

TYPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO DISCOURSE PHENOMENA

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This workshop aims at investigating discourse phenomena in cross-linguistic perspective, adopting the methods and instruments of typology. Our purpose is to create a forum in order to discuss the theoretical relevance of discourse phenomena for typology and how to investigate these structures in cross-linguistic perspective.

With the term ‘discourse phenomena’, we mean linguistic elements and constructions that typically occur in oral speech and help to manage the organization, flow and outcome of communication. These phenomena range from connectives and information managing structures (e.g. topic shift strategies) to interjections and discourse markers (e.g. reformulation).

It is a well-established idea in functional-typological approaches that grammar is shaped by ‘discourse use’ (cf. Givón 1979, Du Bois 1985, Bybee & Beckner 2010, Diessel 2019 among others). This means that phenomena that typically occur in oral speech should be of great interest for typologists. Yet, systematic typological cross-linguistic investigations on discourse phenomena are relatively rare (e.g. Brown & Levinson 1987, Ameka 1992, Lambrecht 1994, Dingemans 2012).

The rarity of typological studies on these issues goes hand in hand with a scarcity of detailed accounts in descriptive grammars, in a circular loop that provides a critical challenge for the cross-linguistic investigation of this kind of phenomena. This empirical problem results in the need for mixed methodologies, providing evidence coming from different types of data, such as corpora, grammars, and behavioral experiments.

We are interested in contributions presenting *i*) cross-linguistic analyses, synchronically and diachronically oriented, on one or more discourse phenomena, and *ii*) methodological proposals on how to collect, examine and compare cross-linguistic data on discourse phenomena. Language-specific investigations will be taken into consideration only to the extent that they raise issues that are relevant for the broad typological picture.

Possible phenomena and topics to be investigated include:

- Discourse connectives
- Discourse markers
- Ideophones and interjections
- Prosody
- Repetitive patterns
- List constructions
- General extenders
- Intentional vagueness and non-exhaustivity
- Information structure management (e.g. topic shift)
- ...

Call for papers:

We invite short abstracts of 300 words. Abstracts should be in an editable format (.doc/.docx). Abstracts should be sent to the two workshop organizers:

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The deadline for the submission of the short abstract is November 8, 2019.

Note that if your abstract has been included in the workshop and the workshop has been accepted,

you will also have to prepare a full abstract and submit it to be reviewed by the SLE scientific committee. The deadline for the submission of full abstracts is January 15, 2020.

References

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- Brown, P. & S. Levinson. 1987. *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Use*. Cambridge: CUP
- Diessel, H. 2019. *The Grammar Network. How linguistic structure is shaped by language use*. Cambridge: CUP
- Dingemanse, M. 2012. Advances in the cross-linguistic study of ideophones. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 6, 654-672
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