



Letter from the President

In preparation of this year's conference, the 15th already, we faced several hurdles, including some unexpected ones. How did we overcome them? We managed thanks to the reality behind the word 'we'. 'We' stands for the members of our two rather large award committees, capably presided by Adam J.R. Tallman and František Kratochvíl, secretary Ljuba Veselinova (our chief operating officer) and treasurer Dmitry Idiatov (whose financial skills in co-managing the conference were crucial) and also the Singapore team, skilfully presided by Alec Coupe. I am most grateful for their time-consuming and difficult work. I also thank and congratulate all the linguists who submitted their dissertations for the two awards or their abstracts for presentation at our Singapore conference. Also, over the last few months a partially different 'we', i.e., the Executive Committee, discussed the structure of our organisation and prepared for a 16th conference. This work will continue during and following our upcoming conference.

Johan van der Auwera, President

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1 ALT 15, 2024

Alec Coupe presents the conference update below.

There were 213 abstracts submitted for ALT 15, of which 160 papers were accepted for oral and poster presentations after review. To date there are 140 registrations, with 113 participants attending in person. The final deadline for regular registration is 11 November at 12 midnight UTC+8. Please note that people registering for ALT15 will also need to pay the membership fee on the [ALT webpage](#) and send evidence of payment to ALT15 at soh-alt-conference@ntu.edu.sg.

Citizens of countries requiring a Singapore visa should email Felicia at felicia.tsenghj@ntu.edu.sg to request an official letter of invitation to support their visa application. Please send your full name as it appears in your passport and the full name of your institution (if you have an affiliation). Participants who would like to revise their originally submitted abstracts should email the revised document as an attachment to soh-alt-conference@ntu.edu.sg by 11 November at 12 midnight GMT+8. We expect to finalize the conference schedule and post it on the conference webpage by Friday 15 November.

The conference dinner will be held on the second evening of the conference, 5 December (Thursday), at the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club <https://rsyc.org.sg/restaurants/>. You are welcome to bring a plus-one, but please send an email to soh-alt-conference@ntu.edu.sg to let us know in advance.

A selection of hotel options to suit different budgets is listed on the conference webpage. Reservations are subject to demand, but recent enquiries with the hotels found that vacancies are still available. We will be arranging free two-way bus transport between the conference's designated hotels and the NTU campus on each of the conference days. After the conference dinner, free bus transport will also be provided back to the designated hotels. There is a reasonable number of restaurants close to the West Coast Hotels (Quay Hotel West Coast and Ibis Budget Singapore West Coast), and many more at the Jurong East malls near Genting Hotel for the other evenings. Morning and afternoon teas and lunch will be provided at the conference venue.

For poster presentations, we have made arrangements with a local vendor who will, for a fee, print and deliver your posters to us in time for the conference (delivery is free). This service is open to both presenters participating online as well as those joining us in Singapore who want to avoid the hassle of travelling with their poster. For further information, please reach out to soh-alt-conference@ntu.edu.sg.

Please check the ALT 15 conference webpage regularly for updates in the latter half of November.



2 ALT Awards

2.1 *The Greenberg Award*

The Chair of the Jury, **Adam J. R. Tallman**, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany, reports on the *Greenberg Award*

JURY MEMBERS: Shelece Easterday (University of Hawai‘i); Natalia Kuznetsova (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart); Uta Reinhol (University of Freiburg); Shahar Shirtz (Arizona State University); Damian Blasi (Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona); Phillipp Weisser (University of Leipzig); Herce Borja (University of Zurich); Tihomir Rangelov (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig).

There were 10 submissions to the *Greenberg Award 2024*. The **WINNER** is **ANNA SJÖBERG**, (Stockholm University, Sweden) for her Ph.D. dissertation *Knowledge predication: A semantic typology*.

APPRAISAL OF SJÖBERG’S WORK

Sjoberg’s thesis begins by pointing out the importance of knowledge and therefore knowledge predication across “times and cultures”, but that there are mismatches in what events are assigned to the verb ‘know’, and the way in which knowledge events are carved into distinct forms across languages. The goal of the thesis is to assess the general universality of knowledge predicates, to investigate how different knowledge-based meanings interact with one another, how these knowledge events relate to domain-external meanings and naturally how knowledge-based distinctions are expressed around the world.

The thesis constitutes an exemplary instance of semantic typology and constructional typology. It integrates insights from frame semantics, prototype theory, exemplar theory, cognitive linguistics generally and integrates cutting-edge methods in corpus-driven typology. The second chapter provides an insightful synthesis of different notions of knowledge from psychology, philosophy and linguistics literature, which usefully articulates the multidimensionality of knowledge concepts across disciplines. It pinpoints two important issues related to knowledge predication: the distinction between knowing and understanding and the state versus achievement-based meanings of ‘know’. This grounds the discussion in Chapter 3 which guides the reader through the relationship between the author’s coding methodology and concepts from cognitive semantics and constructions grammar. The thesis uses the New Testament as a parallel corpus for investigating knowledge predication and demonstrates a keen awareness of potential issues and shortcomings with reliance of this source, providing an important and detailed discussion of issues that arise when using a translated text.



Chapter 4 provides a highly explicit discussion of the sampling method (geographically clustered diversity sample). Chapter 5 discusses how the main question of relative autonomy of knowledge predication is operationalized. The author formulates the issue as a clustering method and uses validation techniques in order to justify the resulting clustering analysis. Chapter 6 provides a qualitative discussion of potential counterexamples to the claim that all languages have a KNOW verb. Chapters 7 and 8 leverages methods of multidimensional scaling to investigate diversity in the knowledge domain and Chapters 9 and 10 insightfully contextualizing the results with respect to a semantic analysis of the phenomena grounded in frame semantics and cognitive semantics generally. The final chapters wrap up the findings in terms of the concerns of contemporary typology.

To conclude the thesis provides a sophisticated synthesis of the literature on knowledge across a broad range of topics and advances computational and statistical methods in corpus driven typology. The range of topics discussed is impressive and the methods were convincingly robust and well thought out.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

MARIA BARDAJI I FARRE (University of Köln, Germany) for her dissertation *Nominalization in Totoli and other western Austronesian languages* 2022

Bardaji's thesis is concerned with the relationship between nominalizations and symmetrical voice constructions in Austronesian languages. Bardaji's thesis combines folk tales, explanatory texts, community events, musical events, stimuli tasks and elicitation to answer important theoretical questions. It represents an impressive integration of language documentation and linguistic typology. In addition to this, the committee felt that the thesis made novel contributions to documentary/descriptive methodology in relation to typology by probing the notion of at-issue content in these languages in a systematic way.

RÉMI ANSELME (Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage, CNRS, France) for his dissertation

La représentation du trill en typologie à l'inventaire phonémique 2023.

Anselme's thesis is an excellent example of phonological typology, integrating a wide variety of data sources to typologize over the trill with serious critical commentary on the current state of the art. Anselme incorporates an insightful discussion concerning the relationship between different levels of abstraction in the analysis of trills, combining data from typological databases with fine grained phonetic analyses, carefully showing how qualitative and quantitative data converge on similar results. The author discusses pressures that maintain or lead to the loss of trills typologically.



2.2 *The Pāṇini Award*

The Chair of the Jury, **František Kratochvíl**, Palacký University Olomouc, Czechia, reports on the *Pāṇini Award*

There were 11 submissions to the *Pāṇini Award 2024*. We have 11 submissions, 1 winner, 1 Highly commended grammar (to stick with the tradition), and 2 short-listed grammars.

Pāṇini Award Jury

The 2024 Jury consists of 11 members listed here by their areal expertise.

- African Languages
 - Mark Dingemans (Radboud University, the Netherlands)
 - Hannah Gibson (University of Essex, UK)
- Australian languages
 - Ruth Singer (The University of Melbourne, Australia)
- Eurasian languages
 - Guillaume Jacques (CNRS, France)
 - Lauren Gawne (La Trobe University, Australia)
 - Johanna Laakso (Vienna University, Austria)
 - Alexis Michaud (CNRS, France)
 - Linda Konnerth (University of Bern, Switzerland)
- Austronesian and Papuan
 - František Kratochvíl (Palacký University Olomouc, Czechia)
 - Harald Hammarström (Uppsala University, Sweden)
- South-American
 - Roberto Zariqueyi Biondi (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru)

PĀṆINI AWARD WINNER

The award-winning grammar on Eastern Geshiza, an endangered language spoken in China, by **SAMI HONKASALO** was found to be an impressive body of work with remarkably extensive coverage, covering all the “musts” of the contemporary grammar writing topics. The grammar is also characterised by clear argumentation and a careful treatment of the data, as well as valuable commitment to the community of Eastern Geshiza speakers. The jury deems it to be one of the best grammars of a language of China and is impressed that this could be achieved in the regular period of a PhD study.

HIGHLY COMMENDED GRAMMAR

High Commendation is given to the grammar on Kalamang, a Papuan language of Indonesia, by **ELINE VISSER** whose grammar is developed from an MA thesis into a dissertation and was in the meantime published by the Language Science



Press, constituting an extremely well developed piece of work. The coverage and range of topics is impressive, making good use of the modern typological tools and dissemination formats such as Dictionaria. The argumentation is clear, the corpus is extensive, and the author is candidly transparent about her spoken Kalamang language skills. The jury appreciates the author's dedication to tasks that may not lead to an immediate recognition but will be valuable in the years to come such as the large annotated corpus as well as the efforts to support the vitality of Kalamang.

SHORTLISTED GRAMMARS

The jury has decided to shortlist two grammars each for a different set of reasons but in each case for making a significant contribution to the current best practise of grammar writing.

The first is the grammar of Baga Pukur, an Atlantic language of Guinea, by **NEIGE ROCHANT**. It is a comprehensive and well written grammar offering elegant solutions for important methodological issues (packaging of information, reporting of the data, metadata, consultant vignettes, etc.).

The second is the grammar of Saek, a Tai-Kadai language of Laos and Thailand, by **MENG WEIJIAN**. The grammar is remarkable in its focus on interaction, spontaneous data, the practice of speaking, and in its treatment of discourse (pragmatic maxims, discourse particles, sentence final particles). The author makes an exemplary effort to integrate interactional data which is not often seen in grammars. The grammar includes a rich set of texts.

3 The Journal *Linguistic Typology*

Please click on the links below to view the contents of the most recent issues:

- [Ahead of Print/Just Accepted](#)
- [Volume 28, Issue 3, October 2024](#)
- [Volume 28, Issue 2, July 2024](#)