Second NetWordS Workshop

# Perspectives on Synergy

## Toulouse (France), 3-4 December 2012

**Convened by:**
**NetWordS Steering Committee**

**Organising Committee**

**Hélène Giraudo**
**Claudia Marzi**
**Vito Pirrelli**
**Basilio Calderone**
**Fabio Montermini**

## SCIENTIFIC REPORT

**Claudia Marzi** (ILC-CNR)
**Hélène Giraudo** (CNRS)

Istituto di Linguistica Comnputazionale - CNR

# 1) Summary

The 2nd NetWordS Workshop, held on the 3rd and 4th of December 2012 in the Toulouse Research Area (*Maison de la Recherche*) of the French National Research Council (*CNRS*), brought together 27 participants (scholars, Post-Docs, PhD students) from various European countries.

Ten speakers, experts of various scientific domain and with different theoretical inclinations, discussed cross-disciplinary *Perspectives on Synergy*, reflecting the interdisciplinarity and synergy fostered by NetWordS, the European Research Networking Programme on Word Structure.

With these objectives in mind, the workshop gathered PhD students and junior research fellows who carried out interdisciplinary research under the NetWordS granting scheme for 2012 and more senior scholars who are currently involved in European or national initiatives geared towards scientific goals of interest to the NetWordS programme.

Each contribution was planned to have a 30' duration including discussion involving the entire audience for the invited *grantees*, and 45' duration for the invited senior scholars.

Before the closure of the event, a *Round Table* was organised to concretely discuss project proposals of common interest to be submitted in the years 2013-2014, and to encourage the sharing of interdisciplinary cooperation efforts among NetWordS partners and other research teams.

## 2) Scientific content of the event

The workshop was organised with the goals of monitoring the current state of infrastructural initiatives and joint interdisciplinary research efforts in Europe, fostering a more effective flow of information and data/software exchanges through NetWordS, exploring possible ways forward in the context of current/future European research funding programmes.

In line with the main goal of the Project to focus on our comprehension of the basic mechanisms serving both language and cognition, as key to understanding the human strategies involved in learning and processing word structure, all workshop contributions were devoted to shedding light on understanding the architecture of the mental lexicon.

In his talk *"Complex words and semantic transparency"* MARTIN SCHÄFER illustrated the results of his granted "short-visit" project, visiting Melanie Bell at the University of Cambridge, focussed on the semantic trasnparency in English Noun-Noun compounds. The core question of his approach goes in the direction of defining those factors in the internal structure of nominal compounds which contribute to its overall semantic transparency and predictability, such as semantic class of each constituent, the distributional properties of each constituent in terms of their positional and reverse family sizes, the semantic specificity or unspecificity of each constituent in terms of their number of senses, the semantics of each constituent in terms of the extent and type of semantic shift they have undergone and the semantic relation between the two constituents.

MANUEL PEREZ illustrated in his talk *"Modeling spelling learning: dictation vs. copy tasks"* the central claim of his "short-visit" granted project, according to which "copying- handwriting" defines the best task to learn lexical spelling, as it requires the simultaneous acquisition of graphic norms and orthographics forms.

JACQUES DURAND was invited to give his talk on *"The word in French: its nature, function and phonological status"* where he inquires the contemporary French phonology and its usage, varieties and structure, by focussing on what phonolgy and phonetics can reveal about words in French. Duration offers cue to lexical word recognition in spoken French, as well as initial stress, accentuation, intonation, part of speech and presence of *schwa*. A global difference between lexical and grammatical words is measured. Acoustic-phonetic analyses of accent types in French confirm the distributional and functional differences of emphatic initial and final accents. At the infra-syllabic level of analysis, accent types are distinguished on the basis of their distribution.

The talk presented by GÁBOR PROSZEKY illustrates *"A Computational Morphological System for Agglutinative Languages, and some connections with Psycholinguistics"*, the HUMOR database developed for Hungarian and other agglutinative languages, and many other European languages. The morpho-orthographic approach of the system is based on stored single morphs and stored morph sequences, adjacency restrictions between relative stems and relative suffix sequences. The approach can be said to belong to the mainstream of "item-and-arrangement" approaches, augmented with selective precompilation of high-frequency allomorphs for reasons of efficient processing.

VALERIA BANDECCHI in her talk on *"Manner of Motion as Embodied concept: Evidence in Italian and English"* illustrated results of her "short-visit" granted project on the different conceptualization and use of linguistic resources that English and Italian speakers make in packaging motion information. The experimental evidences (priming tests) have been conducted to verify if abstract dimensions such as manner and path of motion are grounded in perception, and in action, in a cross linguistic perspective. The main results she obtained suggest that non linguistic representation of motion might be affected by the different ways the two linguistic systems package motion events; and that semantic complexity might affect differently speakers of different languages.

GÉRALDINE WALTHER presented her study *"Towards a formal model for Canonical Typology"* to which her exchange visit at the University of Surrey was devoted. She contributed to the definition of a formal model specifically designed for encoding inflectional phenomena as treated within Canonical Typology. She illustrated her PARSLI model (PARadigm Shape and Lexicon Interface) which formalises the canonical approach to (ir-)regularity within paradigms and also provides quantitative means for assessing the canonicity of paradigms with reference to specific phenomena

PHILIP CARR was invited to report on the empirical work carried out during his short visit grant on *"Language, urban life, work and identity in Manchester"*. The collaborative project set up both in Toulouse and Manchester aims at an interdisciplinary phonological and sociolinguistic approach on lexical competence, by collecting comparative data on urban centres both in the UK and in France. Related to the issue of sense of regional identity is the question on how changes in the regional varieties of English and French are perceived, and whether accent modifications, both conscious and unconscious, can be investigated as related to the sense of regional identity.

WOLFGANG DRESSLER was invited to present an on-going project *"On socio-morphology in bilingual acquisition: On a project for a project"* within the framework of the funding programme 'Social Sciences and Humanities in Wien' focussing on the importance of input, i.e. the language young

children hear from their caretakers, as the most important basis for successful language acquisition. Investigation of linguistic utterances of parents and kindergarten teachers directed at children aged 3 to 4 ½ years showed that amount and nature of linguistic input to children differ significantly according to the socio-economic and educational background of the families. A language observation survey carried out over the last year in a Wien kindergarten found that 60% of all children from immigrant families at age 5 are in need of additional language training in their L2.

Dressler's talk went in the direction of inviting NetWordS research groups to join the investigation of the importance of early input in the process of L2 acquisition by first-generation immigrants in other European countries, so as to pave the way to European project proposals, to be submitted in the years 2013-14.

INGO PLAG's invited talk on *"Phonological and phonetic variability in complex words: compound stress and beyond"* focused on morpho-phonological alternations, phonetic detail and the organisation of complex words in the mental lexicon, and on phonetic reduction apparently reflecting the degree of morphological segmentability. He focussed on compound stress assignment, whose potential determinants are structure, semantics, analogy, length, and, in particular, informativity.

The invited talk *"Sharing language resources: standards and infrastructures"* presented by TOMAŽ ERJAVEC was in line with one of the main goals of the workshop, namely to improve infrastructural initiatives and to foster a more effective flow of information and data/software exchanges through NetWordS. Some of the most common infrastructures for sharing languager resources were presented (OLAC, META-SHARE, CLARIN) as well as metadata standards on which research infrastructrues crucially are dependant. Suggestions go in the direction of common efforts for making datasets available by giving dataset authors due credit.

## 3) Assessment of the results and impact of the event on the future direction of the field

The 2<sup>nd</sup> NetWordS workshop set itself the goals of monitoring the current state of infrastructural initiatives and joint interdisciplinary research efforts in Europe, fostering a more effective flow of information and data/software exchanges through NetWordS, and exploring possible ways forward in the context of current/future European research funding programmes.

Although the European scenario is particularly conducive to these goals, due to the robustly empirical character of its up-front research, recommendations of the workshop, together with suggestions in the final *Round Table* were in the direction of improving:

- links to infrastructural initiatives

- exploration of direct ways to share data, documentation and software

- investigation for European project funding

- joint educational programmes and virtual laboratories

- large-scale research efforts and concrete preparatory efforts towards their pursuit

It was agreed that the prospective initiatives to be launched, such as the call for grants both for short visits and inter-disciplinary bilateral preparatory projects, the forthcoming yearly workshop and other related events, will play a significant role in strengthening this trend and fostering coperation activieties within the network.

This effort is intended to pave the way to European project proposals, to be submitted in the years 2013-14, focussing on objectives of common interest such as investigating the importance of early input in the process of L2 acquisition by first-generation immigrants, and an interdisciplinary inquiry into the lexical primitives of motion verbs.

## 4) PROGRAMME

## Monday, 3 December 2012

| | |
|---|---|
| 15.20 | ***Welcome by convenors*** |
| 15.30 | Martin Schäfer (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena) |
| | *"Complex words and semantic transparency"* |
| 16.00 | Manuel Perez (Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail) |
| | *"Modeling spelling learning: Dictation vs. copy tasks"* |
| 16.30 | Jacques Durand |
| | *"The word in French: its nature, function and phonological status"* |
| 17.15-17.30 | ***coffee break*** |
| 17.30 | Gábor  Proszeky |
| | *"A Computational Morphological System for Agglutinative Languages: connections with Psycholinguistics"* |
| 18.15 | Valeria Bandecchi (University College Dublin) |
| | *"Manner of Motion as Embodied concept: Evidence in Italian and English"* |
| 18.45 | *End of Monday Session* |
| 20,30 | ***Social Dinner*** |

## Tuesday, 4 December 2012

| | |
|---|---|
| 9.00 | Géraldine Walther (Univ. Paris Diderot, Sorbonne Paris) <br> "Towards a formal model for Canonical Typology" |
| 9.30 | Philip Carr (Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier) <br> *"Language, urban life, work and identity in Manchester"* |
| 10.00 | Wolfgang Dressler <br> *"On sociomorphology in bilingual acquisition: On a project for a project"* |
| 10.45-11.00 | ***coffee break*** |
| 11.00 | Ingo Plag <br> *"Phonological and phonetic variability in complex words: compound stress and beyond"* |
| 11.45-12.30 | Tomaž  Erjavec <br> *"Sharing language resources: standards and infrastructures"* |
| 12:30-13:30 | **Round Table** <br> "*Prospects of Synergy*" |
| 13.30 | **End of Workshop** |

*              *              *

| | |
|---|---|
| 15.00 | **3rd NetWordS Steering Committee Meeting** |