**Barberà Altimira, Gemma (2012)**

**The meaning of space in Catalan Sign Language (LSC). Reference, specificity and structure in signed discourse**

Dir.: Josep Quer

This thesis concerns the use of sign space in Catalan Sign Language (LSC) at the discourse level. I argue that non-descriptive locations are established in the three spatial planes and I describe the grammatical features contained within them. Spatial locations are morphophonologically marked with an abstract point in space which does not have a specific direction and which is categorically interpreted in the linguistic system. In LSC, the frontal plane is grammatically relevant for specificity marking: lower spatial locations correlate with specificity, whereas upper locations correlate with non-specificity. Moreover, the incorporation of discourse structure into the analysis shows that the establishment of lower spatial locations also denotes discourse prominence. Hence, spatial locations are integrated into the grammar of LSC and they are analysed here with respect to the role they play in the denotation of specificity and discourse structure. The analysis is framed under the formalisation of Discourse Representation Theory, on the basis of a small-scale LSC corpus.

http://www.tdx.cat/handle/10803/81074

---

**Biffi, Natalia (2016)**

**Prácticas y discurso de los derechos humanos en Colombia: análisis de la correspondencia entre la Red Italiana de Solidaridad y el Gobierno colombiano del 2002 al 2006**

Dirs.: Teun van Dijk & Isabella Paoletti

En esta tesis se analizan algunas operaciones discursivas que articulan el discurso de los derechos humanos en Colombia y las representaciones que emergen de éste. Tiene como objetivo principal describir la interacción y los actores del discurso de los derechos humanos en Colombia, específicamente los que participan en el intercambio epistolar entre la Red Italiana de Solidaridad y el Gobierno Colombiano del 2002 al 2006. Se trata de una investigación cualitativa e interdisciplinaria que se inscribe en el Análisis Crítico del Discurso, concretamente en la perspectiva sociocognitiva del mismo, aunque también se utilizan conceptos teórico metodológicos de la pragmática y la socio-semántica y se trabaja con categorías de análisis propuestas en algunos de sus campos. ¿Qué se dice sobre los derechos humanos en esta interacción? y ¿Cómo se hace esto? son las preguntas generales que se pretenden responder en el desarrollo de la tesis doctoral.

http://www.tdx.cat/handle/10803/393711/

---

**Cornea, Ioana (2015)**

**Unidades de conocimiento especializado para la traducción jurídica: identificación y propuesta de representación de la equivalencia del derecho de extranjería en un diccionario bilingüe español-rumano**

Dir.: Gelpí Arroyo, Cristina

El objetivo de esta Tesis doctoral es identificar las unidades de conocimiento especializado del derecho de extranjería con el fin de representar la relación de la equivalencia en un diccionario bilingüe español-rumano para la traducción jurídica. Partimos de la premisa que el perfil del usuario y la situación de traducción determinan el tipo de unidades léxicas y la forma de representación de la equivalencia. Para ello, hemos sistematizado las necesidades lexicográficas del traductor jurídico ... [+]rumano que nos ha permitido establecer las unidades de conocimiento especializado (UCE), como unidades útiles en una situación de traducción jurídica, debido a su condición cognitiva y pragmática. La identificación y extracción de las unidades de conocimiento especializado del corpus de referencia se basa en el concepto de palabra clave establecido según tres parámetros: frecuencia, posición destacable y representatividad conceptual. Un análisis contrastivo de una

muestra de UCE a partir de sus características esenciales y complementarias revela una relación de equivalencia parcial que representamos lexicográficamente a través de diversos elementos informativos seleccionados en función del usuario y su situación de comunicación.

**Esteve Gibert, Núria (2014)**

**The integration of prosody and gesture in early intentional communication**

Dir.: Prieto Vives, Pilar

This dissertation comprises four experimental studies which investigate the way infants integrate prosody and gesture for intentional communicative purposes. As adult speakers we automatically integrate prosody and gestures at a temporal and pragmatic level, and we use these cues together with social contextual information to convey and understand intentional meanings. My aim is to investigate whether infants use prosodic and gesture features in an integrated way for communicative purposes ... [+]prior to their use of lexical-semantic cues. The dissertation includes four studies, each one described in a separate chapter. The first study is a longitudinal analysis of how a group of infants produce gesture and speech combinations in natural interactions, with results that show that already at 12 and 15 months of age infants temporally align prosodic and gesture prominences. The second study uses a habituation/test procedure to test the infants' early sensitivity to temporal gesture-prosodic integration, showing that 9-month-old infants are sensitive to the alignment between prosodic and gesture prominences. The third study analyzes the longitudinal productions of four infants at the pre-lexical stage and provides evidence that infants use prosodic cues such as pitch range and duration to convey specific intentions like requests, statements, responses, and expressions of satisfaction or discontent. Finally, the fourth study examines how infants responded at 12 months of age to different types of pointing-speech combinations and shows that x infants use prosodic and gestural cues to comprehend communicative intentions behind an attention-directing act. Altogether, this dissertation shows that the temporal integration of gesture and speech occurs at the early stages of language and cognitive development, and that pragmatic uses of prosody and gesture develop before infants master the use of lexical cues. Thus, prosody is the first grammatical component of language that infants use for communicative purposes, revealing that linguistic communication emerges before infants have the ability to use lexical items with semantic meanings. I further claim that infants' integration of prosody and gesture at the temporal and pragmatic levels is a reflex of an early emergence of language pragmatics.

**Morales Moreno, Albert   (2015)**

**Estudi lexicomètric del vocabulari del procés d'aprovació de l'Estatut d'autonomia de Catalunya (2006)**

Dirs.: M. Teresa Cabré & Carmen Pineira-Tresmontant

In 2002, it became clear that the 1978 Spanish constitutional agreement was obsolete. Statutory reform represented the only path to greater Catalan self-government. Hence, the process to reform the Catalan Statute of Autonomy (EAC: Estatut d'autonomia de Catalunya) began; the EAC came into force on August 9, 2006. This thesis presents a quantitative and qualitative study (using Lexico3, Coocs and R) of the EAC drafting and approval process based on the texts produced by parliamentary groups and ... [+]consensus texts agreed upon in parliament. The first part of the analysis offers a lexicometric characterization of the entire corpus. The second part includes a qualitative study of the most significant forms. Four major types of changes were observed. Amendments aimed to rewrite the 2006 EAC based on: 1/the linguistic and stylistic criteria of the Catalan Parliament's language services unit; 2/ the technical criteria of the Catalan Parliament's legal services units; 3/ political negotiation; and, 4/ the linguistic, stylistic and legal criteria of the Spanish Parliament.

**Palomo Berjaga, Vanessa  (2016)**

**Josep Maria de Sagarra, traductor de "Macbeth": anàlisi i comparació amb l'original de Shakespeare i amb les traduccions franceses, castellanes i catalanes precedents**

Dir.: Dídac Pujol

Aquesta tesi doctoral estudia la traducció de "Macbeth" (1959) que va fer Josep Maria de Sagarra. Les aportacions principals són les següents: 1) esbrinar les influències en la traducció de Sagarra de traductors francesos, castellans i catalans precedents (François-Victor Hugo, Maurice Maeterlinck, Magí Morera i Galícia, Luis Astrana Marín, Cebrià Montoliu, Diego Ruiz i Cèsar August Jordana) tot evidenciant les relacions nacionals i transnacionals que s'estableixen entre ells; 2) indicar quins ... [+]són els trets característics del text de Sagarra comparant la seva traducció amb l'original de Shakespeare, tenint en compte tant les crítiques positives com negatives que han rebut les seves traduccions de les obres del dramaturg anglès; 3) determinar les aportacions de Sagarra respecte a les traduccions catalanes anteriors de "Macbeth"; 4) analitzar les similituds i diferències entre els tres estadis del text de Sagarra (manuscrit, edició de bibliòfil i edició d'Alpha); 5) determinar, gràcies a la troballa dels manuscrits, les dates de les traduccions de Shakespeare que va fer Sagarra; i 6) proposar i aplicar un model de classificació per estudiar les similituds i diferències entre un text literari i la seva traducció i entre diferents traduccions literàries del mateix text.

http://www.tdx.cat/handle/10803/393969

**Romeo, Lauren Michele (2015)**

**The Structure of the lexicon in the task of the automatic acquisition of lexical information**

Dir.: Bel Rafecas, Núria

Lexical semantic class information for nouns is critical for a broad variety of Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks including, but not limited to, machine translation, discrimination of referents in tasks such as event detection and tracking, question answering, named entity recognition and classification, automatic construction and extension of ontologies, textual inference, etc. One approach to solve the costly and time-consuming manual construction and maintenance of large-coverage ... [+]lexica to feed NLP systems is the Automatic Acquisition of Lexical Information, which involves the induction of a semantic class related to a particular word from distributional data gathered within a corpus. In this thesis, we address the automatic acquisition of lexical information as a classification problem. For this reason, we adopt machine learning methods to generate a model representing vectorial distributional data which, grounded on known examples, allows for the predictions of other unknown words. The main research questions we investigate in this thesis are: (i) whether corpus data provides sufficient distributional information to build efficient word representations that result in accurate and robust classification decisions and (ii) whether automatic acquisition can handle also polysemous nouns. To tackle these problems, we conducted a number of empirical validations on English nouns. Our results confirmed that the distributional information obtained from corpus data is indeed sufficient to automatically acquire lexical semantic classes, demonstrated by an average overall F1-Score of almost 0.80 using diverse count-context models and on different sized corpus data. Nonetheless, both the State of the Art and the experiments we conducted highlighted a number of challenges of this type of model such as reducing vector sparsity and accounting for nominal polysemy in distributional word representations. In this context, Word Embeddings (WE) models maintain the "semantics" underlying the occurrences of a noun in corpus data by mapping it to a feature vector. With this choice, we were able to overcome the sparse data problem, demonstrated by an average overall F1-Score of 0.91 for single-sense lexical semantic noun classes, through a combination of reduced dimensionality and "real" numbers. In addition, the WE representations obtained a higher performance in handling the asymmetrical occurrences of each sense of regular polysemous complex-type nouns in corpus data. As a result, we were able to directly classify such nouns into their own lexical-semantic class with an average overall F1-Score of 0.85. The main contribution of this dissertation consists of an empirical validation of different distributional representations used for nominal lexical semantic classification along with a subsequent expansion of previous work, which results in novel lexical resources and data sets that have been made freely available for download and use.

**Victoria Zaytseva (2016)**

**Vocabulary acquisition in study abroad and formal instruction: an investigation on oral and written lexical development**

Dirs.: Pérez Vidal, Carmen; Miralpeix Pujol, Immaculada

The present study investigates the impact of two different consecutive learning contexts, formal instruction (FI) at home and a 3-month stay abroad (SA), on second language (L2) vocabulary acquisition in oral and written production. Data were obtained from a group of 30 Catalan/Spanish advanced learners of English before and after each learning period by means of an oral interview and a written composition. These samples were analyzed in terms of quantitative lexical proficiency measures in ... [+]the domains of fluency, density, diversity, sophistication and accuracy, and through qualitative native-like selections. Baseline data from 29 native speakers of English, elicited through the same tasks, were also used for comparison purposes. Results reveal that SA is particularly beneficial for written productive vocabulary, and less so for oral, and that progress occurs especially in lexical fluency and diversity. FI, in contrast, shows a modest effect on the improvement of oral productive vocabulary and affects namely lexical sophistication. Furthermore, initial level of vocabulary knowledge is found to be a significant predictor of gains.