

CALL FOR PAPERS

Workshop on pluractionality: towards a typology of verbal plurality

Invited speaker: Sigrid Beck (Universität Tübingen)

In the descriptive literature the phenomenon of pluractionality has a long history even if not necessarily under this label. Quite recently, there has also been an increase of interest in the phenomenon in the formal semantic literature, especially since Lasersohn (1995). Researchers have been looking not only at traditionally pluractional languages such as many Amerindian or African languages, but also at languages such as Germanic or Romance where certain phenomena and constructions – often traditionally analyzed as aspectual – have been analyzed as involving pluractional operators (see for instance Van Geenhoven 2005). This raises the question of what the limits of pluractionality are – what should be included and what is outside the domain of the phenomenon. For that purpose, cooperation of descriptive and formal linguists is crucial as the theoretical predictions of various approaches need to be compared with the empirical findings in many different languages.

In this workshop we would like to bring together researchers working on pluractionality both in traditional pluractional languages and on similar phenomena in languages that do not have morphological marking of event plurality. The goal of this workshop is to increase the understanding of various aspects of pluractionality. We are interested in talks discussing the relation between the following formally different ways of encoding event plurality: morphological pluractionality and event plurality marked by other means (e.g. by the use of specific constructions). This kind of investigation necessarily leads to the relation between pluractionality and aspect, as the so called pluractional constructions in “non-pluractional” languages generally manifest only the temporal “flavor” of pluractionality (roughly corresponding to the so called event number from Corbett 2000). It is clear that pluractionality and aspect or aktionsart are closely related categories. However, the exact nature of the connection remains elusive. In connection to that it is important to look at issues such as the relation between temporal pluractionality (or, event number, potentially identical to certain “aspects”) and participant-based pluractionality (or, participant number). Participant-based pluractionality is not really comparable to aspect, although many languages do use a single marker for both temporal and participant-based plurality. Apart from these inter-related issues, the workshop is open to other contributions that will throw new light on pluractionality, e.g., the specialization in meaning in the case of multiple pluractional markers in a language, comparison of plurality in the nominal and verbal domains, or interaction of pluractional morphology with other kinds of verbal morphology.

Date:

26 August 2010, following on the 40th Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics (CALL)

Venue:

Leiden University Centre for Linguistics

Abstracts:

Anonymous 1 page abstracts must be submitted prior to 1 June 2010 by email to CALL@hum.leidenuniv.nl; make sure you write your name, email address and affiliation in the mail and mention ‘Workshop on pluractionality’ in the Subject line

Notification of acceptance:

15 June 2010