**Distributed Language and Applied Linguistics:**

**Interactivity, Enskillment, and the Harnessing of Temporality**

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The past 10-15 years has witnessed the emergence of a “Distributed Language Perspective” (DLP) (Cowley, 2011; Steffensen, 2015). Drawing on integrational (Harris, 1981), dialogical (Linell, 2009), ecological (Gibson, 1979), and radical embodied (Chemero, 2011) tenets, DLP pursues a symbiotic view on language as both *dynamical* and *symbolic* (Rączaszek-Leonardi, 2011; Rączaszek-Leonardi & Scott Kelso, 2008). On that view, language has to be seen “as fully integrated with human existence” (Cowley, 2011), which implies a non-representational view on language (Kravchenko, 2007), as well as a perspective that does not reduce the research interest to language-in-communication (Steffensen & Harvey, 2018)

In this lecture, I will illustrate how one can study the situated interplay between human agents and their environment. Starting from the key concept of *interactivity* (Harvey, Gahrn-Andersen, & Steffensen, 2016; Pedersen, 2015; Steffensen, 2013, 2016; Steffensen, Vallée-Tourangeau, & Vallée-Tourangeau, 2016), I illustrate a distributed perspective on language by focusing on examples from intercultural communication, cognitive problem-solving, and psychotherapy.

My focus is on how linguistic patterns are integrated in the situated and ecological behaviour of human agents. I illustrate how particular ecological outcomes are achieved through the harnessing of temporality: human agents constrain their here-and-now agency by exploiting stabilised, supra-individual patterns on longer timescales (including linguistic symbols and other sociocultural resources). On such a view, human action and agency are multi-scalar and multi-causal.

At the end of the lecture, I discuss the implications of a distributed perspective for applied linguistics. In the light of my three examples, I discuss the feasibility of a distributed perspective on applied linguistics, picking up on the cultural, cognitive, and transformational aspects of language learning. As a non-expert in language learning, I will discuss these topics in an exploratory and tentative way, inviting for further dialogue.

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