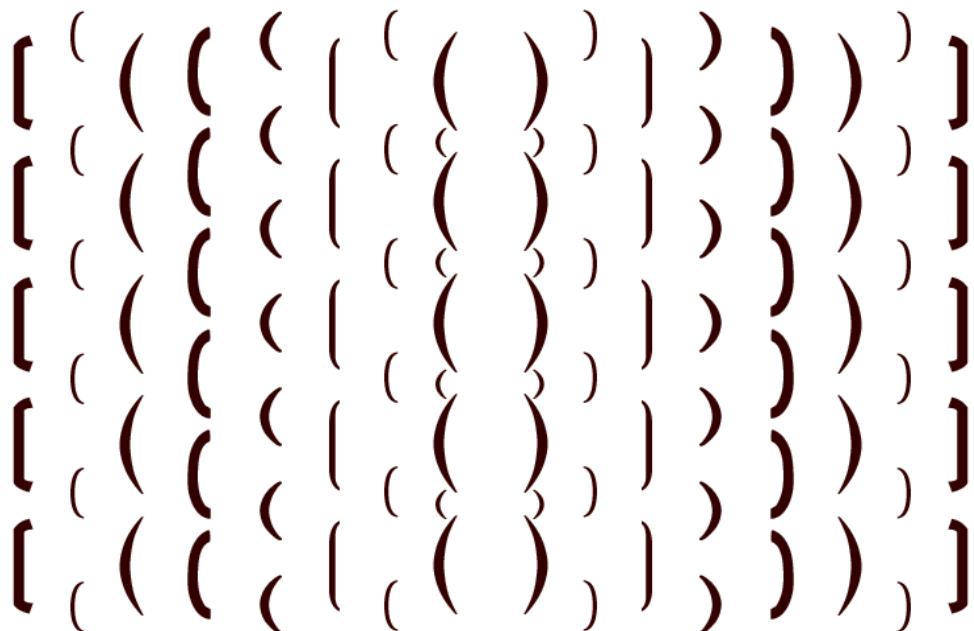


“Parenthetical Verbs”: Hypotaxis, Parataxis or Parenthesis?



Université Paris Ouest Nanterre – La Défense
24-26 May 2012

International Workshop



<http://sites.google.com/site/parenthetiques2012/>
parenthetiques12@gmail.com

Call for papers

The concept of 'parenthetical verb' was introduced by Urmson (1952) to characterize a group of verbs that occur either in initial position, with or without complementizer (*cf.* examples 1 and 2), or in intermediate position, interrupting an utterance as it is being produced (*cf.* examples 3 and 4), or in final position, being attached to an utterance (*cf.* examples 5 and 6):

- (1) *je crois que c'est passé au four* [pfc]
- (2) *je pense Ø les enfants sont encore aujourd'hui malheureux* [unine]
- (3) *je parle je pense assez bien* [pfc]
- (4) *nous avons attendu je crois sept ou huit heures dans la gare* [pfc]
- (5) *ça doit être un négociant je pense* [crfp]
- (6) *elle est trop chère cette école je trouve* [crfp]

Parenthetical verbs have recently seen a surge in interest, as shown by a number of new publications, on Germanic languages (Dehé & Kavalova 2007; Brinton 2008; Van Bogaert 2009; Newmeyer 2010) as well as on Romance languages (Blanche-Benveniste & Willems 2007; Schneider 2007; Avanzi & Glikman, to appear). Such an abundance of publications suggests that the time is ripe to propose an international workshop dedicated to the study of this phenomenon, in order to compare existing approaches and perspectives and to establish the current state of knowledge of the discourse functions of these verbs. Although there is in principle no limit regarding the aspects analyzed, we would prefer papers focusing on one of the following issues:

- From a pragmatic perspective it seems necessary to review the functions assigned to parenthetical verbs. According to Urmson (1952), their role is to mitigate the propositional content of the utterance to which they are attached. Since the time this statement was made, several authors have shown that the discourse functions of parenthetical verbs are more multifaceted. Various taxonomies have been proposed, but these are still far from complete.
- From a syntactic perspective, the workshop aims at discussing the nature of the relationship between the parenthetical verb and its host construction. Are we dealing with syntactic government, with non-government or with an intermediate form of relationship or dependency? Which empirical tests can help us to decide in favour of one of these options?
- Researchers interested in the prosodic aspects of the phenomenon are invited to examine whether parentheticals are prosodically attached to their respective host constructions. Do they constitute a separate intonation unit embedded in a larger unit or are they integrated into the host in a different – and possibly more complex – way?
- Very few studies have focused on the diachronic development of these structures. It appears clear, however, that the diachronic perspective is necessary to achieve a full understanding of the synchronic phenomenon. What are the semantic origins of parenthetical verbs? When and how did they begin to be used as parentheticals? How did their meanings change during this process? Are these verbs developing into adverbials?
- Finally, we welcome presentations that consider the relationship between parenthetical verbs and items with similar pragmatic and/or syntactic properties, *e.g.* speech reporting verbs:
 - (7) *maintenant il a dit qu'il repartait pas sur Noirmoutier aujourd'hui* [pfc]

- (8) et la et la droite *dites-vous* n'a pas pu apporter une réponse satisfaisante aux aux données
il y a quelques années [crfp]
(9) un journaliste sur France-Info me disait vous allez souffrir une fois *il me disait* [radio]

perception verbs (often considered highly pragmaticalized):

- (10) *tu vois que* j'invente pas ce que je dis [pfc]
(11) *tu vois* y a des gens ils appellent de temps en temps [gre03]
(12) on comprend tout ce qu'elle veut dire *tu vois* [pfc]
(13) c'était *tu vois* jobs [pfc]

or adverbial expressions whose grammatical nature is still far from being completely clear:

- (14) *heureusement que* j'étais pas déguisée [cfpp]
(15) *certainement* il va passer en jugement [pfc]
(16) une plus grande capacité *probablement* d'adaptation [pfc]
(17) j'me balade donc vers Montparnasse *sûrement* [cfpp]

Studies with a typological approach comparing several languages are particularly welcome. Although the languages of the workshop are English and French, the description of the phenomena can obviously be based on any language.

Workshop languages

English and French

Participation

The proposals for papers (20 min. presentation + 10 min. discussion) should be submitted as anonymized abstracts with 6,000 characters, empty spaces included (max. two pages), including bibliographic references and diagrams and tables, if necessary. The proposals should be sent by E-mail as attached PDF-files to <parenthetiques12@gmail.com> no later than 15 July 2011. The body of the E-mail should contain the name, the affiliation of the author or authors and the title of the paper. The proposals will be examined by the Scientific Committee. Authors will be informed about the decision of the review process by 31 December 2011.

Publication

The Scientific Committee will select a certain number of papers for publication within a thematic issue of a linguistic review.

Important deadlines

15 July 2011 - Deadline for the submission of proposals

31 December 2011 - Information about the decisions of the review process

24-26 May 2012 - International workshop

Organizing committee

- Mathieu Avanzi (Neuchâtel/Paris Ouest)

- Julie Glikman (Lattice/Paris Ouest)
- Sophie de Pontonx (Modyco)
- Stefan Schneider (Graz)

Invited Speakers

- Nicole Dehé (Konstanz)
- Frederick Newmeyer (Washington)

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