



Research Networking Programmes

Short Visit Grant or Exchange Visit Grant

(please tick the relevant box)

Scientific Report

The scientific report (WORD or PDF file – maximum of eight A4 pages) should be submitted online within one month of the event. It will be published on the ESF website.

Proposal Title: Recontextualizing sensory perceptions into knowledge through language

Application Reference N°: 6495

1) Purpose of the visit

The main purpose of my research stay at the Centre for Languages and Literature at Lund University was to collaborate with Dr Carita Paradis –a renowned specialist in lexical semantics– in order to elaborate and further develop a coding schema to adequately identify, tag and interpret the metaphorical data encoding sensory data (e.g. metaphorical and/or synesthetic language used to describe what wines or spaces ‘feel’ like). The ultimate goal was to develop a lexico-semantic model of the language of the senses applicable to those domains where this language is used.

2) Description of the work carried out during the visit

During my visit, I met regularly with Dr Paradis and discussed a lexico-semantic model susceptible to be applied for research into the language of the senses –as part of what may be referred to as sensory linguistics within the broader cognitive paradigm. The key notion here is embodiment and the interrelationship between sensory perception, cognition and language (Paradis 2015). This model is not only applicable to those domains characterized by their sensory concerns (e.g. wine or architecture), but also to more general contexts where sensory data are also verbalized, albeit in more subtle ways. In this regard, I also refined a semantic and pragmatic approach to the verbs used to report and introduce verbal interaction, i.e. *verba dicenda* proper as well as verbs not belonging to the communicative domain and mostly concerned with the gestural and paralinguistic aspects of communicative interaction such as grin, scowl, beam, flare, chip in, or squeeze out (to name but a few of the verbal patterns thus concerned). Not only do

such verbs provide interesting data to expand the sensory-cognitive approach motivating my research stay in Lund into more general contexts of use, but they also illustrate the general phenomenon of iconicity in language –a phenomenon that also requires an interdisciplinary approach and the future collaboration of discourse analysts (myself) and lexical semantics specialists (Dr Paradis). For instance, verbs such as *swagger* in English or *irrumpir* in Spanish can be used to express both motion and communication events and, at the same time, convey attitudinal traits of the people thus predicated (in the case of these two verbs, insolently and forcefully respectively). Such instances (as well as those dealing with face gestures such as *pout*, *scowl*, and the like) may be seen as sensory in the broad sense of the term, yet remain underexplored in cognitive linguistics regardless of the emphasis placed on the notion of embodiment within this paradigm.

Finally, during my stay I was given the opportunity to discuss this new line of research. Thus, I gave a two-hour research seminar with the title “Verbs of communication in English and Spanish: A contrastive study across narrative genres”. The seminar was attended by faculty members, doctoral students and Master students and provided interesting discussion and feedback for future research on the topic.

3) Description of the main results obtained

As pointed out above, I refined a semantic and pragmatic approach to the verbs used to report and introduce verbal interaction, i.e. *verba dicenda* proper as well as verbs not belonging to the communicative domain and mostly concerned with the gestural and paralinguistic aspects of communicative interaction such as *grin*, *scowl*, *beam*, *flare*, *chip in*, or *squeeze out* (to name but a few of the verbal patterns thus concerned). In order to refine a model of analysis and database design, I met Dr Paradis and some of her colleagues and doctoral students doing similar discourse research in order to discuss some computer programs and quantitative techniques. I learned about the following: (a) corpus tools for text annotation: UAM Corpus Tool (<http://www.wagsoft.com/CorpusTool/>) and Content Annotation Tool CAT (<https://dh.fbk.eu/resources/cat-content-annotation-tool>), both supporting multi-layer annotation and allowing for annotating several linguistic/semantic levels in texts; (b) the parallel concordance program AntPConc (<http://www.antlab.sci.waseda.ac.jp/software.html>); and (c) the source code editor Notepad (<http://notepad-plus-plus.org/>).

4) Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

As a result of the close collaboration and frequent discussion with Dr Paradis we have established a collaborative agenda for the future, which includes an application for funding for a project of sensory perceptions as well as co-authored publications on the semantic properties and pragmatic use of some of the verbs used to report verbal interaction across languages and genres.

5) Projected publications / articles resulting or to result from the grant (ESF must be acknowledged in publications resulting from the grantee’s work in relation with the grant)

During my stay, Dr Paradis and I finished a project that we started already in 2012 when we organized a theme session at the SLE conference at Stockholm University on Sensory Perceptions. At that conference, we decided to edit a special issue on the topic

for the international journal *Functions of Language*. We launched a call for the special issue in 2012 and during my stay in Lund we finalized our work, which will be published in the first issue of *Functions of Language* 2015. Dr Paradis and I contribute with a joint article in the special issue with the title “Making sense of sensory perceptions across languages and cultures” in which we review and critique previous and current research and suggest avenues for future research. The other contributors are Alena Anishchanka, Dirk Speelman & Dirk Geerearts (Lueven, Belgium), Dagmar Divjak (Sheffield, UK), Francesca Strik Lievers (Milan, Italy) and Åke Viberg (Uppsala, Sweden). As pointed out above, we are also in the process of planning to write some articles on verbs of communication –particularly, those concerned with paralinguistic information (e.g. deictic, gestural or bodily movements of the participants in the reported interaction).

6) Other comments (if any)

I want to thank ESF for funding a research stay which has been very satisfactory and fruitful –both for my research on specialized discourses as well as for the current and future collaborative work with scholars from the host institution. The research environment in Lund is enviable, being able to discuss my research there with scholars from other disciplines within Linguistics has proved illuminating as well as highly enriching.