

Prominence-based Agreement

July 27th-28th 2017

The classical LFG approach to verb agreement has been to assume that each verb form lexically specifies features such as person, number, or gender of a particular grammatical function, typically the subject. However, facts from a variety of languages raise problems for this approach. In some languages, the grammatical function that agrees with the verb varies depending on the case features of the grammatical functions of the clause (e.g. Hindi and Icelandic); in other languages, the choice of agreeing grammatical function depends on the person features, and other discourse-related features, of the grammatical functions involved (e.g. Algonquian languages); in other languages, the features specified by the verb may correspond to semantic features, as opposed to syntactic features, of the relevant grammatical functions (e.g. Serbo-Croatian). The competition between different prominence scales (grammatical functions, case, person and number, etc) seems to be a crucial factor in determining the agreement trigger. This workshop aims to bring together descriptive and theoretical work on different languages that may shed light on new ways of analyzing agreement.

Workshop program

July 27th

- 14:00-14:15 Welcome
- 14:15-15:00 R. Nordlinger (U. Melbourne) and F. Meakins (U. Queensland): *Possessor agreement in the Ngumpin languages of northern Australia*
- 15:00-15:45 A. Zaenen (Stanford U.), E. Engdahl (U. Gothenburg), and J. Maling (Brandeis U.): *Subject properties in presentational sentences in SVO languages*
- 15:45-16:15 *Coffee break*
- 16:15-17:00 O. Belyaev (Lomonosov Moscow State U.): *Information structure conditions on the agreement controller in Dargwa*
- 17:00-17:45 B. Arsenijević (U. Niš) and M. Gračanin-Yukseš (Middle East Technical U.): *The agreeable hospitality of conjoined subjects*
- 17:45-18:00 *Discussion of the afternoon papers*

July 28th

- 9:00-9:45 K. Haude (CNRS): *Direct-inverse and the “subject” in Movima (isolate, South-West Amazon)*
- 9:45-10:30 G. Jacques (CNRS): *Direct-inverse, accusativity and ergativity in Japhug (Gyalrongic, Sino-Tibetan; Sichuan, China)*
- 10:30-11:15 A. Alsina and E. M. Vigo (Pompeu Fabra U.): *Fixing LFG to account for direct-inverse agreement: The case of Plains Cree*
- 11:15-12:00 *Discussion of the morning papers and general discussion*

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