

Conference

« Exclamation and intersubjectivity »

Université Nice-Sophia Antipolis
CNRS, UMR 7320 « Bases, Corpus, Langage »
Campus Saint-Jean d'Angély
Bâtiment de l'horloge
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Schedule

Call deadline: June 15 2015
Notification of acceptance : July 6 2015
Conference : December 3-4 2015

Call for papers

Exclamations are often characterised as linguistic reactions (even if minimal ones) to unexpected events or words (Martin 1987; Rett 2011). They are triggered by emotions such as surprise, fear or anger, which makes them a phenomenon of the so-called “expressive function of language” (Jakobson 1963-1973; Paulin 2007). They are often associated with specific properties in the areas of syntax (they are said to display incomplete structures or *wh*-clauses, i.e. ‘gap’-clauses), semantics (high degree is often involved), intonation, and even punctuation (no matter how ambivalent an exclamation mark can be) (see Milner 1978; Morel in Danon-Boileau et Morel 1995; d’Avis 2001; Zanuttini and Portner 2003; Rett 2011).

Still, such approaches focus on the speaker’s point of view, while too often leaving aside the role of the hearer/addressee. Even in interactional models, the interactive dimension is not tackled as such (Vanderveken 1990, Kerbrat 2001). This conference aims at questioning the idea that exclamations can be studied in isolation or that they are only speaker-oriented. On the contrary, they often appear in verbal interactions and dialogues. This raises the question as to whether there might exist conventional exclamation triggers, hence their ability to function as rejoinders to certain speech acts. Moreover, exclamations could be involved in interactions where a reaction is expected from the hearer (acceptance, confirmation, as in Chernilovskaya 2014, but also denial or mimicry of the speaker’s attitude by the hearer). Some linguists argue that exclamations have a “context change potential” based on their expressive force (Castroviejo Miró 2008, Chernilovskaya 2014). But to what extent can an exclamative utterance really influence the hearer’s position? Finally, the hearer’s point of view can contribute to the semantic/pragmatic debate regarding the nature of the factivity attributed to exclamations be it presupposition or conventional implicature (Zanuttini and Portner 2003; Beyssade 2009; Abels 2010, whose tests are mostly based on embedded clauses, as evidenced by Chernilovskaya 2014).

We welcome submission of any proposal that could clarify the intersubjective relations that exclamations imply, in any given language. Corpus analyses and studies of

non-canonical exclamation types (see for example Guillaume and Baumer 2014), among others, will help put forward unpublished results and new research paths.

Each presentation will last for 30 minutes at the most (followed by ten minutes of debate and discussion). Abstracts must not exceed two pages in A4 paper, including examples and references, with 2, 5 cm margins on all sides and 12 point font size. They should clearly present the theoretical framework, the data, as well as some preliminary results. They must be anonymous. Please send your proposal to exclamation.intersubjectivite@gmail.com before June 15th. Please note that the body of the message must mention name and affiliation.

The presentations selected for the conference will be considered for the special issue of a peer-reviewed journal.

References

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- Zanutini, Rafaella, and Portner, Paul. 2003. Exclamative clauses: At the syntax-semantics interface. *Language* 79:39-81.

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Registration fees

80 euros (free for students)

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