

Workshop on Proto-Indo-European Syntax and its Development

Keynote speakers:

Georgios Giannakis (University of Thessaloniki)

Giuseppe Longobardi (University of Trieste)

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April 1-3, 2011: PIE Syntax and its development

Call for papers

The last decades are marked with an increasing interest towards the study of archaic syntax of Indo-European languages and, eventually, towards reconstruction of the main features of the Proto-Indo-European syntax. Suffice it to mention, among many others (in chronological order) Lehmann 1974, Kortlandt 1983, Hettrich 1990, Giannakis 1997, Bauer 2000, Boley 2004, Barðdal & Smitherman 2009, Barðdal & Eythórsson 2010, Barðdal 2011, adding much to our knowledge based on such seminal works on the ancient Indo-European syntax as Delbrück 1893-97 or Hirt 1934-37. Although for some scholars the very opportunity of a syntactic reconstruction remains questionable, numerous studies have appeared which reconstruct a variety of basic elements of the Proto-Indo-European syntax, on the basis of evidence available from, above all, ancient and/or archaic Indo-European languages. Such aspects of the proto-language as ergative/active type of alignment, basic word order, subject and object marking and some others have given rise to vivid discussions both between Indo-Europeanists and typologists. Furthermore, the possibility of an efficient lexically blind system of syntactic comparison, precisely the parametric comparison method was first suggested in Longobardi (2003), Guardiano & Longobardi (2005).

The idea of the conference is to bring together scholars interested in these and related problems and to open new perspectives in the research of the ancient Indo-European syntax. Special attention will be paid to the development of the hypothetical reconstructed features within the documented history of Indo-European languages. The issues to be addressed include:

- modern approaches to the analysis of the archaic Indo-European syntax and syntactic reconstruction;
- Proto-Indo-European syntactic reconstruction and its contribution to linguistic theory;
- is a syntactic reconstruction possible? which syntactic features can be reconstructed?
- reconstruction of the alignment type (ergative/active etc.) and its morphological manifestations (cases, verbal morphology);
- transitivity, voice, middle, stative and related categories in early/late Proto-Indo-European and ancient Indo-European languages;

- can we reconstruct the labile syntactic type for Proto-Indo-European and what are the main types of the evolution of lability attested for Indo-European languages?
- reconstruction of PIE moods and their evolution in PIE languages;
- IE and PIE tense, aspect and aktionsart (actionalities);
- word order and its evolution in PIE and IE;
- canonical and non-canonical subject and object marking in PIE and its development in IE languages;
- relative clauses and other types of subordinate clauses in PIE and their evolution;
- syntax of non-finite forms (infinitives, converbs, etc.).

The workshop will be part of the 20th International Symposium on Theoretical & Applied Linguistics organized by the Department of Theoretical & Applied Linguistics of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, to be held April 1-3, 2011 in Thessaloniki, Greece. Please send us (nlavidas@enl.auth.gr; L.Kulikov@hum.LeidenUniv.nl) the one-page abstract of your paper no later than December 15, 2010. Please visit <http://www.enl.auth.gr/ISTAL20>, where you will also find practical information.

Nikolaos Lavidas
Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki
nlavidas@enl.auth.gr

Leonid Kulikov
Leiden University / Institute of Linguistics,
Moscow
L.Kulikov@hum.LeidenUniv.nl

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