

First Announcement

UNIVERSALITY AND PARTICULARITY IN PARTS-OF-SPEECH SYSTEMS

Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication

University of Amsterdam

June 8-10, 2006

Content

The problem of the classification of classes of words and the systems in which they occur is a central one in linguistics. Word class distinctions often constitute the point of departure for much theoretical as well as descriptive work without, at times, being understood sufficiently in terms of their universal validity. In terms of the language system, word class distinctions have been claimed to correlate with distinct phonological patterns, morphological operations, syntactic distribution, semantic classes, and communicative functions. Given these many ramifications within the language system, it is not surprising that natural languages differ from each other typologically with respect to how word class distinctions manifest themselves in their lexicon and syntax. Moreover, word class distinctions may be expected to play a central role in acquisition and loss, in diachronic change and in language contact. And finally, they may be expected to be an important cue in language processing.

In view of the above, the conference programme covers the widest possible range of perspectives on parts of speech and parts-of-speech systems, including:

- Parts of speech in language typology, including sign language typology
- Parts of speech from various theoretical perspectives
- Parts of speech in acquisition and loss
- Parts of speech in language processing
- Parts of speech in processes of grammaticalization
- Parts of speech in language contact

The aim of the conference is to bring together specialists from all these various areas in order to enhance the exchange of research results across the traditional boundaries between the linguistic subdisciplines.

Invited speakers

The following colleagues have confirmed their participation as a keynote speaker

Mark Baker, McGill University

Nicholas Evans, University of Melbourne

Christian Lehmann, University of Erfurt

Programme Committee

The programme committee consists of Umberto Ansaldo, Jan Don, Kees Hengeveld (chair), Michiel van Lambalgen, and Roland Pfau.

The Conference Programme

The programme will mainly consist of plenary lectures, in order to meet the aim of enhancing the exchange of research results. A rigorous and anonymous selection procedure will be applied. A long poster session organized thematically will compensate for the small number of slots available for lectures.

Abstracts

Abstracts are invited for 30-minute talks (plus 15 minutes for discussion) as well as for poster presentations.

Given the role the quality of the abstract plays in the selection procedure, it should contain at least the following items: a clearly defined and well-motivated research question; the crucial examples illustrating the relevance of the research question; and the main conclusions the paper arrives at. Abstracts should have a length of a maximum of 1000 words including data and references, and should not contain the name of the author. References to the literature cited should be given. References containing the name of the author may also be given but will be suppressed before the abstract is sent to the programme committee. Please indicate in the accompanying message whether you want to present a paper or a poster. Submissions are limited to one singly authored and one jointly authored abstract per author or two jointly authored abstracts.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to the secretary of the programme committee, Gerdien Kerssies, at pos-fgw@uva.nl. This email-address will be operative from July 15, 2005, onwards. Please insert the phrase "pos-abstract" in the subject line.

Please submit abstracts as an attachment to an e-mail message (do not include abstracts in the body of a message). The body of the message should include the information listed in 1-4 below. PDF or Word versions are strongly preferred. If a non-PDF format is used, we discourage the use of nonstandard fonts, since we may not be able to decipher them.

1. Name(s) of presenter(s)
2. Affiliation(s) of presenter(s)
3. Postal address, telephone number, and e-mail address
4. Title of the paper

Non-electronic submissions, with a separate sheet for the information in 1-4 above, should be mailed to the following address:

PoS Abstract Committee
c/o Gerdien Kerssies
Department of Linguistics
University of Amsterdam
Spuistraat 210
1012 VT AMsterdam
The Netherlands

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **December 1, 2005**. Notification of acceptance will be sent out February 1, 2006, at the latest.

Conference Fee

The regular conference fee is EUR 80. Students and unemployed colleagues pay EUR 40. The fee covers participation in the conference, conference materials, and a conference dinner on Saturday.

Registration

The second circular will contain details about how to register for the conference. Website. The conference website is currently under construction. We expect it to be accessible by the time we send you the second circular. The website address is: home.hum.uva.nl/pos

How you can reach us:

The email address for all matters related to the conference programme is pos-fgw@uva.nl