

Call for posters

On June 3 and 4, 2019 we organize a workshop as part of our project “Form-meaning units” (NWO 2014-2020). We invite junior researchers and students to present posters during the workshop.

Date: June 3-4, 2019

Place: Nijmegen, Radboud University Nijmegen

General information about the workshop

FMU project

In brief, the FMU project aims to resolve some long-standing issues in sign language research by developing a morphological approach to sub-sign meaning. These issues include the role of iconicity, the lexical sign versus classifier construction dilemma, and the relation between morphology and phonology in the lexicons of signed languages. Iconicity concerns the motivated relation between form and meaning, both at and below the level of the word. The lexical sign-classifier construction dilemma concerns the question why morphological complexity is argued for in classifier constructions, but not in lexical signs with the same form. The relation between morphology and phonology concerns (i) the question to what extent monosegmental lexical signs are morphologically complex, and (ii) the formal characteristics of sign language morphemes.

On the basis of large sets of lexical signs in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT), both existing and newly coined signs, an inventory of NGT sub-sign form-meaning units is being compiled. These sub-sign form-meaning units formally consist of phonetic features, phonological features, and feature clusters. It appears that large numbers of (iconically motivated) lexical NGT signs contain such units. With the support of innovating ideas from you and other researchers from several fields of linguistic study, in particular phonology, morphology, morphosyntax, lexicography, iconicity, and processing, this workshop aims to elucidate the impact of such an inventory on theory formation and on further research and applied linguistics.

Set-up of the workshop

Invited presentations

The workshop will be centered around five main questions (see below). These will be addressed in four half-day sessions. Participants are requested to select one or two questions and to briefly (max 15 minutes) present their work and/or new ideas related to these questions. Confirmed presenters include Ryan Lopic, Jenny Audring, Carol Padden, Donna Jo Napoli, Brigitte Garcia, Orit Fuks, Harry van der Hulst, Trevor Johnston, Karen Emmory, Eva Gutierrez-Sigut, Corrine Occhino, Victoria Nyst, and Wendy Sandler.

Poster presentations

We will select maximally 10 posters based on the submitted abstracts. Posters will remain up throughout the workshop, in and around the workshop room. There will be a small number of

participants (± 35), so there will be sufficient time to informally discuss the work presented on the posters, and there will not be separate poster sessions.

Discussion

Each session will be concluded with an hour's discussion focusing on the questions. The discussions will be formatted in a way facilitating and structuring active partaking of all participants.

Questions

1. Given that there are simultaneously expressed meaning elements in lexical signs, what is your view on these sub-sign form-meaning units? How do you deal with them in your (current) work?
2. How is sub-sign meaning in lexical signs accommodated in your preferred theory of word structure?
3. How does phonological and morphological structure in sign languages relate to that in spoken languages?
4. In what way does iconicity relate to morphology in sign (or spoken) language and what are the structural implications?
5. How do newly proposed terms such as phonomorpheme, ion-morph, and depicting sign relate to traditional linguistic terminology such as phoneme, morpheme, and lexeme?

Publication

We aim to publish proceedings of the workshop.

Practical issues

Workshop languages will be English, ASL, and NGT. Interpreting service will be provided. Participants who prefer to bring their own interpreters are requested to make their own arrangements and to let us know.

Coffee, tea, lunch, and snacks will be provided on both workshop days. All participants are invited to join the complimentary workshop dinner on Monday evening.

Call for posters

Junior researchers and students working on a subject related to one or more of the five questions are invited to submit an abstract, briefly indicating the research topic and how this topic relates to these question(s).

Abstracts should be in Word or PDF format and be no longer than 300 words, and be sent to i.zwitserslood@let.ru.nl.

Deadline for submission is March 15, 2019. Notification of acceptance is due April 1st, 2019.

Best wishes,

Inge Zwitserslood, Els van der Kooij, Onno Crasborn // Radboud University Nijmegen