

Project EURO-XPRAG network, ESF visiting grant:

Learning about contrastive conjunctives from individuals with brain damage

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Summary of short visit, May 2013, at Utrecht University

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This report sums up the academic work carried out during my visit with Dr. Yoad Winter, The Utrecht Institute of Linguistics, Utrecht University, Netherlands, 26th-30th May, 2013.

This visit was conducted as part of the EURO-XPRAG network activities. The EUROXPRAG network approved our research project "Learning about contrastive conjunctives from individuals with brain damage" in February 2012. The funding we were awarded was used for three short visits between the researchers in Israel (Prof. Friedmann and myself) and Dr. Winter in Utrecht.

This report sums the third planned visit.

1. Purpose of the visit

The aim of this last visit was to confirm the work on the use of contrastive conjunctives in individuals with brain damage, and their interaction with factivity in various linguistic tasks. Specifically our aim was to examine and analyze the data that has been gathered so far and to discuss details regarding the final data collection and analysis.

2. Description of the work carried out during the visit

In the past four months data was collected from a large control group and a small group of brain damaged patients. During the meetings in this visit we analyzed and

compared the pattern of results found in the different tasks of the two groups of participants. We focused on the understanding and use of semantic distinctions between factive/non-factive verbs of propositional attitudes and behavior of contrastive conjunctions in relation to factivity. The performance of the brain damaged patients on these tasks was also compared to their syntactic abilities regarding the relevant constructions.

3. Description of the main results obtained

The work carried out during this visit has led to the following results:

- a) We summed the initial results that demonstrate the deficits that right hemisphere patients have in processing factivity and contrastivity.
- b) We composed the final inventory of factivity and contrastivity tests that need to be completed by the brain damaged patients.
- c) We continued working on the draft of a paper describing, in addition to the specific research hypotheses, results of the pilot studies.

4. Future collaboration with host institution

This visit was conducted as part of the EURO-XPRAG network activities. According to the project plan funded by this network, this was the last of the three planned visits. We intend to complete the data collection during the next few months and finalize the paper.