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To: EURO-XPRAG Steering Committee (or sub-group for RNP Short Visit Grants)

Subject: Report – RNP Short Visit Grant 5344 (K.K. Grohmann & M. Kambanaros)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please find enclosed our report for the RNP Short Visit Grant #5344 for the project “The cognitive foundations of pragmatic development” within the ESF Research Networking Programme *Experimental Pragmatics in Europe (EURO-XPRAG)*.

We would like to use this opportunity and thank the committee for making this visit possible, which was beneficial to all participants involved, the traveling Dr Maria Kambanaros and myself as well as the hosting Dr Napoleon Katsos (and Mr Kyriacos Antoniou through Skype).

Sincerely,

Dr. Kleanthes K. Grohmann
Associate Professor of Biolinguistics (UCY)
Director of the Cyprus Acquisition Team (CAT)

1. Purpose of the visit

This RNP Short Visit is part of the EURO-XPRAG project 'The cognitive foundations of pragmatic development'. The purpose of the visit is for the four researchers to get together and discuss the data gathered in person. Mr Kyriacos Antoniou has already been to Cyprus to collect data on executive control from bilingual children, which we facilitated and which his supervisor, Dr Napoleon Katsos, discussed with him.

We now have data for two groups of children from primary schools in Cyprus, aged 6 to 8 years: 25 bilingual Cypriot Greek–English children and 25 age-matched monolingual Cypriot Greek-speaking children as controls. All participating children were matched for socio-economic background. The experimental methodology involved (i) an extensive conversational test, (ii) an extensive battery of executive control tasks, (iii) two measures of verbal ability and one measure of general intelligence, and (iv) one Theory of Mind task.

However, we are now at a new crossroads in our research. First, our involvement in COST Action IS0804, in particular in WG4: Executive Functions, brought to light several issues we should discuss within the project, particularly concerning bilingual populations. Second, our own research on (first/simultaneous) language acquisition and development in bilingual and especially bilectal children (i.e. Greek Cypriots who grow up with the Cypriot Greek dialect and Standard Greek language) brought to light some issues pertinent to the final analysis of the data collected.

2. Description of the work carried out during the visit

We focused on the collected data for word-finding vocabulary tests for the two groups (the 25 bilingual and the 25 age-matched monolingual children). We then compared the lexical findings with the findings from the executive function tasks, in particular the Simon task which focuses on inhibition.

3. Description of the main results obtained

The bilingual children show a positive effect of inhibition. This adds to the evidence of cognitive flexibility findings in bi- and multilingual speakers due to the fact that they have to routinely inhibit subsets of lexicons.

4. Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

The research carried out for the EURO-XPRAG project 'The cognitive foundations of pragmatic development' has been very fruitful. The doctoral student, Mr Antoniou, traveled to Cyprus several times for data collection and meetings with the local project participants, Drs Grohmann and Kambanaros. This will be continued until he finishes his PhD studies and ideally beyond through joint research grant applications.

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)

We were able to make minor modifications to the poster presentation at the 36th *Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 36)*, which took place during the weekend of our visit. The ESF is duly mentioned through the EURO-XPRAG project. This conference has proceedings in which our paper will be published. We're currently preparing the full version to submit in spring 2013.

In addition, we will start writing up a bigger paper dedicated to the findings outlined above, targeting the journal *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* for submission.

6. Other comments (if any)

Our travel dates were 31 October to 6 November 2012, although our return flight was on 7 November, as we went to Glasgow for an invited event after the Short Visit (not claimed in the travel budget for this grant). This is why the UK airports of our flights differ (into Birmingham and out of Glasgow).