



LUND
UNIVERSITY

SLING 2023

2nd Swedish Linguistics meeting
June 12-13th, 2023
Lund University



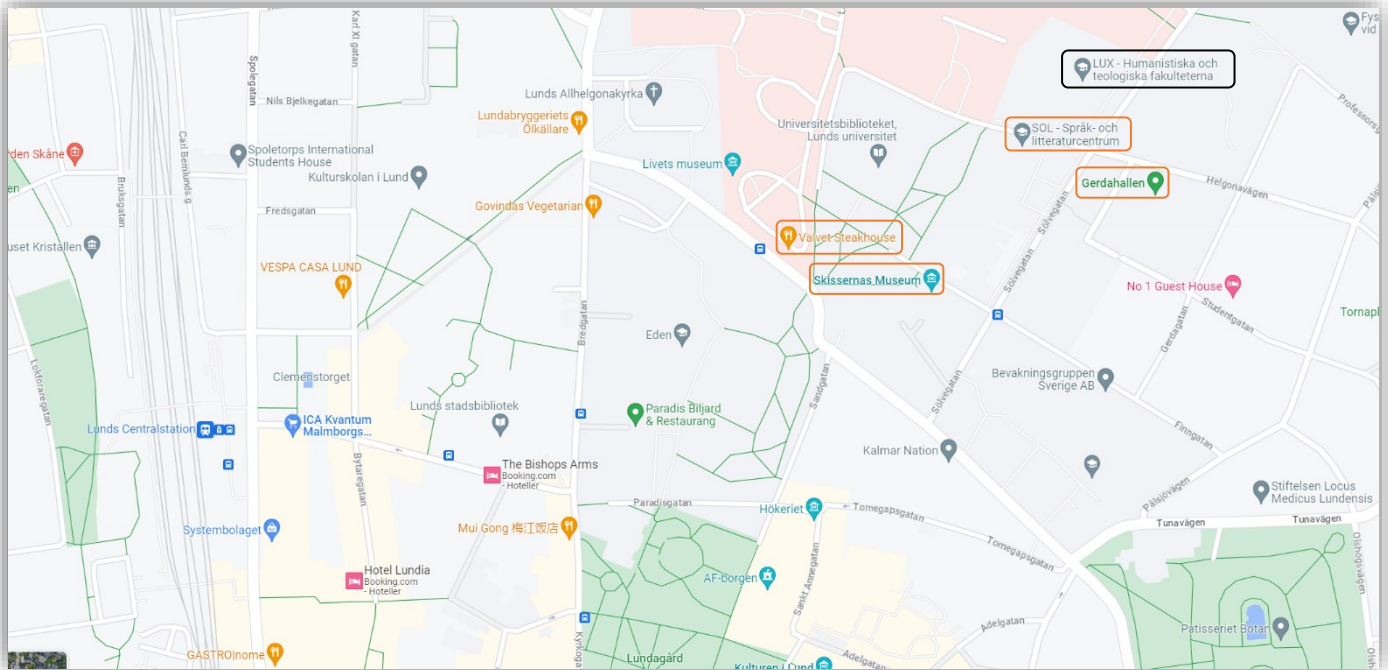
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Organising committee

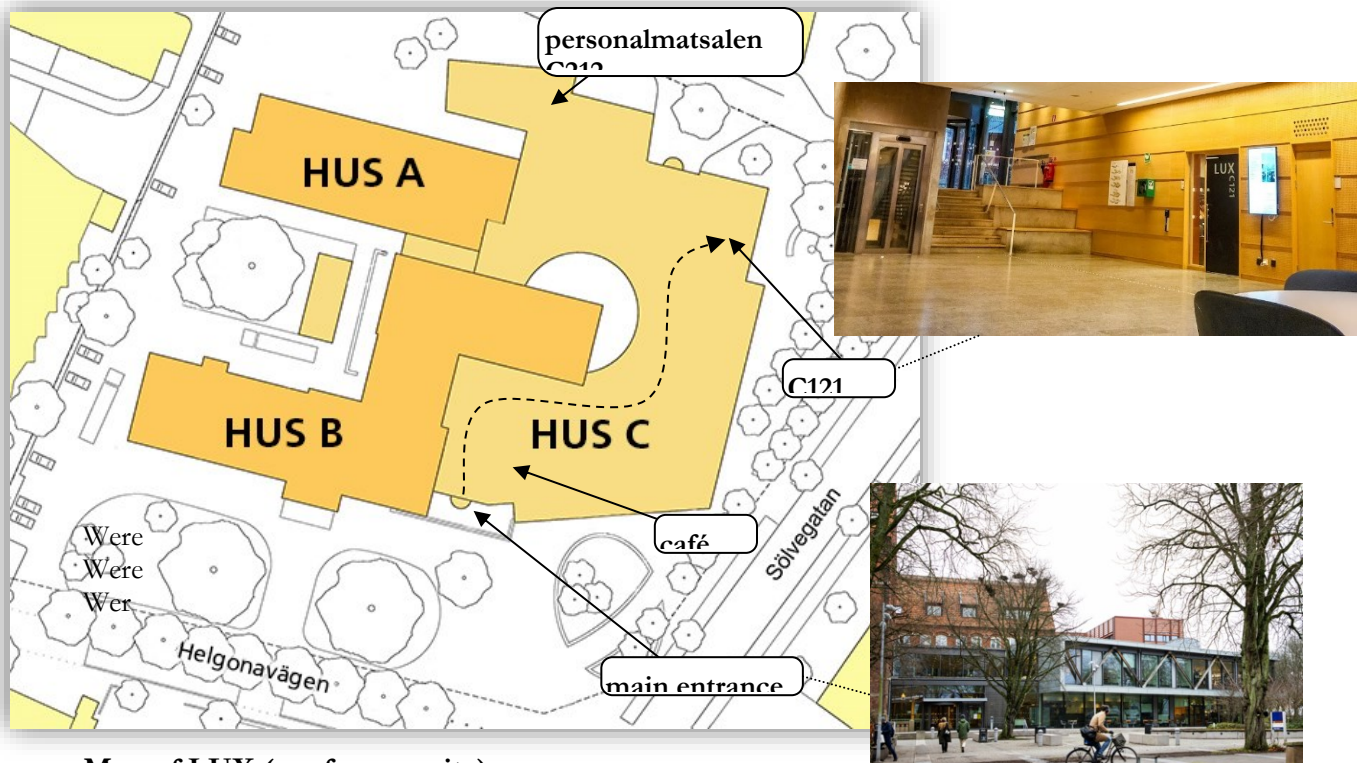
Mikael Roll; Marianne Gullberg; Arthur Holmer; Mechtild Tronnier; Johan Blomberg;
Filip Larsson; Niklas Erben Johansson; Victor Bogren Svensson; Niclas Burenhult;
Sabine Gosselke Berthelsen; Helene Springer; Kajsa Gullberg

Maps and orientation



Map of Lund

Lux marked in black. Nearby places that offer lunch marked in orange. SOL, LUX, and Gerdahallen (gym) have different packed lunch options (sandwiches, salads, etc.). The cafeterias at SOL and LUX also serve warm lunch. Valvet has an affordable lunch buffet, while Skissernas is a fine-dining restaurant where table reservation is required. Lund is a vibrant city with many other formidable lunch options – from Italian to sushi. You will find a particularly large variety of restaurants around Stortorget and near the central station.



Map of LUX (conference site)

The conference will be in the new C building. If you go around the café, past the library, you'll find a small lobby where auditorium C121 is located. We'll have dinner together at personalmatsalen (C212) on the second floor of the C building. We meet outside C121 to go there together at 19.00 .

Programme

Monday, June 12th

12.30-13.00	Registration (outside C121)
13.00-15.10	PhD student presentations
13.00-13.15	Filip Larsson, Lund University
13.15-13.30	Freja Lindgren, Uppsala University
13.30-13.45	Victor Bogren Svensson, Lund University
13.45-14.00	Aron Zahran, University of Gothenburg
short break	
14.10-14.25	Hana El-Shazli, University of Gothenburg
14.25-14.40	Maja Robbers, Uppsala University
14.40-14.55	Axel G. Ekström, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)
14.55-15.10	Oscar Billing, Uppsala University
15.10-15.30	Coffee
15.30-17.10	PhD student presentations
15.30-15.45	Kajsa Gullberg, Lund University
15.45-16.00	Mojtaba Sayyad Mahernia, Lund University
16.00-16.15	Fahima Ayub Khan, University of Gothenburg
short break	
16.25-16.40	Jinhee Kwon, Lund University
16.40-16.55	Tugba Lulaci, Lund University
16.55-17.15	LU research environment presentation
	Mikael Roll, Mechtild Tronnier, Marianne Gullberg, Arthur Holmer, Johan Blomberg, Sandra Debreslioska, Sabine Gosselke Berthelsen, Niklas Erben Johansson
17.30-18.30	Tour of the Humanities Lab
19.00	Dinner

Tuesday, June 13th

09.15-10.00	PhD student presentations
09.15-09.30	Christina Tännander, Swedish Agency for Accessible Media (MTM)
09.30-09.45	Alexander Katourgi, Lund University
09.45-10.00	Ghazaleh Esfandiari-Baiat, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)
10.00-10.20	Coffee
10.20-11.40	Research presentations
10.20-10.35	Henrik Bergqvist, University of Gothenburg
10.35-10.50	Ljuba Veselinova, Stockholm University <i>Amanda Kann & Alice Bondarenko, Stockholm University</i>
10.50-11.05	Michaël Boissonneault, Uppsala University
11.05-11.20	Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Stockholm University
short break	
11.30-11.45	John Huisman, Uppsala University
11.45-12.00	Ellen Breitholtz, University of Gothenburg
12.00-12.15	Eva-Marie Bloom Ström, University of Gothenburg
12.15-13.30	Lunch break
13.30-15.30	Discussion about linguistics teaching

All presenters have 10 minutes to present and 5 minutes for questions.

Abstracts - PhD students

Filip Larsson, Lund University

The PhD project Nominal and verbal affixation in the Caucasus investigates the typology and phonology of affixation in the Caucasus. The languages of the Caucasus have some of the most intricate affixation patterns in the world and the largest consonant inventories outside of Africa, thus making the Caucasus an exceptional region for affixation research. The project aims to compare affixation across the Caucasus with the ambition of finding patterns that potentially apply to affixation and morphology in general. The project examines nominal and verbal affixation in 55 languages from all five language families of the Caucasus, i.e. Kartvelian, Nakh-Dagestanian, Northwest Caucasian, Turkic and Indo-European. The data consists of more than 10,000 affixes collected from previous grammatical descriptions, and each affix has been coded according to grammatical function and phonological form. The data has later been analysed statistically in order to investigate the interaction between phonology and affixation, which is particularly interesting as languages in the Caucasus are typically both phonologically and morphologically complex. The project also intends to explore the interaction between phonology and specific grammatical functions, e.g. case, tense and person marking. The project also features a separate lexical dataset to enable comparisons with non-affix data using the same phonological coding. The preliminary results of these analyses will be presented together with relevant elements of the typological results.

Freja Lindgren, Uppsala University

Notes on Sumuri, a language isolate of Papua, Indonesia

Sumuri [ISO 639-3: tcm] is an endangered language spoken on the north of the Bomberai Peninsula in Papua, Indonesia, with an estimated 500 fluent speakers. The language is virtually unknown to the scientific community, with only a few hundred words ever published (Anceaux, 1958; Smits and Voorhoeve, 1998). Its classification remains uncertain, and has been proposed as a language isolate (Anceaux, 1958; contra Voorhoeve, 1975).

Based on data from the published wordlists and notes from initial fieldwork in 2019 in the village of Tomage, I will present preliminary notes on the grammar of the language. Among the features identified so far and to be discussed, are the fact that the language shows an alienability distinction in its possessive system, comparatives are formed through the biclausal comparative strategy (Dixon 2008:802) and the numeral system is quinary-vigesimal up to 100. The basic lexicon is radically different from all the neighboring languages, and strikingly, no monosyllabic words have so far been recorded.

Moreover, I will present the PhD project outline that includes documentation and description of the language in collaboration with the Sumuri community and the Centre for Endangered Languages Documentation. I will also discuss how, as a little-studied language and presumably a language isolate, Sumuri represents a unique opportunity to contribute to understanding human language and the people's and the region's history and diversity.

Victor Bogren Svensson, Lund University

I will discuss verbal inflection and morphological alignment in Takituduh Bunun (Austronesian: Taiwan). Many verbs in Takituduh Bunun lack one of the four inflectional voice forms, and the function has been taken over by other inflectional forms. Takituduh Bunun has also developed paraphrastic constructions related to these structures. I will discuss how these patterns relate to the morphosyntactic alignment of Takituduh Bunun.

Aron Zahran, University of Gothenburg

“Nothing is in vain”: Non-standard negation in three Tanzanian Bantu languages

, Kwere, and Zalamo are three closely related Tanzanian Bantu languages. All three are under-documented and considered threatened by Eberhard et al., (2022). The present work investigates a typologically unusual development of non-standard negators in these languages. The item 'bule', of Arabic origin but subsequently borrowed from the Swahili adverb 'bure' 'for free/in vain' (Johnson, 1939, p. 42; TUKI, 2001), can now, to varying degrees, appear with- or without inflectional morphology in functions such as; emphatic negation, negative existentials, negated predicative possession, negative answer particles, and locative negation (cf. Veselinova, 2013).

1. si-lond-a bule [Kutu]

NEG.SM1SG-want-FV NEG.EMPH

'I really don't want (it)'

2. ha-bule somba mu-lw-anda [Kwere]

LOC16-NEG.EX 9/10.fish LOC16.NCP11-river

'There is no fish in the river'

3. mayo na-o-bule hela [Zalamo]

tomorrow SM1SG-NON.PST-NEG.POSS 9.money

'Tomorrow, I will not have any money'

Although these languages are closely related and can be described as part of a dialect continuum, there is considerable variation both in form and function of 'bule'. For example, the highest number of functions are found in Kwere, but it appears that the grammaticalization into the verbal paradigm has proceeded the furthest in Zalamo, with 'bule' also taking tense/aspect markers.

By collecting and analysing synchronic language data, the present study contributes to the documentation of these languages. Thereto, parameters for microvariation are established and investigated, which is an increasingly prevalent approach for providing insights into diachronic developments of Bantu languages (cf. Marten et al., to appear).

Hana El-Shazli, University of Gothenburg

Cypriot Maronite Arabic between bilingualism and language contact

During this presentation, I will present some features that occur in Cypriot Maronite Arabic and appears at different levels of the language (phonology, lexicon, morphosyntax). Those characteristics are mostly due to the contact with other languages in this case Cypriot Greek and to a lesser extent to the contact with Cypriot Turkish. Arlette Roth was interested mainly in the verbal system, TAM and the lexicon, Borg and Tsiapera have described the phonological, but Borg also compiled a glossary in a descriptivist way.

In this presentation, I will present some's characteristics that define the CMA lexical system in a typological view of analysis.

So far, by presenting some results from two previous works in the context of a master's degree in linguistics at the national institute of oriental languages and Civilizations in Paris.

The first one focused on borrowings in Cypriot Maronite Arabic (2020) and the second one on two effects of language contact bilingualism and suppletion (2022).

Also, I will present some perspectives of study that I will try to investigate through my PhD study, oriented on an interactional and computational perspective.

Maja Robbers, Uppsala University

A variety-driven approach to Goal-Source (a)symmetries

Languages employ a wide variety of strategies to express motion to and from a location. Following previous studies on asymmetric coding of motion events across languages (e.g., Bourdin 1997; Creissels 2006; Pantcheva 2011; Wälchli & Zúñiga 2006; Kopecka & Vuillermet 2021), this study aims to present an overview of the global variety of motion event coding strategies with a focus on expressions of Place, Goal and Source in a variety sample of 35 “rich” descriptions of natural languages (Robbers & Hammarström: in review). Fully exploiting the 35 maximally informative grammatical descriptions, (a)symmetrical coding is assessed further by comparing expressions with different Ground types, sentence modes and topological specifications. The evaluation of the sample shows that Place/Goal/Source expressions are less often coded by paradigmatic components and more often by syntactically diverging strategies across the three domains. Especially Source expressions tend to be syntactically more complex, and also more often subject to contextual readings, providing evidence for potential Goal-bias. The study is part of my compilation thesis which deals with various topics surrounding motion and spatial relations across languages.

Axel G. Ekström, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)

Liljencrants and Fant (1975) designed a computer program for modelling vocal tract area transfer functions as sequences of rounded tubes. Here, we present Tuben, an updated version of the program, written in the Python programming language. I present two use cases of the program. First, I illustrate its value to phonetics teaching by replicating vocal tract shapes for point vowels /a/, /i/, and /u/. Second, I demonstrate novel application of tube modeling procedures - reverse engineering phonetics of nonhuman vocal animal tracts. The program has been made publicly available and presents researchers and students in speech-centric sciences with easily accessible vocal tract modelling and vowel synthesis.

Oscar Billing, Uppsala University

The Luwic languages belong to the extinct Anatolian branch of the Indo-European language family. Under a minimal definition, they comprise Luwian (ca. 1500-700 BCE), Lycian (ca. 500-300 BCE), and Lydian (ca. 700-200 BCE), all recorded in different scripts. Within Indo-European linguistics, accentological study, i.e. the study of the lexical accent, has a long history. Accordingly, the well-known Anatolian language Hittite has been subject to many accentological inquiries. However, the Luwic languages have remained understudied, much due to our poor understanding of their phonology and morphology. In my PhD project, I attempt to rectify this. Recent years have seen a sharp increase in our understanding of Luwic, allowing the first steps towards a Luwic accentology to be taken. Such an endeavour may serve to improve our understanding of the Luwic languages from both a synchronic and a diachronic perspective, with potential implications for our image of the most ancient reconstructable stage of Proto-Indo-European.

Kajsa Gullberg, Lund University

Spoken and written processes in invented and experienced narratives

My dissertation, which is part of the Based on a true story? project, examines language production processes in self-experienced as compared to invented narratives in speaking and writing. When people speak and write they continuously plan what to say/write, they also edit, revise, monitor etc. These processes are affected by cognitive load during language production which could mean that an invented narrative could have language processes that differ from a narrative that is self-experiences.

Mojtaba Sayyad Mahernia, Lund University

Studies on real-time writing process have been generally conducted with the underlying assumption of limited cognitive capacity of the writer. Cognitive overload due to processes of writing (e.g. conceptual planning, translating ideas into linguistic output) can lead to pauses during writing that significantly occur at meaningful linguistic boundaries (e.g. before nominal groups). The current case study draws on these findings and aims to use Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to further explore how cognitive effort of translation of thought into written output can be explained from a functional perspective, by investigating the functional units that are generated around pauses. Keystroke logging was used for capturing the writing process of three essays written by three adult male native speakers of English. SFL was subsequently utilized to analyse the linguistic content that were generated. In accordance with previous studies, longer pauses were associated with start of a new sentence. After pauses, adjuncts were the most common units without thematic function in the main clause and they were used to project the main clause. Also, partial generation of a phenomenon (considering the Ideational metafunction) was commonly observed before pauses. Observations suggest that transcription is likely to be initiated before the whole sentence is linguistically encoded, and after pauses the relatively less cognitively demanding transcriptions initiate and more cognitive resources can be devoted to translation processes. Cognitive effort increases as units with thematic function are being generated. The results suggest that functional-linguistic mapping of translation processes can yield significant understanding of cognitive load during writing.

Fahima Ayub Khan, University of Gothenburg

Code-switching as a resource for coordination in bilingual dialogue

Previous psycholinguistic studies on code-switching have examined coordination in bilingual conversation in terms of structural priming. However, the priming account does not adequately address the social dimensions, sequential positioning, and subtlety of incremental effects that code-switching establishes across and within turns and, hence, cannot explain its fine-grained communicative functions. In this talk, I will discuss how code-switching is a resource for communicative negotiation and elaboration of meanings and stances, namely, for signalling the speaker's position and contextualisation of the communicative event following affordances that are expected to be accessible to the other participants in that particular situational context. In this respect, I will report some initial findings from an ongoing investigation of the link between code-switching and repair phenomena (such as pauses and reformulated referring expressions) based on my analysis of the Spanish-English Miami corpus (Deuchar, 2010).

Jinhee Kwon, Lund University

Semantic processing of the Swedish word accents

Swedish word accents have been considered to have stronger grammatical functions than semantic, although they are shaped by morphological, lexical, and information structures (Bruce, 1977). It has been repeatedly reported that the word accents facilitate a prediction for the upcoming morphological composition via a decompositional route (Roll, 2015a, 2015b, 2022; Schremm et al., 2018; Söderström et al., 2016, 2017). The present neurophysiological study focused on the lexical effect of the word accents. A perception experiment was conducted with 20 South Swedish speakers to investigate online lexical processing of the minimal pairs contrasting in tonal accents, where contextual constraints were employed to build a semantic expectation of the target word. Event-related potentials (ERP) of congruent or incongruent sentences based on the accent tones were analysed.

Word accent incongruency caused a longer reaction time, implying that word accents play a role in sentence comprehension. An N400 effect was observed, indicating that the accent tones and the word forms can be stored together in one lexical unit in the mental lexicon. A difference in ERP was also found between the two word accents. Accent 1 displayed greater negativity compared to accent 2, starting at 250 ms after the word onset. This was interpreted as pre-activation negativity (PrAN) indicating that accent 1 gives stronger predictive certainty even when different contexts are involved. It is concluded that the

word accents carry a lexical information in addition to their well-documented facilitative function of morphological predictions.

Tugba Lulaci, Lund University

Analyzing the Neural Mechanisms of Auditory Prediction due to Coarticulation

Speech perception is a complex task that we perform every day without thinking much. The workings of coarticulation and auditory prediction are important for understanding how the brain processes speech sounds and how we are able to perceive and interpret spoken language efficiently. Both speech perception and production are thought to involve predictive mechanisms (Forseth et al., 2020), and listeners use auditory and visual cues for prediction (Huizeling et al., 2022).

This study aims to observe the effect of coarticulation on speech perception with using fine-grained coarticulation difference, we investigate how early after the listening process starts coarticulation is used for prediction. The research will be conducted in two steps. The first will contain a behavioral experiment, and the second will be a neurophysiological experiment.

Christina Tännander, Swedish Agency for Accessible Media (MTM)

Text-to-speech synthesis (TTS) is commonly used to produce speech for long and information-rich texts such as university textbooks and newspapers for people who cannot read printed text, for example visually impaired or people with reading disabilities. However, most TTS voices need continuous help to pronounce terms and proper names correctly, as well as support for prosodic features such as prominence, phrasing and speaking rate.

A big part of my research project at Speech, Music and Hearing at KTH concerns the preprocessing of text for TTS, namely speech-oriented text processing, and involves not only methods from speech technology and machine learning, but also how to use linguistic knowledge, may it be explicitly or implicitly implemented, that can be used to enhance the spoken version of the text.

I will talk about some of the differences between traditional text processing (NLP) and speech-oriented textprocessing (STT) and show examples of linguistic analyses in our speech-oriented text processing system Sardin.

Alexander Katourgi, Lund University

Shedding light on the colon structure

The colon structure as described by Bredel 2008 consists of a host construction and an expansion, separated by a colon. This expansion elaborates on an "antecedent" in the host, as described by Nunberg 1990. The antecedent remains undefined, however, "leaving to the semantics the job of determining which element of the preceding clause it [the expansion] is associated with" (Nunberg 1990:28). Nunberg compares the colon-expansion to extraposed relative clauses, while in other contexts the colon has been connected to a varying range of constructions, including appositions and headers.

I will present results from an ongoing dissertation project exploring the use of the colon in a corpus of Swedish newspaper articles, focusing the syntactic and semantico-pragmatic relationship between antecedent and expansion. The antecedent is understood as providing the syntactically segregated expansion with a syntactic interpretation in the host clause, while the expansion gives the antecedent a more specific semantic interpretation. Topologically, the colon demarcates the clause proper from the (left or right) clause periphery, which in interactional linguistics is typically considered an area for interpersonal markers.

The theoretical and empirical observations help shed new light on the colon structure, and by extension other structures involving clause peripheral constructions, in Swedish and other languages.

Ghazaleh Esfandiari-Baiat, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)

We introduce the MEET corpus; a collection of data aimed at examining the impact of collocated (physical), distant (digital), and hybrid work meetings on collaborative decision-making. The corpus consists of 10 sessions, each comprising one collocated, one distant, and one hybrid meeting between the same three participants. In each meeting, the participants undertake a survival ranking task for 15 minutes. In total, 450 minutes of conversation was recorded.

We also present a first version of the narrow annotation scheme we designed to target our research questions. Finally, parts of the corpus have been augmented with 3rd party observer gaze patterns to support analysis of for example speaker shifts and initiative in the meetings, as we believe that tracking the gaze patterns of third 3rd party observers is viable as an online and implicit method for investigating the dynamics of interactions.

Abstracts - Researchers

Henrik Bergqvist, University of Gothenburg

The proposed talk discusses analytical and methodological issues in the description of clause-final morphology in the indigenous Amazonian languages, Awetí (Tupian, Brazil), and Southern Nambikwara (Nambikwaran, Brazil). Existing descriptions of these languages present substantial challenges for the analysis of their clause-final morphology. More specifically, clause-final morphemes in these languages display grammatical traits that suggest the categorical status of such morphemes, but their semantics are elusive and defy traditional description. The proposed talk will address the issue of how to describe and analyze those parts of grammar that defy current conceptualizations of grammatical categories, and how forms that are systematically conditioned by their context of use and communicative intentions/goals can be defined, in comparison to more familiar and tangible aspects of the context. Such issues are part of the debate on how grammar interfaces with pragmatics, and how cross-linguistically salient dimensions of speakers' socio-communicative reality may become encoded in grammar.

Michaël Boissonneault, Uppsala University

Can Census Data Form a Valid Tool for Estimating the Vitality Status of the World's Languages? A Framework and Case Study of Canada's Indigenous Languages

In different countries around the world, information on the first language or the language most often used at home are collected as part of national censuses. The resulting data could constitute a welcome source of information for monitoring the vitality status of the world's languages; however, these remain rarely used as they are often perceived as being of insufficient quality. Here, we propose a framework to evaluate the validity of census data for estimating the vitality status of the world's languages. The framework considers whether, for a given country, data a) cover all and only the languages that it can be expected to cover (coverage), b) exhibit consistent patterns over time (internal consistency) and c) agree with—and potentially improve on—current qualitative reports (external consistency). We apply our framework to data collected during five rounds of the Canadian census among the speakers of more than 60 Indigenous languages. We find that coverage has improved considerably over the years but that the data continue to be unable to detect some of the country's least commonly spoken languages. The data's internal consistency varies from one language to another but can be considerably improved by combining data collected in different years or among speakers of similar speech varieties. Finally, the data mostly agrees with—and often improves on—the precision of current qualitative estimates of speaker numbers and vitality status. As far as Canada is concerned, census data can contribute to improving the monitoring of the vitality status of Indigenous languages.

Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Stockholm University

Silly or unwise? Lexical and derivational antonymy across languages - Joint project with Matti Miestamo (Helsinki University) and Carl Börstell (University of Bergen)

Antonymy is the lexicon-semantic relation of opposition between words, or rather word senses. Whereas the exact nature of the oppositeness may differ, there is also variation as to the relationship in their formal encoding, i.e., whether the antonyms are expressed as distinct lexical forms (e.g., true vs. false) or if one form is derived from the other (e.g., true vs. untrue). In this study, we investigate the relationship between the two members of 37 antonym pairs across 55 languages in order to see whether there are patterns in how antonymy is expressed and which of the two antonym members is more likely to be derived from the other.

Ellen Breitholtz, University of Gothenburg

Att Hundvissla - Att säga något som inte betyder det det betyder

De senaste åren har uttrycket "Hundvissla" hörts och syns allt oftare i såväl media som i informella politiska diskussioner. Begreppet är hämtat från den typ av faktisk vissla som används för att kalla på hundar utan att människor i omgivningen märker det. Som språkligt fenomen brukar man med hundvissla mena ett uttryck som dels kommunicerar en konventionell betydelse till samtliga mottagare, dels en ytterligare – ofta kontroversiell – betydelse till en delmängd av mottagarna. Ett känt exempel är "inner cities" som i amerikansk politisk diskurs ofta anses signalera "afro-amerikansk". Inom statsvetenskap och massmedia/kommunikationsvetenskap har en del studier gjorts på området, inte minst i USA, men inom lingvistik finns endast enstaka försök att definiera vilken typ av språklig företeelse en hundvissla faktiskt är.

I den här presentationen kommer jag att diskutera exempel på hundvisslor i såväl politisk diskurs som i andra sammanhang, redogöra för olika sätt att analysera hundvisslekommunikation samt berätta om forskning inom det tvärvetenskapliga projektet GRIPES där vi undersöker hundvisslebegreppet och effekten av hundvisslor genom att använda språkvetenskapliga och datalingvistiska metoder och teorier såväl som experimentella metoder från statsvetenskap och opinionsforskning.

Eva-Marie Bloom Ström, University of Gothenburg

This proposal is for a short presentation of a new initiative - still in its infancy - called Initiating Network for Language Documentation – Meeting the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. This is an initiative by (alphabetical order) Henrik Bergqvist (GU), Eva-Marie Bloom Ström (GU), Niclas Burenhult (LU), Harald Hammarström (UU), Henrik Liljegen (SU), Malin Petzell (GU). The aim of starting up such a network is to enable collaboration between researchers who work on language documentation and description in Sweden and possibly the Nordic countries.