



The 10th Annual Purdue Linguistics
Association Symposium 2015

Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN
Stanley Coulter Hall, Room 239
April 10-11, 2015
pla.purdue.org/symposium

Program Overview

Friday, April 10th

2:30 – 4:00 PM	Registration (Ongoing)
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Opening Remarks
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Session 1: Underrepresented Languages
4:30 – 4:45 PM	Break
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Session 2: Popular Media and Discourse
7:30 – 9:30 PM	Symposium Banquet

Saturday Morning, April 11th

8:00 – 10:00 AM	Registration (Ongoing) & Breakfast
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Session 3: Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 12:15 PM	Session 4: Syntax and Semantics
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch

Saturday Afternoon, April 11th

1:30 – 2:30 PM	Keynote Address: Dr. Anastasia Giannakidou
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Break
2:45 – 4:15 PM	Session 5: Phonetics and Language Acquisition
4:15 – 4:30 PM	Break
4:30 – 6:00 PM	Session 6: Historical Linguistics and Language Change
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Symposium Social

Detailed Program

Friday, April 10th – Afternoon Session
Stanley Coulter Hall, Room 239

2:30 – 4:00 PM **Registration**
3:15 – 3:30 PM **Opening Remarks**

Session 1: Underrepresented Languages

3:30 – 4:00 PM

An Analysis of Motion Events in Chaoshan and Mandarin

Chun Carol Zheng, *Purdue University*

This paper provides evidence that the event structure of motion expressions can be systematically generalized due to the compositional derivation and hierarchical ordering at the syntax-semantics interface. A uniform feature of these events observed across these two languages is transparent event decomposition, in which the interpretation of an event is syntactically constructed by functional eventive heads and semantically specified by the lexical verbs. First, a motion predicate can be composed of three sets of functional building blocks: Initiate Phrase, Process Phrase and Endpoint Phrase. Second, multi-layered eventive projections encompassed in this complex predicate are headed by overtly or covertly instantiated functional elements. Third, the Path of a motion event can be encoded by detailed lexical information induced by verbs, which specifies the vector of the spatial trajectory. Fourth, events involving verbs belong to the *put*-type (e.g., *fàng* in Mandarin) and *take*-type (e.g., *ná*) display parametric variations between the two languages.

4:00 – 4:30 PM

The Interaction of Palatal Coarticulation and Palatal Harmony in Kazan Tatar

Jenna Conklin, *Purdue University*

Vowel harmony and vowel-to-vowel coarticulation are long-distance assimilatory processes wherein certain vowels trigger systematic changes in adjacent vowels; harmony effects phonological change, resulting in phonemic alternation, while coarticulation effects phonetic change. This study examines the coarticulatory processes present in disharmonic words in Kazan Tatar, a language with left-to-right palatal harmony. While right-to-left palatal coarticulation is found to be widespread, left-to-right palatal coarticulation is virtually nonexistent in Tatar. It is hypothesized that gradient and categorical processes sharing the same triggers, targets, target feature, and direction cannot coexist; the diachronic implication for Tatar is that, once

coarticulation was phonologized into harmony, the original coarticulatory process that gave rise to harmony was eradicated. This two-way interaction between gradient and categorical processes argues in favor of the distinctly phonological nature of vowel harmony and against a phonetic account of harmony.

4:30 – 4:45 PM **Break**

Session 2: Popular Media and Discourse

4:45 – 5:15 PM

The American Media's Construction of "Participants" in Cases of Police Killings

Morgan Johnson, *IUPUI*

This pilot study analyzes how the American media's language contributes to readers'/hearers' perception of the identities and roles of "participants" (the police officers involved and the citizens involved) in cases of police killings. Using a sample of twenty-eight reports of the cases of Eric Garner, John Crawford III, Michael Brown, Levar Jones, and Tamir Rice from the Associated Press, National Public Radio, and The Washington Post, I coded for patterns of race-related modifiers and of passivization. Based on the analysis of these articles, I suggest the implications of such use—how race-related descriptors can influence the perception of participants' identity in relation to one another, in relation to the event, and in relation to outsiders and how passivization can influence the perception of participants' roles, implicitly connoting importance, accountability, empowerment, and other such senses.

5:15 – 5:45 PM

Use of *Someone*: Beyond Simple Person Reference

Yu-Han Lin, *Teachers College, Columbia University*

This study looks at how the non-recognitional reference form "someone" is used to refer to a known referent when a recognitional, such as a first name or a descriptive recognitional (Stiver, 2007), is available (Sacks & Schegloff, 1979). In a conversation, when participants have shared knowledge about who a referent is, the occurrence of "someone" connotes more than a simple reference to the referent. While there is little previous research concerning the use of a non-recognitional to complete particular social actions, in this study, I show how "someone" can be employed to accomplish disaffiliative actions such as complaints, accusations and disassociation in both every-day and institutional talk through conversation analysis (CA).

6:00 – 7:30 PM **Break**

PLA Symposium Banquet

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Banquet at Ichiban Sichuan Restaurant**

Please join us for the PLA Symposium Banquet at Ichiban Sichuan Restaurant. The banquet will consist of a buffet-style meal with traditional Chinese dishes. The cost of the banquet is \$10 paid in advance upon registration. Drinks and other beverages will be paid by the individual participants. Please contact symposium coordinators if you need a ride from the symposium venue to the restaurant.

Address: 2 South 4th St, Lafayette, IN 47901

Phone: (765) 742-6600

Detailed Program

Saturday, April 11th – Morning Session
Stanley Coulter Hall, Room 239

8:00 – 10:00 AM Breakfast and Registration

Session 3: Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Dialect Influence on California Chicano English

Laura Kompara, *Ball State University*

Chicano English is a distinct U.S. English dialect common in California and the Southwestern United States. As Spanish immigrants from Mexico moved to the United States, they learned English but carried some of the sounds and grammatical constructions from Spanish with them. Chicano English has become its own variety of English with organized linguistic patterns and must not be confused with English of second-language learners. These linguistic patterns of Chicano English can be traced to phonological influence from Spanish in its vowels, timing of syllables, intonation patterns, and some consonants and consonant clusters. The use of *Spanglish* and code-switching is also characteristic of the dialect. Chicano English shows influence from common English dialects as well such as African-American English and California Anglo Speakers who show /u/-fronting. The strength of these influences to Chicano English varies across the generation of speakers and whether it is a rural or urban context.

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Constructing a Response: An Identity Perspective on Chinese Students' Reactions to Compliments from Native English Speakers

Hao Wang and Yan Zhao, *The University of Alabama*

The current study looks at how Chinese students studying in the United States respond to compliments by native English speakers. We frame our inquiry relying on the conceptualization of identity in Holland et al. (2001) that views identity as fluid, dynamic, and ever-changing. The data comprises in-depth individual interviews with one Chinese undergraduate student, one master student, and two PhD students majoring in different disciplines at a southeastern university in the U.S. Our findings revealed that (a) the participants had difficulty in responding to native speakers' compliments; (b) Chinese culture is influential in the participants' compliment response; (c) the participants' lack of cultural and pragmatic competence in English may be attributed from their language

instruction in China. The findings of the current study contribute to the second language acquisition about study abroad students' sociopragmatic competence, provide pedagogical implication to ESL/EFL instructors, and enrich Chinese students' understanding of intercultural communication.

10:00 – 10:30 AM

Recalling Arabic and English Prefixed and Suffixed Verbs among Arabic-English Bilingual Speakers: An Experimental Study in relation to Working Memory

Rashad Ali Qaed Ahmed, Jiyar Othman Hamadamin and Muhammad Ahmad Alasmari, *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*

This study aims to examine the recalling of English and Arabic prefixed and suffixed verbs among Arabic-English bilingual speakers. The recalling of verbs was examined in relation to the working memory. The study was conducted in the form of two experiments on 10 Arabic-English bilingual graduate students. The study concluded that suffixed Arabic verbs were recalled more than the prefixed ones, whereas in English the result was contrary where the participants recalled prefixed verbs more than the suffixed ones. It was observed that L2 does not differ from L1 in the effort exerted to recall words. Rather, the findings suggest that it is easier to recall words in the second language, which might be due to the intensive instruction received in the second language and the fact that the participants being in an English speaking country are using English more than Arabic. Other factors include word-length effect, frequency and recency.

10:30 – 10:45 AM **Break**

Session 4: Syntax and Semantics

10:45 – 11:15 AM

The Syntax of Clausal Complements of Emotive Factive Predicates

Eric Follett, *Purdue University*

In this presentation I explore the syntactic structure of complements to emotive factive predicates in English, Spanish, Kazan Tatar, and Mayangna. I focus especially on complements to emotive factive predicates of the *glad* type, such as (1).

(1) I'm glad [you liked the cake]

I claim, following Kiparsky and Kiparsky (1970) and Krapova (2010), that factive heads select complements headed by a (null) D(eterminer) head, and that therefore clausal complements to emotive factive heads like *glad* and semi-factive heads like *know* are in fact DPs. Three types of evidence support this claim: 1) morphological data from Tatar and Mayangna; 2) distribution of DP complements in all four languages; and

3) extraction facts from factive complements and definite/referential DPs in all four languages. The underrepresented languages Mayangna and Tatar offer especially important insights that corroborate the hypothesis of DP complements to emotive factive predicates.

11:15 – 11:45 AM

Is *Much* Enough of a Quantifier?: A Corpus-based Perspective

Okgi Kim and Jong-Bok Kim, *Kyung Hee University*

English employs the peculiar construction (e.g., *it wasn't much of a surprise*) consisting of quantifiers like *much*, *more/less*, *enough* and a prepositional phrase headed by *of*, which we call the MOA (*much of a N*) construction functioning as intensifying a degree noun (see, among others, Bresnan 1973, Bolinger 1972, and Troseth 2009). Investigating its authentic usages from the corpus, we suggest that the so-called degree quantifiers *much*, *more/less*, *enough* play a key role in placing grammatical constraints (including an indefinite singular NP and predicative condition) on the *of*-NP. We also offer a uniform, compositional analysis of the constructional meaning by assuming that the degree expressions quantify over the properties denoted by the gradable as well as non-gradable NP.

11:45 – 12:15 PM

A Study on Motion Events Using the Lancaster Corpus of Mandarin Chinese (LCMC)

Chun Carol Zheng, *Purdue University*

Research on motion events informs studies on Mandarin in two major interrelated ways: to identify its language frame, and to understand their event structure at the syntax-semantics interface. In this study, I exam the Lancaster Corpus of Mandarin Chinese (LCMC) to show that Mandarin belongs to Slobin (2004)'s 'equipollent-framed' category, as well as the event structures of Mandarin motion expressions are compositionally derived. The distribution of motion events in the written narratives in LCMC shows that both the Path and Manner components are encoded by verbs instead of particles, because of their high frequency in occurring with grammatical aspectual makers. It also further supports Mandarin belongs to 'equipollent-framed' languages, where Manner and Path are encoded by verbs on par. Findings also identify various types of motion events in the written narratives.

12:30 – 1:30 PM **Lunch**

Lunch from Chipotle and light beverages will be provided to all Symposium presenters and attendees.

Detailed Program

Saturday, April 11th – Afternoon Session
Stanley Coulter Hall, Room 239

1:30 – 2:30 PM

Scalar and Non-scalar Negative Polarity Items:
Prosody, Syntax and Semantics
DR. ANASTASIA GIANNAKIDOU
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Presentation Abstract – In this talk I discuss how prosodic intensification distinguishes scalar from non-scalar NPIs in Greek and Korean. At the prosody-semantics interface, intensification triggers scalar structure and exhaustification, while non-emphatic NPIs remain neutral and make non-scalar statements. The implication of this analysis is that not all NPIs are scalar, including non-emphatic variants of English *any*— and that the prosody-semantics interface needs to be addressed seriously in studies on scope and polarity.



Biography

Dr. Anastasia Giannakidou is a Professor of Linguistics and the co-Director of the Center for Gesture, Sign and Language at the University of Chicago. Her main research interests are the mapping between meaning and form, cross linguistic variation and its impact on meaning, the relationship between semantics and pragmatics, and--more recently--the processing of NPIs, sign language, and bilingualism. Her favorite topics include negative polarity, free choice phenomena, modality and temporality, quantification, and (in)definiteness.

Detailed Program

Saturday, April 11th – Afternoon Session
Stanley Coulter Hall, Room 239

2:30 – 2:45 PM **Break**

Session 5: Phonetics and Language Acquisition

2:45 – 3:15 PM

When Do Children Develop Ability for Alignment of Tonal Targets in Intonation?

Afua Blay, *University of North Dakota*

Studies show that intonation is made up of tones that are targeted by speakers, and that are anchored to predictable locations in the segmental string. The anchoring involves temporal control of the tones, and it is known as alignment. Thus, children may develop ability for alignment as part of speech timing. However, the developmental literature suggests that mastery of tones occurs around age 2, whereas speech timing develops around age 10. In this study, sentences produced by eight children (ages 5 to 8) and 10 adults (ages 19 to 24) were analyzed acoustically in order to determine whether children below the age of mastery of speech timing exhibit alignment in their speech. Children performed comparably with adults on measures of alignment but not on sentence durations. These findings suggest that the ability for alignment may develop prior to mastery of speech timing and that sentence duration ability develops after alignment.

3:15 – 3:45 PM

Quantifying Bilingualism: Relating Phonetic Production to Language Proficiency and Attitudes

Wai Ling Law, *Purdue University*

Previous studies have shown that L1 and L2 phonetic systems interact in bilinguals (e.g. Flege et al., 2003). L1 and L2 phones may converge because of L1 restructuring or diverge for phonetic contrast (Flege, 1995). This study identified gradient properties of speech production that are related to gradient language experience, proficiency, and attitudes. Twenty-one Cantonese-English bilinguals living in Hong Kong produced near homophones in both languages on separate days. Acoustic phonetic variables differing phonetically and phonologically in Cantonese and English were quantified and compared to questionnaire results. Results showed that as English proficiency increases convergence takes place in some variables such as vowel diphthongization possibly due to L1 restructuring, while as English usage increases there is divergence between Cantonese and English /u/ to maintain phonetic contrast. With more positive

attitude toward Cantonese, there is divergence in variables such as f0 range, indicating an inclination to emphasize contrast across languages.

3:45 – 4:15 PM

An Optimality Theoretic Approach to Child Language Acquisition

Colette Feehan, *University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

This presentation uses Optimality Theory to look at early child language acquisition. The purpose of this thesis was to look at a pre-existing model from a different perspective, create an alternative model, and compare the results from the two designs. This presentation will show the differences and implications that result from different constraint rankings and it will also exhibit one way Optimality Theory can be used with statistical language modeling.

4:15 – 4:30 PM **Break**

Session 6: Syntax and Semantics

4:30 – 5:00 PM

The "Concealed Passive" Construction Needs Investigating Diachronically

Jungsoo Kim, *The University of Texas at Austin*

Although the concealed passive construction has been mentioned in some grammars, its properties have not been explored in detail and its historical development has not been investigated. This study, based on historical corpus data, examines how the construction has developed since the late modern English period and how its properties have been related to other passive-related constructions such as the canonical *be*-passive, passival, middle, and *need/want* + passive VP constructions. The findings show that since the late modern English period the construction has developed to express some kind of irrealis mood meaning, that it has patterned more with the passival and middle constructions in terms of the presence of the *by*-agent phrase, whereas it has become more similar to the *be*-passive construction with respect to the animate subject and the productivity of VP types, and that its development could contribute the emergence of the *need/want* + passive VP construction.

5:00 – 5:30 PM

**The Rich-Get-Richer Phenomenon and
Language Evolution: The Case of the German Present Perfect**

Valentina Concu, *Purdue University*

This paper explores language evolution within a complex network framework and, in particular, the preferential attachment tendency, also known as the Rich-get-Richer phenomenon, in the development of the German present perfect. This process refers to the dynamics involved in the growth of complex scale-free networks (Barabási & Albert 1999) and, in more general terms, to the development of complex adaptive systems that show a power law degree of distribution. I argue that the same phenomenon can be found in the evolution of specific grammatical structures, like the German present perfect. In the first attestations from the Old High German period just a few verbs could be combined with the auxiliary verbs. The lexicon's growth in Middle High German and the expansion of contexts in which the present perfect could be used increased the number of possible combinations. Today, in New High German, every verb can be coupled with the auxiliary verbs.

5:30 – 6:00 PM **The Role of Antonymy on Semantic Change**

Ashley Kentner, *Purdue University*

The role of antonymy in semantic change is investigated via the etymology of sets of English antonyms. The results show a developmental pattern wherein two words sharing an antonym tend to exhibit similar trajectories of semantic development. Metaphorical extension is proposed as the primary mechanism that produces this regularity with antonymy playing a secondary role. These results further support semantic change as regular, even in contexts not involving grammaticalization, and that furthermore, metaphor is not peripheral to language use. (See Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Traugott & Dasher, 2002; Hopper & Traugott, 2003.) There are also implications for formal and cognitive representations that rely on antonymous relationships for modeling aspects of gradable predicates (such as Paradis, 2001; Kennedy & McNally, 2005).

7:00 – 9:00 PM **Saturday Evening Social**

Please join us for the Saturday Evening Social at Scotty's Brewhouse in the Wabash Landing. Meals and drinks will not be covered by the symposium. Please contact symposium coordinators if you need transportation to the social.

Address: 352 E. State St, West Lafayette, IN 47906

Phone: (765) 746-3131

Acknowledgements

The Purdue Linguistics Association Student

Symposium could not be held without the support of many organizations and individuals. First and foremost, we would like to express our gratitude to this weekend's presenters for sharing their research with us.

The 2015 Symposium Committee would like to thank the following groups for their financial support and donations to the symposium:

- The College of Liberal Arts
- The College of Health and Human Sciences
- The Linguistics Program
- The School of Languages and Cultures
- The Department of Psychological Sciences
- The Graduate Student Organization Grant

Additionally, it would be impossible to have organized this symposium without the help of our committee chairs and volunteers.

Symposium Co-chairs – Chuck Bradley & Emily Dick

Abstract and Program Chair – Joshua Perry

Event Planning Chair – Ashley Kentner

Crash Space Coordinator – Jessica Rohr

Moderators – Eric Follett, Felicia Roberts, Daniel Olson, Elaine Francis, Ronnie Wilbur, Olga Dmitrieva

Volunteers – Libby Chernouski, Jenna Conklin, Eric Follett, Cesar Gutierrez, Rachelle Henderson, Aleksandra Kasztalska, Ashley Kentner, Charles Lam, Wai Ling Law, Mengxi Lin, Michael Maune, Lauren Miller, David O'Neil, Mirisen Ozpek, Adelle Rogers, Amelia Shettle, Lauren Stuart, Yuanyuan Wang, Boris Yelin, Chun Carol Zheng