existence of social and linguistic stereotypes when English is spoken as a L2 variety. Do linguistic stereotypes (Kristiansen 2003, 2010) continue to operate in systematic manners when a lingua franca, such as English within the current socio-historical and linguistic scenario, is spoken instead of the various languages of the nation states? How accurate is our perception of L2 varieties of English in Europe at different levels of abstraction?

At the same time, from the point of view of Cognitive Linguistics (Geeraerts 2008) a standard variety on the one hand embodies a rationalist cognitive model in the sense that it serves as a tool for free expression, a neutral vehicle of communication without additional connotations or values. At the same time, however, it also forms part of a romantic model, according to which dimensions such as prestige, social identity and affect become part of the picture. In this paper we examine some of the tensions behind the two models: will social identities continue to manifest themselves in English spoken as a lingua franca through our mental models of linguistic varieties?

In order to address these theoretical questions an empirical study was designed to throw light on the ability of native speakers of different European languages and regional varieties to identify and characterise members of other
European nations exclusively on the basis of transfer from their mother tongue to English. In the experiments in question 12 different varieties of English (8 L2 accents and 4 native accents) were evaluated and identified by large panels of listeners in 10 different European countries. We present the results of a multivariate analysis of the data and discuss their theoretical implications.

References

Grammaticalization of the adversative connective 'suntar' in Old High German.

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The present study was inspired by a phenomenon which in not well understood in the research on Old High German (OHG) syntax. The adversative connective suntar 'but' used with a negative first clause requires subjunctive mood in the second clause as in (1), which is remarkable because the event in the suntar-clause is factive.

(1)  ni méid sih, suntar sie óugtiSUBJ, then gotes sún sougti (Otfrid I 11,38)
    “she was not embarrassed but openly breastfed the Son of God”

Erdmann (1873), who first observed this peculiarity, interprets the suntar-clause to be in the scope of negation, arriving at the interpretation that the event in the suntar-clause is not factive but rather the hypothetical opposite of the lexicalized event(2).

(2)  sie schämte sich nicht, als dass sie nicht gezeigt hätte, dass sie Gottes Kind stillte (Erdmann 1874, 155)
    “she was not embarrassed in such a ways as she would be unwilling to breastfeed the Son of God openly”

In our view, this interpretation unnatural, moreover, none of the literary translations of the example in (1) take into account this special use of the subjunctive (Petrova 2008, 95 f). As modern discourse relation theories conceive of connectives as expressing procedural meaning (Blakemore 2002), we assume that the specific syntactic behavior of suntar is motivated by the intended interpretation of the adversative relation, namely ‘denial of expectation’. We argue that the subjunctive in second clause marks an implicit assumption activated in the common ground either through cultural conventions or by the previous context. In (1) the author rejects the assumption that breastfeeding a child in public is embarrassing.

We conducted a corpus study on all available OHD text sources (Titus database). The analysis revealed a basic distinction between uses of suntar as an adverbial or as a connective. In the senses ‘separately’ or ‘except’, suntar appears in positive contexts only. These tokens represented about 16 % of the data. In the remaining examples suntar functions as a connective and appears in positive and in negative contexts. We found that the subjunctive is not selected obligatorily after a negative first clause. In 43% of the cases, the suntar-clause contains the indicative (3)

(3)  Ni was ér thaz lioht […] / suntar quamIND, sie manoti (Otfrid II, 2, 12-13)
    “he was not the light but he came to admonish them”

In these sentences suntar marks a contrast on the content level, where an alternative is substituted by another one.
Negative *sunter*-constructions with indicative thus express semantic opposition, and more specifically correction. On the contrary, negative *sunter*-constructions with subjunctive express contrast on the epistemic level, which in OHG still needs to be overtly marked. As the subjunctive is a prototypical means of signaling assumption in OHG, its mandatory use in ‘denial of expectation’ readings is straightforward. Furthermore, the analyses of context types allow us to draw inferences about the grammaticalization process of adversative connectives in OHG in the light of the cognitive complexity hypothesis (Spooren & Sanders 2008).

References


