

Call for Papers: Syntactic representations in the multilingual mind: methodological approaches

Workshop at the DGfS 2020

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Description

Within the framework of usage-based cognitive approaches, representations of language are seen as the result of internal and external speaker variables like age, educational background and, in particular, language input. The interdependencies between factors like these determine how language in general, and syntactic constructions in particular, emerge and are stored in the multilingual¹ mind. Methodologically, there are different ways to reconstruct the development and interaction of syntactic constructions in multilingual speakers. While psycholinguistic methods attempt to assess the representation of syntax based on processing principles (e.g., Ellis et al. 2016), corpus-driven analyses often focus on the *corpus-to-cognition*-principle (cf. Schmid 2010). A combination of both methodologies is less common. Despite this variety of methodological approaches, little is known about 1) how specific methods shape our understanding of syntactic representations within the multilingual mind, and 2) how this understanding can contribute to validating theoretical usage-based assumptions. The latter question is particularly challenging since the methodologies mentioned are also employed to support opposing theories.

The aim of the workshop is to disclose the possibilities and limitations of different methodological approaches, thus contributing to the further development of key theoretical assumptions within the framework of usage-based models. We invite contributions approaching the question of syntactic representation within multilingual speakers from an experimental perspective as well as corpus-based work and studies linking the two methodologies. Our aim is to improve the understanding of how theoretical assumptions about multilingualism and different methodologies are mutually dependent.

References

Ellis, Nick C., Ute Römer, Matthew Brook O'Donnell. 2016. *Usage-Based Approaches to Language Acquisition and Processing: Cognitive and Corpus Investigations of Construction Grammar*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Schmid, Hans-Jörg. 2010. *English Abstract Nouns as Conceptual Shells. From Corpus to Cognition*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Abstract submission

Abstracts must be no longer than 500 words and must be anonymous. Please submit your abstract through EasyAbs (<http://linguistlist.org/easyabs/dgfs2020-WS3>) by **15 August 2019**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent to you by 1 September 2019.

A limited number of travel grants of up to 500 Euro each are available for accepted contributions by DGfS members without/with low income.

Please note that the regulations of the DGfS do not allow that workshop participants present two or more papers in different workshops. Likewise, organizers of other workshops at the same conference are not allowed to present a paper in this workshop.

¹ *Multilingualism* here refers to both genetically different languages as well as varieties within one standard language.