



Newsletter: April 2008

Welcome to the LSSA newsletter, we hope you find the information useful.

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Review: The Syntax of Tenselessness

Title: The Syntax of Tenselessness

Subtitle: Tense/Mood/Aspect-agreeing Infinitivals

Series: Studies in Generative Grammar 92

Publication Year: 2007

Publisher: Mouton de Gruyter

Author: Wiklund, Anna-Lena

Reviewer: Cynthia L. Zocca, Department of Linguistics, University of Connecticut

SUMMARY

The main claim of the book is that the three structures in (1), from (spoken) Swedish, are surface variants of Tense/Mood/Aspect-agreeing infinitivals, in the sense that they

involve complementation and semantic vacuous tense/mood/aspect inflection of the embedded verb. In other words, these embedded verbs are in fact tenseless. Wiklund claims that the inflection of the embedded verb surfaces through an Agree-type dependency between functional heads of the same label, i.e. the embedded functional heads copy values from the relevant functional heads in the matrix clause.

- (1) a. Han fs[^]rss[^]kte o skrev ett brev --- Tense/Mood/Aspect-copying construction (TMACC) he try.PAST & write.PAST a letter 'He tried to write a letter.'
b. Han hade kunnat skrivit. --- Participle-copying construction (PCC) he had can.PPC write.PPC 'He had been able to write.'
c. Han satt o skrev dikter. --- Pseudocoordination (PC) he sit.PAST & write.PAST poem.PL 'He was writing poems (in a sitting position).'

Based on the main claim, Wiklund proposes that there are three ways of being tenseless: the relevant Tense (T) domain can be missing; the T domain can be externally valued by the matrix domain (tense restructuring); or the T domain is internally valued (no tense restructuring).

In order to investigate the nature of the structures in (1), Wiklund has to delve into issues like restructuring, structure of CP (complementizer phrase) and TP (tense phrase), complementation, and verb selection, making this book a valuable source of data and discussion bearing on these topics.

In Chapter 1, Wiklund briefly introduces the structures considered in the book and presents an overview of the book. TMACC verbs can alternate between a copied form or an infinitive and the two verbs sharing their inflection are separated by the element o(ch), which is homophonous to a variant of the conjunction meaning 'and'. Also, copying can occur with the present, past, or imperative. PCC verbs can only be in the past participle (PPC) and o(ch) is not allowed. Finally, PCs cannot alternate with infinitival forms and, as in the case of TMACC, copying is not restricted to the PPC. Also, the o(ch) element is present. What the three constructions have in common is first of all that the two verbs involved in each one have identical morphology, which is semantically vacuous in the embedded one; also, only one subject, the matrix one, is licensed; finally, the class of matrix verbs that can occur is restricted.

Chapter 2 deals with some apparent surface differences between TMACC and PCC, showing how these two constructions are in fact similar: both of them involve complementation, have semantically vacuous morphology in the embedded verb, and involve copying that is syntactic, top-down, and local. What distinguishes TMACC from PCC is how much functional structure can be copied: the full range of verbal forms in the former but only the participial form in the latter. Another difference is that the element o(ch) can occur between the two verbs in TMACC, but not in PCC. Because both structures involve a copied element that has semantically vacuous inflection, Wiklund calls them both "copying infinitivals".

In Chapter 3 we learn that copying infinitivals behave in much the same way as standard infinitivals. This observation comes after an extensive survey of the behavior of infinitivals in Swedish, dividing them into different classes based on issues such as propositionality, factivity, infinitival markers, raising, ECM, and control verbs. The author then presents the generalization that copying is restricted to tenseless infinitivals, by which she means forms with no tense inflection or with vacuous tense inflection. Furthermore, within the classes of verbs that select copying complements, TMACC or PCC infinitivals are in complementary distribution: the former are related to non-bare infinitivals and the latter, with bare ones.

Chapter 4 draws on the relations between copying and non-copying infinitivals from Chapter 3 and takes a closer look at the conjunction-like o(ch) introducing a TMACC and

the word *att* that introduces a standard infinitival, concluding that they are both complementizers. This means that the matrix verb selects the same category, CP, in TMA-copying and non-copying infinitivals. PCC infinitivals, on the other hand, are, like bare infinitivals, a category smaller than CP. The structure of copying and non-copying infinitivals that she arrives at are in (2) and (3).

(2) Tenseless non-bare infinitivals (non-copying and copying): [CP... [TP... [AspP... [vP...]]]]

(3) Tenseless bare infinitivals (non-copying and copying): [AspP... [vP...]]

At this point Wiklund presents her proposal regarding the relation between TMACC and PCC, namely that copying is proportional to the number of functional projections in the matrix and embedded verbs. Copying, then, is a reflex of dependencies between functional heads of the same label. In the rest of Chapter 4, she presents arguments in favor of taking copying to be a surface reflex of restructuring. If this is correct, restructuring would not then be restricted to monoclausal configurations.

Chapters 5 and 6 present more details about pseudocoordinations, showing that they do not involve coordination, adjunct, or complex heads. Because they contain semantically vacuous inflection in the embedded clause and a top-down, local, and sensitive-to-tense relation between the matrix and embedded verbs, Wiklund concludes in Chapter 5 that they are a case of TMACC. The difference between TMACC and PCs is based on the restricted class of matrix verbs that can license PC because of their aspectual properties. Chapter 6 looks at some semantic properties of pseudocoordinating verbs, concluding that they instantiate light verb uses of otherwise lexical verbs. Being light verbs, they trigger restructuring of the event structure of the sentence.

In Chapter 7 Wiklund proposes an approach to derive the results of the previous chapters. She takes the dependency involved in copying to be Agree, based on the following observations about copying: c- command requirement, locality constraints, and some kind of feature sharing. However, she concedes that it must be a different kind of Agree, triggered by the lower verb. She also argues for the need to reconsider approaches that explain restructuring in terms of INFL raising.

Finally, in Chapter 8 she concludes by suggesting a typology of tenseless infinitivals based on the presence or absence of the T domain and on how T is valued, internally or externally (i.e. by the matrix T) when it is present.

The book also has four Appendices. The first one is dedicated to less clear-cut cases, involving Swedish verbs corresponding to 'dare', 'manage', 'succeed', 'pretend', and some psych predicates. Appendix II brings an overview of the distribution of copying infinitivals in other Scandinavian languages, namely Alvdalsmalet-Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Faroese, and Icelandic. Appendix III shows some selectional restrictions involving inanimate subjects. Finally, Appendix IV points out that sometimes Agree results in a feature appearing phonologically twice or sometimes only once.

EVALUATION

The book is an invaluable resource for syntacticians, especially those interested in working on Swedish, Scandinavian languages, and Germanic syntax in general. The breakdown of the data is very clear, making the book convenient to navigate through.

In the introductory chapter, Wiklund characterizes the book as offering "a detailed case study of agreeing infinitivals in Swedish" (p. 3). As a case study, the book provides a thorough and valuable portrayal of the relations between the infinitival copying constructions in question. The arguments Wiklund presents in favor of considering the three constructions as surface instantiations of the same structure are indeed convincing.

In spite of the excellent presentation of data, the book does not do such a good job in its more technical aspects, especially in Chapters 4 and 7. The first problem is that since some TMA infinitives can also lack the infinitival marker, that property cannot be used as evidence for or against the presence of C or T. Therefore, the argument for the structures in (2) and (3) becomes a bit circular and not so well motivated.

In chapter 7, the author takes the relation between the verbs in the matrix and embedded clauses to be Agree in the sense of Chomsky (2000, 2001) based on three similarities between copying and Agree: they both operate under c-command, they are both subject to locality, and they both involve some kind of feature sharing. She claims that an unvalued CFin (finiteness head in a split CP system as in Rizzi 1997) in the embedded clause triggers Agree with the matrix finite CFin. Copying then is dependent on a finiteness head that is itself unvalued (or missing, as in non-CP infinitivals). The first problem with this analysis is that Agree is phase-bound, a phase being standardly taken to be vP or CP. Because in Wiklund's analysis T-copying can apply across a CP, this shows that her version of Agree is not subject to standard locality. Another problem, which Wiklund herself acknowledges, is that whereas Agree is bottom-up (in the sense that the value is copied from a lower goal to a higher probe), copying is top-down, since tense valuation is copied from the matrix to the embedded verb. She calls this kind of Agree "iAgree", where "i" stands for inverse. Considering it to be outside the scope of the book, Wiklund does not discuss further implications of a system that allows for an iAgree.

The richness of data in the book can also raise other issues, for example the difference between Agree and agreement. It is hard to argue that all instances of agreement do involve Agree, as for example in the case of DP-internal agreement (also known as Concord). In the case of copying infinitivals, it is quite clear that there is some agreement relation involved, but maybe it does not necessarily involve Agree. This of course is really beyond the scope of the book, but it would be interesting to see some future analysis of Wiklund's data from a more morphological perspective, maybe involving PF-copying or late insertion.

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Cynthia L. Zocca is a doctoral student at the University of Connecticut. Her research interests include syntax, semantics, and morphosyntax, especially of Brazilian Portuguese and its relations to other languages.

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Project: Decathlon - Software Translation

I'm the project leader of a volunteer translation project that aims to translate software into minority and other languages. The project is called Decathlon because we want to encourage people who feel passionate about their language to translate up to ten or more opensource programs into their languages in 2008.

I would appreciate it if you could forward this e-mail to anyone you think may be interested.

We have had very little interest from speakers of African languages, and we would love

to have more Africans contribute.

Participants do not need to be formal translators. Anyone who is a native speaker of a language can help translate software into that language. We translate from English, but we can also let volunteers translate from French or from Portuguese in some cases.

More information about the Decathlon project can be found here:

<http://translate.sourceforge.net/wiki/decathlon/mainpage>

Our project has the following aims:

- To create or assist language communities to translate software
- To promote languages by making software available in those languages

There is no minimum commitment. We hope to translate at least one computer program per month. The programs we choose usually contain between 2 000 and 4 000 words, and it is possible for multiple translators to work together on a single project. There are no deadlines either, so this is truly a translation project in which you should feel welcome to give as much or as little as you have time for.

We started off with FreeMind, which is a mindmapping program:

<http://translate.sourceforge.net/wiki/decathlon/freemind>

Other programs we have lined up are Art of Illusion (a 3d animator), 7-zip (an archive utility), FileZilla (an FTP client), TuxGuitar (a score editor), TuxPaint (a children's drawing program), and VLC (a video and music player). More projects will hopefully join shortly.

All translations are done in our web-based translations system, Pootle. This means that internet access is required. However, it is possible to download (and upload) the translation files in some cases, if people want to translate offline and then upload their translations. Our source format is Gettext PO.

Our Pootle server is here (not all languages listed there are active yet, and some languages we target are not listed yet either): <http://pootle.locamotion.org/>
The value of Pootle is that a team of translators can work together on a single file. Pootle also has quality checking features. If there are young translators in the team, their rights can optionally be limited to suggesting translations, but this depends on the dynamics of each team.

I look forward to hearing from anyone who is interested. You are welcome to pass this e-mail on to anyone you think may be interested.

Sincerely
Samuel Murray
Decathlon project leader
samuel@translate.org.za

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Books: Cognitive Approaches to Pedagogical Grammar

Title: Cognitive Approaches to Pedagogical Grammar
Subtitle: A Volume in Honour of René Dirven
Series Title: Applications of Cognitive Linguistics [ACL] 9
Publication Year: 2008
Publisher: Mouton de Gruyter, <http://www.mouton-publishers.com>

Editor(s): Sabine De Knop & Teun De Rycker

Hardback: ISBN: 9783110195958
Pages: 444
Price: Euro €88.00 & U.S. \$ 130.00

Abstract:

In the last 25 years foreign language teaching has been able to increase its efficiency through an orientation towards authentic language materials, pragmatic language functions and interactive learning methods. However, so far foreign language teaching has lacked a sufficiently strong theoretical framework to support the teaching of language in all its aspects. Arguably, such a linguistic theory has to be usage-based and cognition-oriented. Since cognitive linguistics - and especially cognitive grammar - is concerned with conceptual issues against the larger background of human cognition and because it is based on actual language use, it becomes a powerful tool for dealing adequately with the main issues of a pedagogical grammar. A pedagogical grammar aims at providing all the essential linguistic patterns considered relevant by theoretical and descriptive linguistics for the preparation of teaching materials and their exploitation in foreign language instruction.

The volume contains thirteen contributions organized into three parts. In Part 1 Langacker, Taylor and Broccias introduce the basic grammar concepts, rules and models that are available in cognitive linguistics and which are directly relevant to the construction of a pedagogical grammar. Meunier, on the other hand, describes how such a grammar could benefit from corpus linguistics. Part 2 looks at some cognitive tools and conceptual errors with contributions by Danesi and Maldonado and also reconsiders contrastive analysis in the papers by Ruiz de Mendoza and Valenzuela & Rojo. Part 3, finally, discusses language-specific constraints on a number of linguistic phenomena such as the construal of motion events (papers by Cadierno and De Knop & Dirven), distinctions in the tense-aspect system (papers by Niemeier & Reif and Schmiedtová & Flecken), and voice (Chen & Oller).

Linguistic Field(s): Applied Linguistics, Cognitive Science, Language Acquisition & Psycholinguistics

Written In: English(eng)

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Journal: Language and Linguistic Compass

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Books: Adverbs and Adjectives

Title: Adverbs and Adjectives
Subtitle: Syntax, Semantics, and Discourse
Publication Year: 2008
Publisher: Oxford University Press, <http://www.oup.com/us>

Editor(s): Louise E. McNally & Chris Kennedy

Hardback: ISBN: 9780199211616
Pages: 376
Price: U.K. £65.00
Paperback: ISBN: 9780199211623
Pages: 376
Price: U.K. £24.99

Abstract:

In this volume leading researchers present new work on the semantics and pragmatics of adjectives and adverbs, and their interfaces with syntax. Its concerns include the semantics of gradability; the relationship between adjectival scales and verbal aspect; the relationship between meaning and the positions of adjectives and adverbs in nominal and verbal projections; and the fine-grained semantics of different subclasses of adverbs and adverbs. Its goals are to provide a comprehensive vision of the linguistically significant structural and interpretive properties of adjectives and adverbs, to highlight the similarities between these two categories, and to signal the importance of a careful and detailed integration of lexical and compositional semantics.

The editors open the book with an overview of current research before introducing and contextualizing the remaining chapters. The work is aimed at scholars and advanced students of syntax, semantics, formal pragmatics, and discourse. It will also appeal to researchers in philosophy, psycholinguistics, and language acquisition interested in the syntax and semantics of adjectives and adverbs.

Linguistic Field(s): Pragmatics, Semantics & Syntax

Written In: English(eng)

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Postdoctoral Research: Fellowship on 'Media and Translation'

Lessius University College in Antwerp (Belgium) makes available postdoctoral research fellowships for highly qualified candidates. For more information: visit http://www.lessius.eu/pro/onderzoek/lof_english.aspx. One of the priority research domains is 'Media and Translation' (in close collaboration with Cetra), particularly about the position of translation in newsrooms. Candidates for this domain can first contact me before applying.

Luc van Doorslaer
Lessius University College, Antwerp
Cetra, University of Leuven

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Journal: The Translator

Journal: The Translator, Volume 14, Number 1, 2008

Early Access to Online Subscribers: Hard Copy Available 14 April 2008

Website: <http://www.stjerome.co.uk/periodicals/journal.php?j=72&v=563&i=564>

Reflexivity and the Social Construction of Identity in Interpreter-mediated Asylum Interviews, pp. 1-19
Rebecca Tipton, University of Salford, UK

Drawing on the work of Anthony Giddens (1976, 1984), this paper examines the notion of 'reflexivity' in human conduct and the difficulty in accounting for such conduct in interpreter-mediated encounters. The discussion is framed around narrative performance in asylum-seeker encounters, since it is within this particular context that the problem of the 'reflexive agent' is arguably thrown into sharpest relief, in contrast to other public service interpreting contexts. The focus is placed on the reflexive practices deployed by all parties to the encounter in order to ascertain the extent to which such practices impact on the applicant's ability to assert his or her status as a 'knowledgeable agent' and promote his or her 'authentic voice' in the telling process. The account lays particular emphasis on the difficulties involved in unearthing and assessing motivation of human action as a reflexively and discursively-realized phenomenon, and ends with a call for the use of more forensically-oriented analytic practices in this context.

A Narrative Account of the Babels vs. Naumann Controversy: Competing Perspectives on Activism in Conference Interpreting, pp. 21-50
Julie Boéri, University of Manchester, UK

This paper focuses on the work of Babels, an international network of volunteer translators and interpreters, and examines a specific controversy surrounding its positioning in relation to volunteer and activist practices of interpreting in the context of the World Social Forum. Adopting a narrative perspective, it first examines some of the stories elaborated by Babels – of itself as a group and of its stance on activist

interpreting in the Social Forum. It then offers an analysis of a letter that is highly critical of Babels, written by Peter Naumann, a professional interpreter, and published in AIIC's online journal *Communicate!*. The study reported here is part of a larger project (Boéri, in progress). Rather than outlining binary and discrete positions, the picture that emerges out of the analysis offered here, and particularly in Boéri (in progress), is one of an open-ended, network-like constellation of positionings that are available to and taken up by members of the conference interpreting community, including members of Babels and AIIC. The paper ultimately argues for further critical reflection on the narratives that circulate among members of the conference interpreting community, especially those relating to issues of volunteering, activism and professionalism.

Third Spaces, Mimicry and Attention to Ambivalence: Applying Bhabhian Discourse to Translation Theory, pp. 51-70.

Kathryn Batchelor (née Woodham), University of Nottingham, UK

It has long been acknowledged that the disciplines of translation studies and cultural studies have much in common, yet little critical attention has been paid to the ways in which theorists from both disciplines borrow and adapt terms from each other in order to develop their own domains of enquiry. This paper focuses on the influence of cultural studies theorist Homi K. Bhabha on translation studies, outlining and critiquing current usage of concepts connected with 'hybridity' and the 'in-between'. In particular, it examines Michaela Wolf's exploration of the third space, contrasting her spatial interpretation of the term with Bhabha's own emphasis on its temporal aspect, and suggesting a number of reasons why Wolf's reading might be viewed as problematic. In addition, the paper outlines a variety of new modes of application of Bhabha's theories to translation studies. These include imitating his mode of reading when studying source texts and translations, and exploring the relevance to the translation process of the notion of a time-lag between event and enunciation.

Translator Status: A Study of Danish Company Translators, pp. 71-96

Helle V. dam and Karen Korning Zethsen, Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus, Denmark

The consensus amongst translators and translation scholars regarding translator status is that it is decidedly low. But is translator status as low as often claimed, and how do we measure status? Is it only a question of salary? This article explores the concept of status and reports on the first step of a comprehensive empirical project aimed at investigating the status of professional translators in various contexts. The first study focused on here involved a group of translators working for 13 major Danish companies considered to be at the high end of the translator-status continuum, namely full-time Danish staff translators with MA qualifications in translation. The concept of status and how to define it were considered in relation to four parameters of occupational status: (i) salary; (ii) education/expertise; (iii) visibility/fame; and (iv) power/influence. The analysis, based on written questionnaires, charts the status of these translators as perceived by themselves and their fellow employees. On the basis of the findings, the authors suggest avenues and approaches for further research in this area.

Translation Quality Evaluation: Empirical Evidence for a Functionalist Approach, pp. 97-134

Sonia Colina, University of Arizona, USA

Following a review of existing approaches to translation quality evaluation, this paper describes a proposal for evaluation that addresses some of the deficiencies found in these models. The proposed approach is referred to as componential because it evaluates components of quality separately, and functionalist, because evaluation is carried out relative to the function specified for the translated text. In order to obtain some empirical evidence for the functionalist/componential approach, a tool was

developed and pilot-tested for inter-rater reliability. In addition, the research project sought to obtain some data on qualifications of raters/users and their performance using the tool. Forty raters were asked to use the tool to rate three translated texts. The texts selected for evaluation consisted of reader-oriented health education materials. Raters were bilinguals, professional translators and language teachers. Some basic training was provided. Data was collected by means of the tool and a questionnaire. Results indicate good inter rater reliability for the tool; teachers' and translators' ratings were more alike than those of bilinguals; bilinguals were found to rate higher and faster than the other groups. The results provide support for further research and testing of this tool and offer evidence in favour of the approach proposed.

Style Differences among Simultaneous Interpreters: A Pilot Study, pp. 135-55
Fred Van Besien and Chis Meuleman, Hogeschool Gent, Belgium

This paper offers empirical evidence for the existence of style differences among simultaneous interpreters. The material consists of the simultaneous interpretation into English of two parts of a semi-prepared Dutch interview, by two professional interpreters. The resulting data is analyzed with a view to identifying differences in the strategies used by the two interpreters. The analysis reveals differences between the two interpreters in the way they employ global strategies (presentation, additions, omissions) as well as the extent to which they rely upon certain local strategies, such as transcoding and backtracking. Other local strategies such as anticipation and the use of pauses (filled or not) are equally distributed between the interpreters. A tentative distinction is made between two types of interpreter according to their interpreting style: the producer of a 'lean' target text and the producer of an 'abundant' target text.

Revisiting Classics

A Landmark in the Semiotics of Translation, pp. 157-164
Ubaldo Stecconi, Euroean Commission, Belgium

Review of Dinda Liesbeth Gorlée's Semiotics and the Problem of Translation: With Special Reference to the Semiotics of Charles S. Peirce.

Book Reviews

Kirsten Malmkjær: Linguistics and the Language of Translation
Reviewed by Maria Lúcia Vasconcellos & Lincoln P. Fernandes, Brazil

Hiroko Cockerill: Style and Narrative in Translations: The Contribution of Futabatei Shimei
Reviewed by Beverley Curran, Japan

Piotr Wilczek: (Mis)translation and (Mis)interpretation: Polish Literature in the Context of Cross-Cultural Communication
Reviewed by John Kearns, Poland

Jean Boase-Beier: Stylistic Approaches to Translation (Translation Theories Explored)
Reviewed by Hilal Erkazanci, Turkey

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Books: Varieties of English

Title: Varieties of English
Subtitle: Volumes 1-4. Set + CD-ROM
Publication Year: 2008
Publisher: Mouton de Gruyter, <http://www.mouton-publishers.com>

Paperback: ISBN: 9783110172690
Pages: 2500
Price: Euro €98.00 & U.S. \$98.00
Comment: 4 vols. + 1 CD-ROM

Abstract:

These new multimedia textbooks cover the phonology, morphology and syntax of varieties of English around the world. They will be published in four volumes, sorted according to regions, and each volume will be accompanied by an interactive CD-ROM.

The articles, written by widely acclaimed specialists, provide concise and comprehensive information on the phonetic, morphological and syntactic characteristics of each variety discussed. They are followed by exercises and study questions that can be used for class-room assignments as well as for self study in preparation for exams.

The multimedia CD-ROM contains sound samples, speech recordings, interactive and synchronized maps, an extensive bibliography on relevant research literature, and links to pertinent websites.

Key features:

- include study questions and exercises that will involve students actively in the learning process;
- division into regions will allow teachers to focus onto specific areas; and
- enhanced by a multimedia CD-ROM with a unique collection of speech recordings of English and interactive maps that allow either phonological or morphosyntactic (grammatical) comparisons.

Varieties of English will be essential reading for those studying and teaching English linguistics and also invaluable for researchers requiring an update in the area.

Linguistic Field(s): General Linguistics & Sociolinguistics

Subject Language(s): English(eng)

Written In: English(eng)

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Announcement: Cambridge Extra Issue 2 released

The new issue of Cambridge Extra is now available. Cambridge Extra is a FREE online resource for linguists worldwide developed by both Cambridge University Press and The LINGUIST List. This issue features exclusive articles, podcasts, competitions and offers, all in the same place and all for free.

The articles featured in this issue include:

- 'What to expect from Clinton', by Paul de Lacy
- 'Free variation in Slavey (Northern Athabaskan): Relating fieldwork and phonology', by Keren Rice.
- 'Authentic materials and authenticity in foreign language learning', by Alex Gilmore.

Visit the Cambridge Extra site and read the articles, enter a competition for prizes and get discounts on Cambridge University Press titles at <http://linguistlist.org/cambridgeextra/>

Linguistic Field(s): General Linguistics

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Books: Theoretical and Crosslinguistic Approaches to the Semantics of Aspect

Title: Theoretical and Crosslinguistic Approaches to the Semantics of Aspect

Series Title: Linguistik Aktuell/Linguistics Today 110

Publication Year: 2008

Publisher: John Benjamins, <http://www.benjamins.com/>

Editor: Susan Rothstein

Hardback: ISBN: 9027233748 9789027233745

Price: Euro €120.00 & U.S. \$162.00

Abstract:

The papers in this volume investigate the semantics of aspect from both a theoretical and a crosslinguistic point of view, in a wide range of languages from a number of different language families. The papers are all informed by the belief that a thorough exposure to the expression of aspect crosslinguistically is crucial for progress in understanding how the semantics of aspect works and what the semantic basis of aspectual distinctions is. The languages discussed include Russian, English, Dutch, Hebrew, Mandarin, Japanese and Kalaallisut. The issues discussed in this volume include the centrality of measuring and counting in an understanding of telicity; the importance of the singular/plural distinction in the study of aspect; the importance of homogeneity as a property of event types; the flexibility of lexical classes; and the interaction between expressions of aspect and the particular morphosyntactic structure of a language.

Linguistic Field(s): Morphology, Semantics & Syntax

Written In: English(eng)

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Books: Emergence of Linguistic Abilities

Title: Emergence of Linguistic Abilities

Publication Year: 2008

Publisher: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, <http://www.c-s-p.org>

Editor(s): Sophie Kern, Frédérique Gayraud & Egidio Marsico

Hardback: ISBN: 1847185320 9781847185327

Pages: 295

Price: U.K. £ 39.99

Abstract:

This book attempts to address an interrelated set of issues about the emergence of linguistic abilities in the child.

The various chapters intend to shed light on a particular and critical period in language development: the first three years of life. It is generally assumed in the field of the ontogeny of language that the child's first years of life are particularly crucial. This period is even sometimes considered as predictive at least in the short term, of the later abilities to communicate. During these first three years, gestures, phonetic-phonological, lexical and morpho-syntactic skills chronologically emerge.

The main goal of this book is to address the issue of continuity between the developments of the different language components, by the means of recent findings of experts in each domain.

Furthermore, the originality of this selection of chapters is to broaden the scope of the discussion by including papers dealing with related phenomena but from different perspectives such as phylogeny, pathology and animal communication.

This book primarily concerns graduate students and researchers in the field of language acquisition but the audience can also include scholars from evolution of language, language pathology, animal communication, ontogeny/phylogeny research fields.

Linguistic Field(s): Language Acquisition & Psycholinguistics

Written In: English(eng)

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Review: Methods in Historical Pragmatics

Title: Methods in Historical Pragmatics

Series Title: Topics in English Linguistics 52

Publication Year: 2007

Publisher: Mouton de Gruyter

Editor(s): Fitzmaurice, Susan M.; Taavitsainen, Irma

Reviewer: Federico Navarro, University of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

This book is intended to be a state-of-the-art collective representative of the research field variously labeled sociohistorical linguistics (Romaine 1982), historical sociolinguistics (Milroy 1991), diachronic text linguistics (Fries 1983), linguistic history (Granda 1980), new philology (Fleischman 1990a), and, more recently, historical discourse analysis (Brinton 2001) or historical pragmatics (Jucker 1995). Different

traditions, goals and methodologies can be uncovered in these alternative labels (they can also be found in this volume's articles), but they all share a common interest in bridging the gap between the historical and the discursive perspective in the study of language. More specifically, the essays in this volume address "the ways in which the conventions that mark particular genres are instrumental in characterizing and perhaps fixing (or not) the communicative functions associated with expressions or forms on the one hand, and the linguistic realizations of certain communicative functions on the other" (p. 2).

The editors of the volume are the Finnish scholar Irma Taavitsainen, well-known for her research on historical scientific English writing (e.g., 2002) and her participation (e.g., Taavitsainen & Phata 2004) in the development of pioneering Helsinki Corpus of English Texts (launched in 1991), and British scholar Susan Fitzmaurice, renowned for her research on historical pragmatics (e.g., 2002) and historical sociolinguistics (e.g., 2007). In chapter 1, "Historical pragmatics: what it is and how to do it", they review the various trends in the bibliography, trying to pinpoint the state of the art and render a working definition of the field. This article updates previous programmatic reviews, such as Jucker (1995, 2000, 2006), Closs Traugott (2004) and Brinton (2001), and signals the increasing heterogeneity and institutionalization of the field. It also explores some of the challenges researchers face, such as data limitations and corpus-based function studies.

The editors claim that the field can be better understood as consisting of two different methodological perspectives. The first, dominant approach relies on large, electronic corpora, adopts quantitative methods of analysis, and is more attached to discourse studies traditions (e.g., Dijk 1997). Chapters 2 to 8 (except 6) follow, widely speaking, this trend. These six articles are listed on a cline that goes from intra-language explanations (e.g., pragmaticalization), micro-discursive phenomena (e.g., discourse markers) and macro-quantitative methods of analysis, to more contextually-based explanations (e.g., sociohistorical structure), macro-discursive phenomena (e.g., communicative event types), and micro-quantitative methods of analysis. The second approach adopts qualitative methods of analysis over complete case texts and their detailed contexts, and is more influenced by literary and philological traditions (e.g., Fleischman 1990b). Chapters 6 and 9 to 11 advocate, in general, this position. Curiously, in the "Introduction" it is wrongly stated (p. 6) that chapter 6 is actually in the 9th position, which nonetheless would have been more consistent with the editors' theoretical claims.

Chapter 2 presents Canadian scholar Laurel Brinton's "The development of 'I mean': implications for the study of historical pragmatics". Brinton examines quantitatively the functional development of 'I mean' as a discourse marker across time. Her method is semasiological as she considers form as the 'tertium comparationis' (cf. Connor & Moreno 2005) and traces function change (cf. Jacobs & Jucker 1995: 13-4), along with changes in the (syntactic) contexts of occurrence. Through this micro-analysis, Brinton discusses in depth the intra-language mechanisms that might be at work in the evolution of discursive phenomena: lexicalization, idiomaticization and pragmaticalization, as distinct from - but complementary to - grammaticalization. This topic is actually Brinton's specialty (cf. e.g. Brinton & Closs Traugott 2005). The article manages to balance these two goals, checking general hypotheses against results with changing 'I mean', which turns out to be the outcome of a complex grammaticalization process.

Interestingly, Brinton uses Modern English corpora and introspection as a methodological starting point. Brinton's research sheds light on grammaticalization explanations as complementary to lexicalization ones, and is probably one of the most relevant and solid articles included in the volume.

German scholar Ursula Lenker in chapter 3, "SoPlice, forsoothe, truly - communicative principles and invited inferences in the history of truth-intensifying adverbs in English",

adopts a similar approach. Present day English functions as a 'control group' for the immense task of depicting historically distant language use. Although Lenker claims to have followed an onomasiological approach (i.e., same function - the 'tertium comparationis' - across time and changing form), the methodology is more complex: Lenker is interested in understanding how the function (truth-intensifying) of a set of discursive items (adverbs) in English expands across time from clause span, through sentence span, to discourse span. In the case of truth-intensifying adverbs, their original propositional meaning leads to emphasizing and, eventually, to discourse-marker use. Lenker suggests that the use of truth-intensifying adverbs in positive or non-emotional contexts triggers inferences that explain this adverbial cline change (cf. e.g. Schwenter & Closs Traugott for an extensive consideration of this process).

Despite the obvious relevance of the above studies, I wonder if the macro-quantitative approach they favored does not narrow the span of potential objects of study and jeopardise the micro and macro socio-contextual factors motivating language change (cf. Ridruejo 2002). According to Magnuson (this volume), "while language use in context is the sine qua non of pragmatics, nonetheless pragmatics as practiced on this increasingly dominant empirical model for linguistic inquiry seems under pressure to reduce any lifelike plurality of contexts to a strictly limited set of variables" (p. 171). These disadvantages of macro-quantitative analysis are obviously balanced by its extraordinary representative power. Nonetheless, internal factors alone cannot account for discursive phenomena in all their implications. I believe that the social and contextual use and distribution of meaning should not be omitted in any usage-based approach to language.

Irma Taavitsainen and Andreas Jucker, distinguished scholars in the field, co-authored chapter 4, "Speech act verbs and speech acts in the history of English". They propose a possible way of solving the ultimate challenge in corpus linguistics: how to identify and quantify automatically complex functional phenomena that realize in various formal ways (e.g., speech acts; cf. McEnery, Xiao y Tono 2006: 41). Each community creates labels for relevant speech acts. These labels, as they are formal, can be easily traced in large scale electronic corpora (cf. also Jucker and Taavitsainen 2000). Although speech act verbs do not give any direct access to the speech acts they name, they do provide some very enriching insights as they refer to the specific speech acts that are considered "important enough to be labelled" (p. 108) by the speech community. This methodological procedure expands the speech act verb lists at hand because it considers not only performative but also descriptive speech act verbs; therefore, a non-performative verb like 'insult' can easily be taken into account as a label for an actual relevant speech act (as in "he insulted them"). The authors aim to describe quantitatively the changing distribution and use of English verbs belonging to the semantic field of verbal aggression. They identify aggression verbs in historical dictionaries and select genres where the verbs are more likely to be used (e.g., drama, fiction and trial records). They found that aggression verbs almost exclusively appeared in descriptive formats and that their contexts of appearance gradually shifted from religious texts to descriptions of interactions between speakers (e.g., so as to negotiate the intentions of the interlocutor as in "Do you mock me?").

I believe there is a possible weakness in Taavitsainen and Jucker's most basic assumption: the claim that the speech act importance for the community (and thus for the research) and the speech act label existence are closely linked. This assumption, a weak form of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, is obviously central to the relevance of the whole study. However, I think there might be speech acts that are important enough to a community and have no corresponding explicit speech act labels, or rather the label is not always, or not accurately, used. For example, in "Gloys seid he lyed", which the authors paraphrased as "Gloys accused him of lying", they agree "there are no expressive speech act verbs as such" (p. 116). These cases, therefore, are difficult to be accounted for in a macro-corpus-based study. There might be opposite cases, too, where labels describe past speech acts which are no longer active in the community. I am thus

not quite sure speech act labels develop and disappear with the same dynamic actual speech acts have, and, in any case, this relation should be proved and not assumed. In addition, it would be enriching to explore how speech acts are labeled and reported.

In sum, I very much doubt whether speech act labels simply mirror actual speech acts hierarchy as perceived by a historically-situated community and whether they "may shed some light on the development of the associated speech acts" (p. 135). Taavitsainen and Jucker's method reminds me of the ethnographic study of genre nomenclatures recommended by John Swales as "an important source of insight" (1990: 54). However, 14 years later, Swales agrees that they are "at best a rough guide" because "sociohistorical traditions may preserve the symbolic value of a label despite considerable [functional] chronological change" (2004: 73), such as "colloquia" that are basically monologues, etc. Although speech acts and genres are obviously not the same, following Swales' arguments I can still wonder if labels are necessarily updated, accurate evidence that allow jumping directly to functional conclusions. If my argument turns out to be valid, the challenge of automatically quantifying speech acts will remain intact and the relevance of this essay will be limited. I must add that Taavitsainen and Jucker's essay describes speech act contextual usage change but does not explain this change explicitly.

In chapter 5, "Text types and the methodology of diachronic speech act analysis", Thomas Kohnen explores the challenges posed by the evasive nature of speech acts in earlier periods of the language, such as the above mentioned problem of their multiple manifestations and what Kohnen calls the "hidden manifestations" of a speech act; that is to say, the difficulty in tracking the change in those manifestations across time. He advocates the construction of genre-based micro-corpora. Genre-specific corpora allow tracking and comparing predictable forms and functions, whereas micro-corpora have proven useful to balance qualitative manual analysis and quantitative representative power (cf., e.g., Salager-Meyer & Zambrano 2001). Kohnen focuses on directive speech acts by means of micro-analysis of (relatively) small corpora of English sermons (comprising more than 129,000 words). He finds that most directives are modal expressions to be found in the Old English data; directives decrease till the seventeenth century and then increase in the late twentieth century. Kohnen suggests that variation may stem from genre focus (e.g., narration vs. regulation), stylistic preferences, or wider language change (e.g., more polite manifestations during the Early Modern period).

Kohnen's contribution is probably the most illuminating methodological proposal in the volume. I truly think this is the finest methodological solution to date to the study of speech acts and other discursive phenomena, at least until corpus linguistics sharpens its tools for doing the task automatically. On the other hand, despite the fact that this approach narrows down the possible forms and functions to quantify in the selected micro-corpora, the problem of indirect manifestations of speech acts remains and, as Kohnen concedes (p. 158-9), requires more micro-analysis.

Lynne Magnusson's "A pragmatics for interpreting Shakespeare's sonnets 1 to 20: dialogue scripts and Erasmian intertexts", chapter 6, advocates a multidisciplinary literary-linguistic approach to the study of Shakespeare's sonnets. In particular, she reasonably argues that historical pragmatics "has much to learn from the specialized skills that have developed in literary and cultural studies for the interpretation of context" (p. 167). Magnusson follows a strictly qualitative, case analysis. She studies "dialogue scripts", a neo-Bakhtinian concept (cf., e.g., Bakhtin 1981) that refers to "the textual manifestation of the culturally given interaction genres upon which a playwright - for example- might be drawing to build up a dramatic dialogue" (p. 172). She argues that Shakespeare's transformation of Erasmian rules of address help explain the changing forms of address in his sonnets. For example, 'thou' of intimacy unexpectedly used to address social superiors follows some of Erasmus' precepts for Latin.

Magnusson's general argumentation for pro qualitative analysis is very appealing, although this methodology seems particularly illuminating for the kind of author-based studies she is interested in. I must add that the study of pronouns of address, regardless of how interesting and methodologically manageable they are, has probably hoarded too much research in sociohistorical linguistics and other research areas (from e.g. Brown & Gilman 1960 to e.g. Fernández Lávaque 2005), whereas other research areas have been largely ignored.

Dawn Archer's chapter 7, "Developing a more detailed picture of the English courtroom (1640-1760): data and methodological issues facing historical pragmatics", advocates a mutual understanding between social history and linguistics, in particular when it comes to studying such verbal social events as courtroom interactions. Archer adopts a qualitative approach which pinpoints discursive practices of specific participant groups through the analysis of the patterns of speech acts and discursive strategies that they follow. This approach is typically pragmatic in that it studies specific contextual factors motivating discursive choices, which are in turn quantified. Archer studies the relationship between the role and other sociohistorical variables of the participants (e.g., judges) and the verbal action categories and other pragmatic variables (e.g., quantity and type of questions addressed) in the English courtroom in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. She finds, for instance, that judges were the most active questioners in the courtroom during the period 1640-1679; the greater involvement of the lawyers during the Early Modern English period led to a more 'reactive' and 'presiding' role for judges and to the use of more clarification-seeking only questions.

In chapter 8, "What do you lack? what is it you buy? Early Modern English service encounters", German scholar Birte Bös proposes a very useful methodological approach to the study of remote oral social events. Bös' starting point is her former study of Present Day English service encounters in Britain from an ethnographic perspective. Bös uses several historical sources to depict former Britain's service encounters practices and, interestingly, she draws from Early Modern English coursebooks for foreigners to understand prototypical global and local verbal structure (cf. also Ridruejo 2002: 172). Although the general aim of service interactions has remained the same since then, Early Modern English global structure included a 'bargaining' section as prices were negotiable in the market conditions of the time. In addition, service encounters displayed direct imperatives, not usual in present day more indirect asking strategies.

Monika Fludernik's "Letters as narrative: narrative patterns and episode structure in early letters, 1400 to 1650" (chapter 9) studies qualitatively linguistic features marking the slots of the narrative structure in early personal letters. Fludernik is a narratologist and her essay is part of a wider research project on the development of narrative structure in different English genres between 1250 and 1750. She proves that fifteenth and mid-seventeenth century letters are, in contrast with the modern letter, not predominantly narrative and that, when they are, they do not employ discourse markers consistently. These formulaic, unemotional early letters are therefore not very illuminating to study narratives. However, qualitative analysis of the few narrative letters (especially intelligence reports) supports Fludernik's macro-hypothesis: narrative structures of that period take recourse to the 'episodic' narrative structure (i.e., a series of episodes strung together), although the evolution from episodic to more teleological structures (e.g., novel) occur mostly at different times in different genres.

I should add that I doubt that "conversation between linguists and literary people has again arrived at a degree of correspondence long absent from their scholarly discourse" (p. 260), as Fludernik puts it. It is paradoxical to read, just a few pages later, that "rather than a bridge, there now exists a substantial gap between the disciplines of literature and linguistics" (p. 267), as Fitzmaurice claims in his article. It appears to me that this dialogue between both disciplines is still a desideratum, although this collection

of articles does collaborate to bridge that gap.

In chapter 10, James Fitzmaurice's "Historical linguistics, literary interpretation, and the romances of Margaret Cavendish" compares general and genre-specific (romance) literary texts corpora so as to pin down particular uses of reporting clauses associated to the latter. This corpus-based, literary-oriented study attempts to demonstrate literary influences by means of tracing Margaret Cavendish's shift in style in the revised edition of her "Nature's Pictures" (1656). Fitzmaurice seeks to explain why many initial position, inverted reporting clauses like "said the Duke", typical of romance prose, are reversed and placed at the end of sentences in the second edition (1671) of that volume. He claims that Cavendish might have favored uninverted last position forms, common in realistic travel narratives (e.g., "This short revelation" (1662)) and jest books, to shift her style partly away from the linguistic conventions of the highly fictional romance genre and, in so doing, to write a 'true romance'.

This methodological approach is particularly solid because the analyst can support alleged literary influences, which are often speculative (e.g., Fitzmaurice says (p. 276) that "because of its notoriety, Margaret Cavendish would have had known of the volume ["This short revelation"]"), with linguistic evidence. In addition, linguistically intriguing phenomena, such as reporting clauses change, can be explained using the literary and cultural tools for contextual analysis advocated by Magnusson (see above).

Finally, in chapter 11, "Discoursal aspects of the Legends of Holy Women by Osbern Bokenham", Gabriella del Lungo Camiciotti studies literary genre traditions, echoes and innovations, as Magnusson does in chapter 6. Her perspective is qualitative, rhetorical and contextualized, and proves to be particularly enriching for studying individual authors and texts. She claims that fifteenth century writer Osbern Bokenham re-elaborates the well-established narrative pattern of Saint's legends genre by increasing the prominence of dialogue. The Saint's legends genre, a historical narrative read aloud in church, promoted social cohesion and the ideal of sanctity. In Bokenham's work, dialogue is less rooted in oral performance and serves other textual functions in narrative framed texts, such as marking climaxes in the plot; these changes in the genre are due to gradual changes in text production and consumption in the late Middle Ages.

Evaluation

In sum, this volume really brings together alternative, enriching methods to face the functional study of historical discourse. What seems clear is that there cannot be a universal method for this task. On the contrary, methodological tools deeply depend on the object under scrutiny, the available sources and, not less important, the creativity of the researcher.

As a final remark, I wonder if this book should not have been more properly called "Methods in English historical pragmatics". All the articles included deal with historical English only, but at the same time many theoretical positions are claimed to be general. This dilemma can be found in this book, where, for instance, we read that "we conduct historical pragmatics research in English" (p. 1) which can help "spur a collective review and assessment of what it is we do when we do historical pragmatics" (ibid.). Many previous studies within this Anglo-European tradition present the same, often implicit link between English and general historical pragmatics (cf. e.g. Jucker 1995's cover title "Historical Pragmatics" and inside subtitle "Pragmatic developments in the history of English"). Perhaps this should not be understood as a critique to English studies, but, on the contrary, as a demand on non-English studies to develop language-specific problems and proposals.

I would also like to mention that the volume lacks a biographical sketch of the contributors. This would have been especially useful as to understand how some of the heterogeneous methodological choices may be based on different trainings, traditions

and geographic origins.

About the reviewer

Federico Navarro is a PhD candidate for the University of Valladolid (Spain) holding a grant from the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation (AECI). His research interests lie in the sociohistorical analysis of pragmatic and discursive features of Spanish academic writing genres. He is based at the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), where he is assistant professor of general linguistics (leave of absence).

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Call for Papers: The Native Speaker and Mother Tongue

Full Title: The Native Speaker and the Mother Tongue

Date: 11 December 2008 to 13 December 2008

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Contact Person: Nigel Love

Meeting Email: nigel.love@uct.ac.za

Linguistic Field(s): Anthropological Linguistics; Historical Linguistics; Language Acquisition; Sociolinguistics

Call Deadline: 31 July 2008

Meeting Description

The International Association for the Integrational Study of Language and Communication (IAISLC) in collaboration with The Amsterdam Center for Language & Communication (Research group Sociolinguistic aspects of multilingualism) announces an international symposium on The Native Speaker and the Mother Tongue.

Call for Papers

It is an article of faith within mainstream linguistics that linguistic communities should be defined by reference to hypostatized linguistic objects called 'languages'.

Quite apart from the implications of this stance for theories of language and communication themselves, it has significant social and political consequences, in that it confers privileged status on certain members of a linguistic community. Thus privileged are those who have been born and brought up to speak the language from birth, as their 'mother tongue', in a family where the parents or other adults were also brought up to speak the language from birth. Such people are often referred to by linguists as 'native speakers' of the language, although the precise definition of this term is disputed. In this way a potential ranking is established among members of a linguistic community. This ranking in practice reflects the utility to the linguist of particular persons as potential 'informants'. At the top come the native speakers. Next come those who are almost native speakers but not quite. Then will come those who did not learn the language until adulthood. And so on. On the fringes of the community will be the hangers-on, those whose command of the language is poor or suspect (typically recent immigrants, foreign workers, semi-speakers etc.).

The notion also has implications for the ranking of linguistic communities themselves. The monoglot community has long been projected as the 'normal' case. Communities in which two or more languages are spoken, and in which various forms of so-called language interference are rife, are in this theoretical perspective automatically marginalised.

From the mainstream linguist's point of view the principal desideratum here is that the language the 'native speaker' speaks shall be 'pure', uncontaminated by any external linguistic influences. This concern is supposedly motivated by scruples akin to those in the physical sciences, where it is often important that only unadulterated samples are subject to analysis, for fear of producing unreliable results. However, it is no coincidence that 'purity' features as an important concept in many totalitarian systems of thought, as well as being reflected in linguistic legislation of a plainly chauvinistic character. For these reasons among many others it would be naïve to suppose that mainstream linguistics is ideologically neutral.

The integrationist approach to language rejects the myth of the native speaker, as part of its rejection of the orthodox postulate of idealised linguistic communities bound together by shared systems of known rules and meanings. The integrationist agenda offers the prospect of a demythologised linguistics which corresponds more realistically to our day-to-day communicational experience. High on this alternative agenda is the demythologisation of received ideas about the linguistic relationships between the individual and society and the development of alternative perspectives on the construction and maintenance of the individual's linguistic identity.

This symposium aims not only to further the integrationist project itself but, more broadly, to bring together researchers of various theoretical stripes engaged in critical assessment of the notions 'native speaker', 'mother tongue' and related ideologies. The discourse of monoglot normality has influenced general linguistic theory in many different ways; in historical linguistics, for example, 'normal' language change is, typically, the kind of change that happens in languages with a clear 'genetic' pedigree. This leads to a treatment of languages that emerge in multilingual settings with only informal linguistic transmission, such as creoles, as 'exceptional'. Another area in which the discourse of normality creates problem is multilingualism, in at least two ways: (i) the relationship between language and identity is typically seen as a monolingual affair, with multilingual communities usually misrepresented and misunderstood in their linguistic practices; (ii) language shift is related to identity loss, notwithstanding the fact that the multilingual individual can construct her identity on the basis of multiple codes. Thirdly, in the discourse of language endangerment the 'native speaker' is constructed as a valuable asset, but in the case of the multilingual individual it is not clear how nativity is assigned. In recent research in all these fields there have been calls to move beyond a normative, Eurocentric notion of 'mother tongue' in order to develop an understanding of, and a theoretical apparatus capable of dealing with, language in heteroglossia as a normal, rather than an extraordinary, phenomenon. We are particularly interested in contributions on the following topics:

- Identity in multilingual societies
- Creole exceptionalism
- Language rights vs linguistic citizenship
- Maintenance and endangerment of language/identity
- Purism in historical linguistics

Inquiries, abstracts and proposal for papers should be addressed to Nigel Love (nigel.love@uct.ac.za) and Umberto Ansaldo (uansaldo@gmail.com)

Closing date for abstracts: 31 July 2008

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Review: Corpus Linguistic 25 Years On

Title: Corpus Linguistics 25 Years On
Series: Language and Computers Vol. 62
Publication Year: 2007
Publisher: Rodopi
Editor: Facchinetti, Roberta

Reviewer: Mike Conway, National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo

Summary

The book under review is the edited proceedings of the 25th International Computer Archive of Modern and Medieval English Conference (ICAME), held at the University of Verona in May 2004.

The book is 385 pages long, and consists of nineteen chapters, and an introduction from the editor. Each chapter contains a list of references and, if appropriate, endnotes. The volume is divided into three sections, reflecting some of the core concerns of the conference. The first section, "Overviewing 25 Years of Corpus Linguistics Studies" (four chapters) looks back at the early days and development of corpus linguistics. The second section, "Descriptive Studies in English Syntax and Semantics" (eight chapters) is concerned with corpus based language description, a core area of corpus linguistics over the last 25 years. The third section, "Second Language Acquisition, Parallel Corpora and Specialist Corpora" (seven chapters) focuses primarily on issues relating to the use of corpora in second language acquisition. This book concentrates on synchronic corpus research. Another book based on the 25th ICAME conference - Facchinetti & Rissanen (2006) - is concerned primarily with diachronic language studies.

Roberta Facchinetti, the book's editor, provides the introductory chapter, where she describes the volume as "a fairly broad and thematic overview of the work undertaken in the field of computerised corpus linguistic studies from their origin to the present day." Facchinetti then goes on to summarize each chapter in turn.

Part 1: Overviewing 25 Years of Corpus Linguistics Studies

"Corpus linguistics 25+ years on" (Jan Svartvik) describes corpus linguistic research prior to the first ICAME conference from a personal, conversational perspective. These early days were "the stone age of corpus linguistics... when there were no personal computers, no web, no email, no mobile phones, no Google, and no electronic corpora." Svartvik also describes the experience of being a corpus linguist in the late 1950s and 1960s, in an environment where empirical approaches were squeezed by the dominant Chomskyan paradigm. The chapter also outlines the important foundational work conducted at University College, London as part of the Survey of English Usage project, including details of how this project was carried out in a period when computers were "rare, expensive and unreliable."

"Corpus development 25 years on: from super corpus to cyber corpus" (Antoinette Renouf) provides a survey of the recent history of corpus development, building the chapter around the three major "motivating forces" that have driven the research area

forward; "science (or intellectual curiosity), pragmatics (or necessity) and serendipity (or chance)." Using this explanatory framework, Renouf describes the motivation for the development of the Brown corpus in the 1960s as primarily scientific. Larger corpora developed in the 1980s and 1990s, such as the British National Corpus (BNC), are referred to by Renouf as "super-corpora". The drivers behind the creation of these super-corpora were again primarily scientific ("there were questions about lexis and collocation, and indeed even about grammar, that could not be answered within the scope of a small corpus"), yet serendipity played a role, with the increasing capabilities of computers and the emergence of corpora based dictionaries. The creation of large scale monitor corpora in the 1990s was largely driven by the scientific motivation to observe language change across time. From the late 1990s, cyber-corpora (that is, internet derived corpora or "web-as-corpus") were developed due to a range of drivers; serendipity (the web contains a wide range of linguistic data), pragmatism (downloading documents from the web is cheap compared to conventional corpus construction techniques) and scientific interest (the web allows access to the newest usages). In summary, Renouf describes the historical development of corpora as "characterised by the tension between the desire for knowledge and the constraints of practical necessity and technological feasibility."

"Seeing through multilingual corpora" (Stig Johansson) briefly outlines the development of multilingual corpora over "the last 10-15 years or so" where multilingual corpora are loosely defined as "collections of texts in two or more languages which are parallel in some way, either by being in a translation relationship, or by being comparable in other respects, such as genre, time of publication, intended readership and so on." Johansson then goes on to describe two common forms of multilingual corpora; translation corpora (consisting of texts and their translation into one or more languages) and comparable corpora (consisting of original texts in two or more languages, where the texts chosen are representative of a given genre, time period and so on for each genre). Johansson goes on to describe attempts at uniting these paradigms in the English Norwegian Parallel Corpora. The rest of the chapter goes on to use this multilingual corpora in order to explore the linguistic difference between English and Norwegian (for example, the use of the English "thing" and Norwegian "ting").

"Corpora and spoken discourse" (Anne Wichmann) presents some of the practical and theoretical problems confronted by the researcher in constructing speech corpora, distinguishing between speech corpora that are created as part of the development of speech technology systems (often under laboratory conditions) and speech corpora created from "natural" data (that is, speech recorded during "real" interactions) that tend to be of interest to corpus linguists (and conversation analysts). Wichmann stresses the importance of including sound files with spoken discourse corpora, as in the case of spoken language (rather than text corpora), the spoken language recording itself is the raw data and ought to be preserved.

Part 2: Descriptive Studies in English Syntax and Semantics

"An example of frequent English phraseology: distributions, structures and functions" (Michael Stubbs) begins by emphasizing that the emergence of interest in phraseology has accompanied the rise of corpus linguistics. Previously the study of phrases (and the related concept of n-grams, lexical bundles and so on) had been crowded out by concern with grammar, lexical issues, and some degree of hostility (or indifference) to the frequency based investigative techniques appropriate for the study of phrases. Stubbs describes the software tool used in his study, the PIE (Phrases in English) system (<http://pie.usna.edu>), as "a powerful interactive database... constructed from the BNC" which consists of all the n-grams shorter than a given length in the BNC (with other phrasal patterns, also based on the BNC, available to the user). Stubbs uses the software to explore several research areas, one of which is the prevalence of given phrases across text types. For example the use of pronouns in fiction ("I don't want to", "I want you to") and academic writing ("I shall show that", "I have already mentioned")

is analyzed.

"The semantic properties of *_going to_*: distribution patterns in four subcorpora of *_The British National Corpus_*" (Ylva Berglund and Christopher Williams) analyzes the "intentional and predictive uses of the *going to* construction" in four different registers/genres (financial, academic, news and spoken). The analysis showed that the frequency of occurrence of 'going to' (and also the more informal 'gonna') varies markedly between the chosen registers "with less than one hundred instances per million words of running text in academic writing, to almost 3000 in spoken conversation." The authors then go on to analyze - among other things - the predictive versus intentional use of "going to" across the four genres of interest, concluding that the news genre "shows a marked preference for predictive meaning."

"The superlative in spoken English" (Claudia Claridge) suggests that rather than simply expressing factual comparisons, superlatives are primarily used as "a means for (often vague) evaluation and the expression of emotion." The spoken section of the British National Corpus was used as data, as the researchers were interested in the everyday, informal use of superlatives. The BNC tagset was utilized to help identify superlatives, with 1973 adjectival superlatives identified (a frequency of 5 instances per 10,000 words).

"Semantically-based queries with a joint BNC/WordNet database" (Mark Davies) describes an attempt at marrying two important linguistic resources; the British National Corpus and WordNet. The BNC has emerged as a central resource in English corpus linguistics. WordNet (Fellbaum, 1998), a comprehensive electronic lexical database widely used in corpus and computational linguistics, is built around the central notion of sets of synonymous words ("synsets"). The software described in this paper allows a user to query the BNC/WordNet database for BNC derived frequency information for a given word and the synonyms of that word (along with many other more sophisticated types of search).

"Size matters - or thus can meaningful structures be revealed in large corpora" (Solveig Granath) continues the descriptive theme developed in the previous four chapters. Granath shows that for some relatively rare constructions, larger corpora (like the Guardian/Observer British newspaper corpora) are more informative than the standard one million word corpora commonly used in corpus linguistics (for example, BROWN, FLOB, and so on) The chapter focuses primarily on different subject/verb word ordering in sentences that begin with "thus".

"Inversion in modern written English: syntactic complexity, information status and the creative writer" (Rolf Kreyer) provides a "discourse functional, corpus based account of the construction at issue" (that is, inversion), stressing the function of inversion within the discourse structure as an aid to readability. Additionally, two superordinate functions are identified; text structuring inversion and "immediate-observer-effect" inversion (a technique often used in fiction to give an impression of unmediated perception). Two subsections of the BNC were used in this work (written-academic and prose-fiction) and instances of the inversion construction were identified semi-automatically.

"The filling in the sandwich: internal modification of idioms" (David Minugh) uses a three hundred million word corpus (composed of the BNC, British and American newspaper corpora and broadcast transcripts) to investigate the occurrence of idioms "and examine the extent to which these prepackaged chunks of language can be internally expanded so as to link them into the discourse within which they are used." An example of the kind of 'expanded' idiom of interest, taken from the chapter, includes "restore some political coals to Newcastle." Fifty five idioms were used, all of which occur in the Collins COBUILD Dictionary of Idioms (Collins, 2002). Minugh found that - at least for the fifty five idioms considered in the study - idiom expansion is much less common than

previous studies seemed to have indicated.

"NP-internal functions and extended use of the 'type' nouns kind, sort and type: towards a comprehensive, corpus based description" (Liesbeth De Smedt, Lieselotte Brems and Kristin Davidse) begins with a brief review of work on type noun functions from the 1930s to the present, before going on to identify six categories of type noun (head, modifier, postdeterminer, qualifying, discourse marker and quotational). These six categories were identified using the previous literature on type nouns, and also on the basis of a close analysis of corpus evidence. The final part of the paper consists of an analysis of the frequency of the six categories of type noun in two corpora; the Times newspaper section of the COBUILD Corpus (a formal written register) and the Bergen Corpus of London Teenage Slang (the COLT corpus) (an informal written register). The results of this analysis showed that type nouns from the newspaper corpus were primarily NP-internal and concerned with classification, whereas in the teenagers' speech corpus, the use of type nouns as adverbial qualifiers was much more common.

Part 3: Second Language Acquisition, Parallel Corpora and Specialist Corpora

"Student writing of research articles in a foreign language: metacognition and corpora" (Francesca Bianchi and Roberto Pazzaglia) describes the creation of a corpus of published papers in the area of experimental psychology, designed for the purpose of teaching Italian undergraduate students how to write research articles.

"The structure of corpora in SLA research" (Ron Cowan and Michael Leese) identifies the characteristics that a corpus should have in order to be useful for studying SLA (Second Language Acquisition). This focus can be compared to the previous chapter, which was primarily concerned with the development and use of corpora for teaching a second language. It is suggested that a useful corpus should consist of a diversity of subjects (that is, topics) in the second language, and several levels of proficiency in order to track systematic difference in the development of the second language. The construction of a small corpus of writing by Spanish students of different levels of proficiency enrolled in an English language class at the University of Illinois is also described. The corpus was used to track those errors that remained common even for those students who had achieved a good proficiency in English.

"The path from learner corpus analysis to language pedagogy: some neglected issues" (Nadja Nesselhauf) stresses the difficulties involved in moving from corpus studies that identify the difficulties faced by L2 learners to pedagogical policy. The corpus used was derived from the German subcorpus of ICLE (containing argumentative and descriptive essays by German native speaking advanced students of English) and consisted of 150,000 words in total. Nesselhauf focused on a limited number of collocations and found that "the collocations that the learners produced are frequently not unacceptable per se but rather are existing English collocations used inappropriately." The final section of the paper considers how to best use these findings in a pedagogical setting, stressing the difficulty of moving from corpus studies (that is, identifying through corpus evidence particular difficulties that L2 learners face) to a realistic teaching setting with competing demands on classroom time.

"Exploiting the Corpus of East-African English" (Josef Schmied) explores this English as a second language corpora (part of the International Corpus of English, henceforth ICE-EA) and suggests a number of research questions that the corpus may be used to address. Examples include, assessing the lexical complexity of the ICE-EA corpus compared to other ESL corpora, and assessing the syntactic complexity of the ICE-EA corpus compared to other English as a second language corpora (and also to native speaker English).

"Transitive verb plus reflexive pronoun/personal pronoun patterns in English and Japanese: using a Japanese-English parallel corpus" (Makoto Shimizu and Masaki

Murata) falls into three sections. The first section describes the general area of English/Japanese parallel corpora, along with a list of corpora currently available. In section two the authors explore the use of reflexive and personal pronouns with transitive verbs, and found that personal pronouns were much more common than reflexive pronouns. Section three considers the differences between English and Japanese in their use of reflexive and personal pronouns. The Context Sensitive and Tagged Parallel Corpus (which consists of parallel English/Japanese newspaper articles) is used throughout the work.

"The retrieval of false anglicisms in newspaper texts" (Cristiano Furiassi and Knut Hofland) describes a method for identifying 'false anglicisms' in newspaper text. False anglicisms are roughly defined as words or phrases that look like English, but are not part of the English language (the authors give the example of 'autostop' as an Italian false anglicism for hitchhiking). The corpus used was constructed from Italian newspaper text (La Stampa, La Repubblica and Il Corriere della Serra) and consists of 19.5 million tokens. Computational linguistic techniques were used to identify false anglicisms, but automated methods alone did not prove sufficient, and human post-processing was required in order to eliminate noise.

"Lexical semantics for software requirements engineering - a corpus based approach" (Kersten Lindmark, Johan Natt och Dag, and Caroline Willners) describes the use of corpus linguistic techniques for analyzing software requirements. The authors first identify keywords characteristic of the requirements domain using the WordSmith toolkit (Scott, 2004) and a corpus constructed from 1932 requirement texts in English. The BNC Sampler was used as a reference corpus. That is, in order to identify keywords in the software requirement domain, the WordSmith toolkit was used to pick out those words that occur more frequently (at a statistically significant level) in software requirements compared to a more general corpus of English (the BNC Sampler). In addition to identifying domain specific keywords, an attempt was made at constructing a WordNet for the domain (that is, a lexical database specifying synonyms and part/whole relationships) using simple pattern matching techniques in conjunction with the extracted keywords.

Evaluation

This edited volume of papers from the twenty-fifth ICAME conference is focused on (primarily English language) corpus linguistics. The first section of the book (subtitled "Overviewing 25 years of corpus linguistic studies") serves as an introduction to, and history of the field, with each article authored by an influential researcher. Section two of the book is concerned with descriptive studies of syntax and semantics, historically a core area of corpus linguistics. The eight papers in this section present a representative sample of current work in descriptive corpus linguistics by well known researchers in the field. Section three is titled "Second language acquisition, parallel corpora and specialist corpora," although most of the papers focus on the use of corpora in the context of studying second language acquisition, or the development of corpus based pedagogical tools for the teaching of second languages. The volume covers a great deal of ground. From the description of new software tools for corpus linguistics (Mark Davies' chapter on the development of a joint BNC/WordNet database) to a study of transitive verbs based on parallel corpora (Makato Shimizu and Masaki Murata's chapter on English/Japanese parallel corpora), and succeeds in both providing an overview of the development of the discipline and in presenting state-of-the-art research.

It is however worthwhile mentioning some minor shortcomings with the book. First, there are some typographical errors, although these are not serious enough to compromise understanding. Second, the division of the papers into three main sections does pose some difficulties. While the first and second sections (dealing with the development of corpus linguistics over the past 25 years and descriptive corpus linguistics, respectively) are unproblematic, the third section "Second Language

Acquisition, parallel corpora and specialist corpora," does not seem to have a unifying theme. This is, however, acknowledged in the editor's introduction and can be equally well seen in a positive light, reflecting the diversity of modern corpus research.

About the reviewer

Mike Conway is a research fellow at the National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo.

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Notice from Chaiperson: Prof Raj Mesthrie

Dear LSSA members

Dag se. Siyabulisa eKapa.

Two notices of interest to you.

(a) A copy of a letter being sent to the Census office regarding the importance of retaining the census question. My thanks to Ana Deumert for her part in helping compose the letter. Should there be a census workshop in your area, do attend and put our points across.

(b) My colleague, Nigel Love is hosting an international conference on the Native speaker/ Mother tongue in Cape Town in mid-December this year.

A separate circular about our recent conference in Stellenbosch will reach you in a few days.

Best wishes

Raj M

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