Agreement Across Borders Conference

June 15th-16th, 2015

University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia

Invited speakers

Boban Arsenijević (University of Niš)

Logic of agreement: How agreement interacts with negation, disjunction and quantification

Julie Franck (University of Geneva)

The structure-dependent nature of attraction effects in agreement

Ad Neeleman (UCL)

Subset Controllers in agreement

FIRST CALL

Agreement as a grammatical phenomenon exhibits great variety in the extent of its application. It may surface on a number of different categories: verbs, nouns, adjectives, pronouns, numerals, determiners, and complementizers, and it does so differently across various languages. It is often considered a purely syntactic phenomenon (Chomsky 1999, Bošković 2009), as it is not obviously interpreted at Logical Form and in many respects works just like an automatic necessity. Yet it has been argued to take place even across the border of syntax -- postsyntactically (e.g. Bobaljik 2008, Ackema & Neeleman 2007, Marušič et al. 2007, Benmamoun et al. 2009), and have direct or indirect semantic (Dowty & Jacobson 1988, Mahajan 1992, Bobaljik 2008), morphophonological (Mirković et al. 2013) and discourse effects (É. Kiss 2012).

Agreement is a popular topic in theoretical linguistics but it has been studied also well over the border of linguistic theory alone. The multiple steps theoretically argued to be involved in agreement are often validated in the production experiments of the widely investigated attraction error phenomena in English, Italian, French, Basque and in SLI (e.g. Bock & Miller 1991, Franck et al. 2006, 2011, Gillespie 2011, Santesteban 2013). Likewise, the agreement mismatch phenomena and the agreement relations targeting a subset of features in Spanish, Hindi, and Italian (e.g. Nevins et al. 2007, Mancini et al. 2011, 2014, Quiñones et al. 2014) have prompted neurolinguistic investigations to detail the timing of multi-level feature integration processe (Molinaro et al. 2011, 2013), as well as a recent discovery of two routes underlying agreement processing in the brain (Caffarra et al. 2014).

However, rich inter- and intra-speaker variation in agreement patterning still calls for a revision of the empirical base and methods of empirical access to the agreement phenomena (grammaticality judgments, elicited production, quantitative corpus investigations). One of the priorities of this conference is to bring about a discussion of the methodology in the research of agreement, both in theoretical linguistics and in psycho- and neuro-linguistics. We wish to cross the borders traditionally bounding research on agreement and bring together linguists conducting both theoretical investigations on agreement and related phenomena (e.g. concord, unagreement, feature checking, coordination, partial agreement, ellipsis, determiner/modifier agreement, multiple conjunct agreement, animacy, distributive/collective verbs) and those studying agreement experimentally (e.g. EEG, fMRI, eye-tracking).

This **AAB2015 Conference** is organized as part of the project **Experimental Morphosyntax of South Slavic languages**, where agreement patterns are studied with a uniform methodology in six locations across the Western Balkans (in former Yugoslavia). This project has both a scientific and social agenda. On one side, it aims to investigate First and Last conjunct agreement in South Slavic languages and thus contribute to the currently debated topic (Bošković 2009, Marušič et al. in press) which revolves around the need for clearer descriptions of the data. On the other side the project aims to propagate psycholinguistic studies of South Slavic languages through cooperation between linguists across the borders of the former Yugoslavia.

The language of the conference is English.

Abstracts are invited for talks on topics on agreement in all areas of theoretical linguistics, comparative linguistics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, language acquisition, and clinical linguistics. All theoretical and experimental studies that have consequences for linguistic theory are welcome. We particularly encourage contributions on formal approaches to rich intra- and inter-speaker variation. Abstracts can be submitted for either an oral presentations or a poster presentation. Each talk selected for presentation will be allotted 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Submissions will be anonymously refereed.

Abstracts may not be longer than 2 pages in A4 format (including references) with 1-inch (2.54cm) margins on all sides, single-spaced with a font size not smaller than 12pt. Examples, tables, graphs et cetera are to be intertwined in the text in the appropriate place and not collected at the end. Submissions are restricted to a maximum of one single-authored and one co-authored abstract (or two co-authored abstracts). The abstracts must be anonymous and not identify the name or affiliation of the author(s) in the abstract, the title, or the name of the document. Abstracts should be submitted as .pdf files with one word from the title as the file name.

Please submit your abstract before **Friday the 9th of January, 2015** via **Easychair**, or by using the following link: **https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=aab2015**.

Please register via the Conference Registration page: **http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/research/linguistics/research/leverhulme/network_events/aab2015/registration**.

EARLY REGISTRATION: before 30/03/2015	LATE REGISTRATION: after 31/03/2015
Standard 300HRK / 40EUR	Standard 380HRK / 50EUR
Student 150HRK / 20EUR	Student 190HRK / 25EUR

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For any queries please contact the conference organising committee via email
at **aab2015.emssproject@gmail.com**.

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