

8th Annual Purdue Linguistics
Association Student
Symposium



Stanley Coulter Hall
Purdue University
March 29-30, 2013

2013 Symposium Committees

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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 today's presenters for sharing their research with us. We also extend a very special thank you to Dr. George A. Broadwell for his contributions to this year's event as our keynote speaker. Furthermore, we greatly appreciate our session moderators for taking the time to see that sessions run smoothly. We would also like to acknowledge the continuing support we receive throughout the year on all PLA activities from our faculty advisor, Dr. Colleen Neary-Sundquist, and the Purdue linguistics faculty.

The 2013 Symposium Committee would like to thank the following groups and businesses for their financial support and donations to the symposium:

- The College of Liberal Arts
- The Linguistics Program
- The School of Languages and Cultures
- The Department of Anthropology
- The University Book Store
- Mr. Charlie Long and the Purdue Visitor Center

Program Overview

Friday Afternoon

3:00-4:00	Registration
3:20-3:30	Opening Remarks
3:30-5:00	Session 1: Second Language Acquisition
5:00-5:15	Break
5:15-6:15	Session 2: Semantics

Saturday Morning

8:00-10:00	Registration and Breakfast
8:30-10:00	Session 3: Extra-linguistic & Cross-linguistic Perspectives
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-12:15	Session 4: Phonetics & Phonology
12:15-1:15	Lunch

Saturday Afternoon

1:15-2:15	Keynote Address: Dr. George A. Broadwell
2:15-2:45	Discussion
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-4:00	Session 5: Language Attitudes
4:00-4:15	Break
4:15-5:20	Panel: Participatory Action Research
5:20-5:30	Closing Remarks

Detailed Program – Friday Afternoon

Stanley Coulter Hall, Room 239

3:00-4:00 Registration

3:20-3:30 Opening Remarks

Session 1: Second Language Acquisition

3:30-4:00 **Chinese ESL Learners' Perception and Acquisition of Scalar Implicature**

Xiao Yang, *Purdue University*

This paper presents a study on how Chinese ESL learners perceive English scalar implicature in given contexts. Specifically, I look into their understanding of the lexicons that are logically true but pragmatically infelicitous under given contexts. Participants were asked to tell, for example, whether they think “cold” is sufficient enough to describe a “freezing” weather specified in the given context via completing judgment tasks. Six pairs of such scalar items are included in the questionnaire. The results suggest that their pattern of answers is greatly varied as to whether they regard lexicons of lower implicature as preferred or not.

4:00-4:30 **The Phonological Development of a Romanian-English Bilingual Child**

Alla Dinu, *Northeastern Illinois University*

This paper examines the effects of a bilingual environment on a child's speech acquisition. The longitudinal case-study of a Romanian-English bilingual child explores whether the bilingual child has a differentiated phonological system or not (Dual Systems Model vs. Unitary System Model). The child was found to have different developmental trajectories in each of her two languages. The systematic error patterns found in the child's speech further support the claim that the bilingual child indeed has two phonological systems.

4:30-5:00 **The Acquisition of Singular Generics in L2 English by L1 Chinese Speakers**

Yanyu Long, *Purdue University*

The main concern of this study is to investigate the acquisition of English singular generics by L1-Chinese learners. A cross-sectional investigation involving learners of three proficiency levels was conducted. The results demonstrate good performance of all three levels of learners in identifying the generic reading in indefinite singular but not in definite singular. Furthermore, the acquisition of the generic indefinites is shown to go hand in hand with the non-generic indefinites, which confirms Krifka et al.'s (1995) proposal that generic and non-generic indefinite singulars share the same [-definite] feature. This reinforces the theoretical accounts for the indefinite-definite singular generics distinction.

5:00-5:15 Break

Session 2: Semantics

5:15-5:45 **The Role of Expectation in Degree Modification of Measure Phrases in Korean**

Taehoon Kim, *Michigan State University*

I argue that the use of the morpheme 'ina' presupposes a low expectation of the relevant individual at the relevant matter in a sentence, based on Lee's (2003) argument that although 'ina' is used in diverse ways, all of the uses are linked to the basic conceptual domain of low expectation about a given situation. As a consequence, the sentences featuring 'ina' as well as a measure phrase and its (c)overt measure term imply that the relevant individual is surprised at the fact of the relevant matter in the actual world because it exceeds what was stipulated by his/her expectation.

5:45-6:15 **Expressivity and the Prosodic Domain**

Brendan McDonald, *University of Ottawa*

The compositional account of expressives in Potts (2007) posits a strategy for the incorporation of expressive

(emotional) information in formal semantics. My work extends his theory within a formal framework of semantics and expands areas not considered by Potts. The extensions I offer explain more complex issues involving positive expressives, negative expressives as 'positives', expressive-descriptive interaction, and the semantic relationships that expressives hold within an utterance. My research will analyze the effects of intonational prosody and incorporate this information into a semantic analysis of the expressive dimension.

6:15-6:20 Closing Remarks

Detailed Program – Saturday Morning

Stanley Coulter Hall, Room 239

8:00-10:00 Registration and Breakfast

Session 3: Extra-linguistic & Cross-linguistic Perspectives

8:30-9:00 **The Processing of Conditional Inversion: A Reading Task Study 2**

Ellen Thompson & Hye-Min Kang, *Florida International University*

This work examines the on-line processing of the Conditional Inversion Construction (CI) in English. The traditional approach to the syntax of CI (Iatridou and Embick 1994) has an identical number of movements as Subject-Auxiliary Inversion (SAI). However, recent analyses claim that it involves raising of I-to-C-to-X (Bjorkman 2011). Assuming the steps of movement are costly processing-wise, the traditional approach predicts both are equally costly, while the recent analysis predicts CI to be more costly than SAI. To investigate these predictions, we conducted a Self-Paced Reading Task experiment with monolingual-English speakers. A paired samples t-test revealed a near-significant difference in reading times with $p < .101$. Assuming “reading times are reflective of processing difficulty” (Levelt 1989; Rayner and Sereno 1994), similar reading times for CI and SAI support the traditional I-to-C.

9:00-9:30 **A Game-Theoretic Approach to Analyzing Cross-Linguistic Pragmatic Accommodation**

Daniel Tucker, *Southern Illinois University Carbondale*

Recent applications of game theory in pragmatics have explored the emergence of pragmatic strategies via modeling interactions as signaling games (Parikh, 1991; Van Rooy, 2004). Incorporating attested semantic licensing differences between Mandarin Chinese and English, this study uses game theory to analyze cross-linguistic pragmatic accommodation. In addition to

drawing upon previous game-theoretic models, this study proposes a novel analytic approach grounded in a Bayesian framework. The results of this analysis point to several exciting potential applications in the modeling of pragmatic niche emergence, second language acquisition, and evolving Horn strategies.

9:30-10:00

Loss of Old Spanish *-udo*: Linguistic and Extralinguistic Factors

Sarah Hart, *University of Buffalo*

Old Spanish contained three regular past participle forms: *-ado*, *-udo* and *-ido*; however over time, *-udo* merged completely with *-ido*. Before this merger was complete, a period of instability existed in which past participle formation varied, as seen in the forms *tenudo/tenido*. This period of instability occurred mainly in the 13th century, thus this study uses the online corpus, *The Prose Works of Alfonso X El Sabio* (Gago Jover, 2011) to analyze participial variation. This study finds that the variation is not balanced, and that both morphophonological and extralinguistic factors affect participle choice in the 13th century.

10:00-10:15 Break

Session 4: Phonetics & Phonology

10:15-10:45

Processing Interactions between Segmental and Suprasegmental Information in English and Chinese

Mengxi Lin & Alexander Francis, *Purdue University*

In this study, a Garner selective attention task is used to identify cross-linguistic differences in attention to vowels, consonants and tones, focusing on the role of the ambient language. By comparing Chinese listeners in Mandarin and English environments, with English listeners in an English environment as control, it addresses the question of whether bilingual Mandarin/English listeners change the way they treat tone depending on what language they are listening to. It was

found that Chinese listeners showed different processing interaction patterns between consonant and tone in the two language contexts, suggesting bilinguals may develop two separate systems of processing dependency.

10:45-11:15

Pronunciation Problems in the Production of the Voiced Labiodental Fricative /v/ by Saudi Speakers of English

Abdullah Alotaibi

The present study aims to investigate the production of the voiced labiodental fricative /v/ of Saudi Arabian speakers of English in view of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors. The linguistic aspect focuses on the role of the position of the sound in words, initial and final, and the distribution of errors per word in view of more and less familiar words along with the investigated sound environment. The extra-linguistic factors include participants' lengths of stay in the US and their ages and the potential influence these may have on the accuracy of pronouncing the target sound /v/.

11:15-11:45

Speaker- and Reader-based Account of Discourse Prominence in a Free Word Order Language

Tatiana Luchkina, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

This study analyzes perception-production cues to discourse prominence in Russian, a language in which in- and ex-situ ways of marking discourse-prominent words are possible. Acoustic-prosodic correlates of prominence, word order, and information structure in a miniature Russian corpus are explored in perception experiments to determine how variable prosodic manifestation of discourse prominence is as a function of the sentential position of the word. We argue that word order in Russian closely interacts with the information structure of the discourse. Viewing sentential position of a word and acoustic marking as complementary ways of signaling discourse prominence is problematic because in the spoken modality, ex-situ constituents are consistently marked acoustically.

11:45-12:15

8- and 12-month-olds' Learning of a Phonotactic Pattern in Word-medial Onset and Coda Position

Yuanyuan Wang & Amanda Seidl, *Purdue University*

This study explores infants' phonotactic learning in onset and coda positions. Using Headturn Preference Procedure, we tested 24 8- and 24 12-month-old English-hearing infants with bisyllabic nonwords in which voiced fricatives were restricted to either onset or coda positions. Results indicated that 12-month-olds learned the constraint when attested in the onset position, but not in the coda position. 8-month-olds, however, failed to learn constraints in both positions. This suggests that infants may first develop the ability to extract an abstract phonotactic pattern in onset position. These findings shed light on the role of phonological unmarkedness in phonotactic learning in infancy.

Lunch 12:15-1:15

Lunch and light beverages will be provided by PLA to all Symposium presenters and registered attendees.

Keynote Address

1:15 – 2:45

Understanding the Syntax of Emotions in Copala Triqui: Elicitation, Corpus Data, and Thick Descriptions

Dr. George Aaron Broadwell
SUNY-Albany

Copala Triqui is an Otomanguean language spoken in Oaxaca, Mexico and by immigrants to other parts of Mexico and to the United States. Our Albany Copala Triqui language documentation project has worked with local speakers to investigate the grammar of the language, develop an audio dictionary, and publish texts in the language. This paper talks about the syntax of some emotion predicates which appear with an auxiliary (*do'*) and a pronominal repetition of the subject. We discovered this group of predicates in the process of building a large corpus of Copala Triqui texts and we've used both elicitation and corpus searches to help us further understand their properties.

Copala Triqui emotion construction:

Nachri'	nii	ni'yaj	nii	man	núj
nachri'	nii	ni'yaj	nii	man	núj
nachri' ³	nii ³ ₂	ni' ³ yaj ² ₁	nii ³ ₂	man ³ ₁	núj ⁵
hate, disrespect	INDEF	<i>do'</i>	INDEF	ACC	we (excl.)

'People hate (*they do'*) us.'

Dr. Broadwell will speak for approximately 60 minutes, with the remaining time for discussion.



Biography:

George Aaron Broadwell is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Program in Linguistics at University at Albany, SUNY. His research focuses on endangered languages, primarily Native American languages of the United States and Mesoamerica. He is interested in the issues of integrating language description and documentation with contemporary work in linguistic theory.

His long-term descriptive commitments have been to grammatical and lexical descriptions of Choctaw, contemporary Zapotec (San Dionisio Ocoatepec, Macuiltianguis, Sierra Juarez varieties), colonial Zapotec, Copala Triqui, and Timucua, with occasional work on issues in a number of other languages around the world (Mon, Kaqchikel, Kiche, Turkish, Crow, Creek).

From a theoretic point of view, he has been interested in word order, causative structures, lexical semantics, negation, diachronic syntax, and syntactic typology.

Detailed Program – Saturday Afternoon

Stanley Coulter Hall, Room 239

Session 5: Language Attitudes

- 3:00-3:30 **Language Attitudes in Contemporary Kazakhstan**
Megan Kennedy, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Like many countries in the former Soviet Union, Kazakhstan has struggled with the legacy of Soviet-era language policies that privileged Russian and attempted to raise the status of Kazakh through public policy. This study adds to the existing body of literature on this topic by assessing the language attitudes of young Kazakhstanis with a matched-guise study. Pilot results suggest a sharp split in attitudes, with ethnic Kazakhs and non-Kazakhs ascribing different relative status to Kazakh and Russian. These results may reflect attempts by both groups to adopt a subaltern stance (Dave 2007) relative to their Soviet past.

- 3:30-4:00 **Linguistic Attitudes as a Crucial Factor in Language Revitalization**
Amelia Shettle, *Purdue University*; Mayangna Yulbarangyang Balna, *URACCAN* & Elena Benedicto, *Purdue University*

Two very close variants of the Mayangna language, Tuahka and Panamahka, present very different pictures with respect to language loss and revitalization efforts despite minimally-differing conditions. Tuahka has become critically endangered in the last decades, with children no longer acquiring the language while Panamahka enjoys cross-generational language transmission. Despite the dialects having basically the same resources, community engagement, materials in their language, and levels of institutionalized education, the pattern of language loss has been impermeable to actions taken to address language shift. The factor identified as crucially different between the dialects is the level of absorption of negative stereotypes.

Panel: Participatory Action Research

4:15 – 5:20

Panelists

Daryl Baldwin, *Miami University*

Mr. Baldwin is the Director of the Myaamia Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is a citizen of the Miami Tribe in Oklahoma and he specializes in Myaamia language and cultural revitalization. Through the Myaamia Project, he has worked with the Miami people to develop educational materials and programs to promote the Myaamia language and culture.

Myrdene Anderson, *Purdue University*

Dr. Anderson is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Linguistics at Purdue University. She has been involved in a variety of ethnographic research and has been doing fieldwork among the Saami reindeer-breeders in Norwegian Lapland for over 40 years. Among her specializations are ethnological theory, linguistics, and ethnobiology, as well as issues pertaining to communities in circumpolar and nomadic settings.

Elena Benedicto, *Purdue University*

Dr. Benedicto is an Associate Professor of Linguistics and English Language and Linguistics, as well as the Director of the Indigenous and Endangered Languages Lab at Purdue University. Her primary research is in the syntax-semantics interface within the Generative Grammar framework. Among the languages she has studied are Mayangna, sign languages, non-standard English varieties, and Romance languages.

Each panelist will speak for approximately 10 minutes before being asked to address several questions from the moderator. The remaining time will be for questions from the audience.