CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - DOCTORAL CONTRACT

PhD in Language Sciences

Areal typology of non-indicative modal categories

General Information
Place of Work: Lyon 7
Publication Date: 18/06/2024
Scientific Supervisor: Nina Dobrushina
Type of Contract: Doctoral Contract
Contract Duration: 36 months
Thesis Start Date: October 1st 2024
Work Quota: Full time
Salary: €2,100 monthly
Affiliated Laboratory: Laboratory of Language Dynamics (UMR 5596 University Lumière Lyon 2 & CNRS)
Affiliated Doctoral School: Letters, Languages, Linguistics & Arts ("3LA" - ED 484)

Thesis Subject Description - Areal typology of non-indicative categories

The PhD dissertation will be written within a project supervised by Nina Dobrushina studying the areal diffusion of optatives (the expressions of the speaker's wish by means of dedicated morphology and constructions) in the languages of the Caucasus. The project aims at describing typical means of expressing the speaker's wish cross-linguistically, with special attention to the area of the Caucasus. The contact-induced phenomena and areal distribution of the expression of optative meaning are studied in comparison with the diffusion of particular wish formulas.

Although the term and the notion of optative are very common, there is not a lot of typological research devoted to this category. Book-length studies include the volume by Patrick Grosz written from the position of formal semantics (Grosz 2012) and based on data from languages which have no inflectional optative, such as English; the study of French optative constructions (Kordi 2009, in Russian); and an issue of the journal Syntaxe & Sémantique devoted to optatives in the languages of the world (Dobrushina & Ruchot 2022).

Depending on the personal expertise of the candidate, the PhD research can be developed along different research axes. The candidate could focus on the languages of the Caucasus, studying the areal distribution of one of the non-indicative categories in a large set of languages; this research project would require a good knowledge of Russian. The candidate could as well choose another area to study the expressions of wish of the speaker (Tibet seems particularly interesting in this respect). Finally, the PhD research could take a typological approach and study the patterns of expressing the speaker's wish cross-linguistically, using grammars and parallel corpora.

Work context

The PhD student will be recruited by Université Lumière Lyon 2 for a period of 36 months. The successful candidate will be enrolled in the Doctoral School 3LA (Lettres, Langues, Linguistique & Arts) at the Université Lumière Lyon 2 and will be affiliated with the Dynamique du Langage research laboratory (UMR 5596) as a member of the DiLiS (Diversité Linguistique et ses Sources) research axis. They will be based in the Lyon region, with a workplace at the DDL laboratory (14, avenue Berthelot, 69363 Lyon CEDEX 07).

The laboratory is in Lyon's 7th arrondissement (near Gare Lyon Perrache/Gare Jean Macé/Métro A, Métro B/Tram T1, T2). Numerous restaurants and the CROUS are within easy reach of the laboratory.

The PhD student will work with Nina Dobrushina within the research unit "Dynamique du Language" in Lyon has a strong tradition of working with undescribed languages and conducting typological research. This PhD project will thus fit squarely in the research undertaken by the team 'Linguistic Diversity and its Sources' in the research unit, and the PhD student will be able to benefit from a highly stimulating work environment and strong intellectual support. A good knowledge of general linguistics is required. An excellent level of spoken and written English is needed; knowledge of French is welcome. A working knowledge of Russian is imperative if the PhD student intends to work on the languages of the Caucasus.

Conditions

- First-time enrollment in a PhD program in the 2023/2024 academic year ;
- Must not be enrolled in a doctoral program at another French or foreign higher education institution (except in the case of a cotutelle agreement) ;
- Must hold a Master's degree or an equivalent qualification in Language Sciences.

Modalités de candidature

- CV
- Motivation letter (maximum 2 pages) briefly explaining the candidate's background and its relevance to the position, the proposed analytical framework, and the methodology intended to address the research question.
- Master's thesis
- Applications should be sent to nina.dobrushina@cnrs.fr before 08/07/2024 midnight.

Timeline

18/06/2024: Publication of the call for applications.

08/07/2024: Application submission deadline.

July 2024: Eligibility review.

15/07/2024: Online interviews

Members of the selection committee

- Dr Nina Dobrushina – DR CNRS – Laboratory DDL
- Dr Brigitte Pakendorf – DR CNRS – Laboratory DDL
- Dr Jim Walker – PR Université Lumière Lyon 2 – Laboratory CERLA