

Prof. Dr. Barbara Höhle, University of Potsdam, Germany

## Scientific Report for Short Visit Grant application 3838

### **Purpose of the visit:**

Preparation of common crosslinguistics experiments on the acquisition of focus with 3- and 5-year old French, German and English learning children

### **Description of the work carried out during the visit:**

Discussion of the relevant literature on the acquisition of focus and of the language specific aspects of French, English and German

Discussion of different methodologies suitable for testing production and comprehension of focus in young children

Work on experimental design and materials for a common study

### **Description of the main results obtained:**

Decision on the methodology to be used (picture verification task plus eye tracking in the visual world paradigm) and the experimental design was made

Decisions on concrete aspects of the experimental material to be used were made (choosing sentence types, choosing characters and objects to be used in sentences and pictorial material)

Decisions on time frame for the data collection

### **Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)**

Experimental materials for the planned study (visual stimuli) will be further prepared by University Paris Descartes and shared with UCL and University Potsdam. A pilot study on all three sites will be run in fall. A further meeting after the pilotings in France, Germany and England will be useful to discuss the results and their implications for the main experiments. Further discussion will be needed to finalize the preparations for an eye-tracking study.

### **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).**

A joint journal article on the experimental outcomes is planned by the three participants: Dr Judit Gervain (CNRS, Paris Descartes), Dr Kriszta Szendroi and myself.

Other comments (if any)

*Barbara Höhle*