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### **Around the globe ...**

**GGG (Generative Grammatik des Südens), 21-23 May 2004**

*by Martin Salzmann*

The GGS ([www.linguistik.net/ggs](http://www.linguistik.net/ggs)) is an annual conference for generative syntacticians in the German-speaking area that brings together junior and senior researchers in a relatively informal context.

Originally started in the south of Germany some twenty years ago, it now often takes place in more northern locations. This year, it was hosted by Gereon Müller and Lutz Gunkel at the Institut für deutsche Sprache (IDS) in Mannheim.

There were two and a half days of talks, 28 in total, covering many aspects of current syntactic research, including the interfaces between syntax and morphology and between syntax and semantics. Some of the topics were infinitives, locality, phases, binding, clitics, scrambling, datives, DPs, impersonal constructions, remnant movement, coordination, wh-movement, focus.

The atmosphere was relaxed but productive and stimulating and was surprisingly unaffected by the fact that some of the crucial final matches of the German football league took place on one of the days. There were about 50 participants altogether, including a large number of undergraduate and graduate students from the area.

In the evenings, the bulk of the group went out for dinner together, continuing some of the discussions from the day or exchanging the news. The GGS is kind of like a large family, many members have been going there for more than 10 years, some of the key players in German generative syntax belong to the founders of the conference and keep attending it. Many of the major developments within German(ic) syntax were first presented and discussed at the GGS. It is this unique combination of an informal atmosphere with high-level research that makes this conference so special.

The conference was very well organized. There was lots of coffee, cookies and thanks to Gereon Müller also apples and bananas. It was also quite pleasant to enjoy the high standards of the institute (it does not look like a university).

The legendary GGS party which takes place on the second evening was a slight disappointment, however, because neither the jazz band from the house nor the location (the cellar of the IDS, reminiscent of a fall-out shelter) created the kind of environment that keeps people dancing all night long. Needless to say, not all could refrain from checking out the nightlife of roaring Mannheim.

**The Twelfth Manchester Phonology Meeting, 20-22 May 2004**

*by Bert Botma*

The Twelfth Manchester Phonology Meeting (MfM) was held in Manchester from May 20-22. I had been to the MfM once before, in 2000, and since then the conference has changed quite dramatically. In the old days there was only one room, populated mostly by phonologists who dabbled in dependency and government. Nowadays you can still find such people (after all, I was there!), but you will also encounter a coloured variety of functionalists, mentalists, OT-ists, strict CV-ists, feature geometrists, acquisitionists, sign phonologists, and what have you. And the great thing is: they all seemed to be getting along! This makes the MfM, in my opinion, one of the best conferences around.

Manchester can always boast a strong Dutch contingent, feasting away on curries

and ales. This year featured the likes of Koen Sebregts (Utrecht, on the phonetic variation found in Dutch /r/), Frans Hinskens & Marc van Oostendorp (Meertens Instituut, on the interaction between tone, palatalization and velarization in Limburg Dutch), Hidetoshi Shiraishi (Groningen, on mutation in Nivkh), Shakuntala Mahanta & Janet Grijzenhout (OTS, on nasal harmony in Assamese) and our very own Nancy Chongo Kula, who, on a Saturday afternoon, saturated a licensing point in a GP framework. All their talks were interesting and engaging, as were most of the other talks. I particularly liked Jim Scobbie's talk on Scottish vowel length (if only because it provided final and conclusive proof that nothing in life is simple) and Peter Avery & Keren Rice's talk on the role of contrast in nasal inventories (but then again, anything nasal is bound to whet my appetite...).

As for myself, I faced the rather daunting task of presenting a talk on nasal mutation patterns in Insular Celtic before the kind of audience that you knew was going to contain some Celtologists. I had prepared the analysis together with Norval Smith (UvA), a Celtic buff if ever there was one, but he had unfortunately already squandered his travel grants, and so had stayed behind. All went well, and after the talk I had an interesting discussion with Jim Scobbie, who pointed out that the complex data that I had presented were probably more complex still. That didn't surprise me one bit; after all, I had already found out that nothing in life is simple.

Every year, the MfM has a key session that deals with something "hot". This year's topic was that of loanword phonology. The organizers had invited some big shots (Maira Yip, Carole Paradis and Michael Kenstowicz) and a number of rising stars (Christian Uffmann, Sharon Peperkamp and Yvan Rose, to name some of them). To the uninitiated, such as myself, their talks showed that loanword accommodation raises a number of important questions (e.g. "Does it take place at the perceptual level or at a more abstract, cognitive level?") which are relevant to phonology in general. Patrick Honeybone, Christian Uffmann and yours truly are currently planning to get the proceedings published.

All in all, hats off to the organizing committee—and in particular to Patrick Honeybone—for hosting another great MfM. I for one certainly hope to be back next year!

### **Lisbon Workshop on Alternative Views on the Functional Domain, 8-9 July 2004**

*by Stella Grillia*

In July, I was in Lisbon at the Lisbon Workshop on Alternative Views on the Functional Domain, where I presented a paper about focus. Interestingly, more papers about focus were presented. The workshop lasted two days and it was well organized; the main organizer was a person familiar to ULCL, João Costa (who defended his thesis in Leiden in 1998). The atmosphere of the workshop was friendly and inspiring with talks of great interest. Despite the set topic, a variety of papers were presented, which resulted in a rich and stimulating programme. The attendants had lively discussions in the conference venue (as well as outside, while drinking a glass of Porto). The workshop took place in the New University of Lisbon (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) just a few days after the end of the European football championship; everyone could still feel the party atmosphere in the hilly town. The programme was really a bit too tight for a workshop held in such an interesting town like Lisbon.

Anyone who is interested in having a look at the handouts of the presented papers is welcome to drop by my office. The topic for the next conference has not yet been decided, but if it is relevant to your research, don't miss the chance to visit Lisbon, as it is a great city.

### **IACL (1<sup>st</sup> report), 18-20 June 2004**

*by Joanna Sio*

The 12th Annual Conference of the International Association on Chinese Linguistics finally took place in June this year, in Tian Yu Hotel in the city of Tianjin, one of the four provincial-level municipalities in China. It was supposed to be held last year, but due to the SARS outbreak it was rescheduled one year later. The conference, fortunately, did live up to all the anticipation.

There were more than 250 speakers in all, which filled up seven parallel sections for a conference that spanned a period of three days. Counting in people who were merely attending the conference, the number was up to about 400, which would have easily filled up a hotel. Having dinner with hundreds of people in a buffet setting was an interesting experience. The queue lining up for food extended to the outside of the restaurant and into the hallway of the hotel. It was a long road to dinner.

Dinner was the time when you could meet and talk to people in a more casual setting. I was once stuffing myself with the famous Tianjin-style braised creamed cabbage buns ("goubuli") while discussing the nature of the Determiner Phrase with someone who worked on Functional Grammar with my rusty Mandarin. It wasn't easy. On another occasion, while munching away some salty peanuts as an appetizer, I was discussing the prospect of being a linguist with some students from the Mainland. Ah well, the many natures of small dinner talk.

The more heated type of discussion took place inside the conference room. Having speakers from many different frameworks, going to their talks was a mind-broadening experience. Personally speaking, the feelings one conjured up while listening to someone from another framework working on the same problem are confusion, denial, then acceptance, followed by practicality – like exchanging email addresses for further discussion. The whole process was healthy and enriching in many aspects. It was a real treat to be in a situation where everyone you met was working on Chinese Linguistics for three whole days. You could easily walk into someone in the hotel lounge, at the corner of the escalator, or even in the gift shop, and then casually launch into a lengthy discussion of your favourite topics.

All in all, the conference was a success. Organising a conference on this scale is no easy job; so, bravo to the IACL organising committee from Nankai University. I am very much looking forward to the next one, IACL 13, **which will be held here in Leiden in June 2005**. Hopefully, it can only get better.

**IACL (2<sup>nd</sup> report)**, 18-20 June 2004  
by *Boya Li*

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of International Association of Chinese Linguistics was successfully held in June this year under the auspices of the School of Chinese Culture and Literature, Nankai University, China. Probably because of the postponement (due to the outbreak of SARS in 2003), a tremendous number of scholars from all over the world attended this year's meeting. Among them, about two hundred and fifty speakers presented their studies and exchanged their current or recent research in a wide range of areas of Chinese linguistics. Rint, Joanna and I were in the conference. As for me, I did enjoy the three-day time. There were so many inspiring talks, interesting people, and irresistible Chinese food!



An amusing incident of the conference was that in a keynote speech Prof. C.-T. James Huang confronted Prof. Hau-y James Tai with some general linguistic issues. The former is a representative figure of doing Chinese grammar in the Chomskyan tradition, whereas the latter is a leading exponent of doing Chinese linguistics under the Functional approach. Their debate was full of wit and humour, and also very insightful. It showed that communication of linguists across different disciplines is not only possible but also necessary. It would serve our primary objective: the advancement of scientific study of Chinese languages and linguistics.

## **Introductions**

ULCL is pleased to introduce the following persons:

### ***Jenny Ehrhardt***

My name is Jenny Ehrhardt, I am 27 years old and come from Berlin. From September on I will work on Bantu languages as a PhD student in Leiden. I studied General Linguistics, Sinology and African Studies at the Freie Universität and the Humboldt-Universität in Berlin. During my studies I was working in a project on the syntax of North American Languages at the TU Berlin and in a project on focus in South African Languages at the ZAS Berlin. So I am very much interested in language diversity. My MA thesis was on subject and object agreement in Bantu languages.



### **Erik Schoorlemmer**



My face will probably be familiar to most of you who have their offices in the 1166-building, because I have spent a lot of time there in the past four years as an undergraduate student in the linguistic department. But, who is behind the face? My name is Erik Schoorlemmer. I was born 24 years ago in the Dutch city of Haarlem. I studied both French language & culture and general linguistics here at Leiden University. From September, I will be joining the ULCL as a PhD student in order to investigate double agreement structures in the languages of the world. My main research interests are syntax and semantics. When I am not working on linguistics, I like swimming, cycling, walking and running or reading a good book.

### **Assimakis Tseronis**

I was born in Athens, Greece on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1975. I graduated from the University of Athens in 1998 with a Degree in Philology, major in Theoretical Linguistics. In the year 1999-2000, I studied at Lancaster University, U.K. and graduated with an MA in Language Studies: Critical Discourse Analysis strand.

In 2002, I came to the Netherlands out of an interest in focusing my research in the analysis and evaluation of a specific discourse, where I was introduced to the pragma-dialectical theory of argumentation. In 2003, I was awarded the MPhil in Logic, Language and Argumentation from the University of Amsterdam. I wrote my thesis on the topic of "*Modification in Argumentative Discourse: a Pragma-Dialectical Study of the Qualification of a Standpoint*".

My current research interests include argumentation in everyday communication and in academic discourse, issues of identity and power in discourse, pragmatic aspects of communication and socio-linguistic matters regarding the Greek language. My research project within the ULCL and the rhetoric group in particular builds on the issues addressed in my MPhil thesis and deals with modification and the burden of proof in academic argumentative discourse.



### **Jenneke van der Wal**

*Hallo allemaal!* I have been asked to introduce myself to the ones at ULCL who don't know me already. My name is Jenneke van der Wal, I am 22 years old. When I'm not busy with linguistics, I go sailing with 'de Blauwe Schuit', play mah-jonggh with my boyfriend Wilbert and sometimes you can find me wondering about life and faith at 'Ekklesia'. Officially I am still a student of African languages and linguistics at Leiden University. By 1 September, however, I will have graduated and be employed at the ULCL as a PhD student in Lisa Cheng's most interesting Bantu syntax project.

Kristina Riedel will do one sub-project (about object marking) and I will do another sub-project about so-called conjoint and disjoint verb forms. These verb forms mark the relationship a verb has with the following word. The use of the one or the other verb form is dependent on syntactic, semantic and pragmatic factors and the aim of the project is to explore these factors and the relation to word order. I am looking forward to studying with you on the ULCL side of the 1166 building!

### **Leo Wong**



I am Nai-Fai Wong from Hong Kong, now 30 years old. I obtained my M.Phil degree in Linguistics from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1999. My M.Phil thesis concerns the syntactic-semantic mapping of modal verbs in Mandarin Chinese. Since then I worked in Hong Kong Shue Yan College teaching English proficiency and introductory linguistics courses for five years. This September I am joining Leiden University as Affiliated Fellow participating in Dr Rint Sybesma's project "Cantonese Syntax" in IIAS. My research goal is to investigate the syntactic structures of functional elements in the verbal domain in Cantonese and possibly in other Southern Chinese dialects as well.

### **Jisheng Zhang**

I am Jisheng Zhang and my English name is Jason. I am a university teacher of English in Ningbo University, China (near Shanghai). I first came to Leiden in 2001 as a visiting scholar, funded by the Chinese government and I took four advanced MA courses in ULCL. After a half year's visit in ULCL, I began to do my PhD studies on the phonology of the Shaoxing dialect (one of the Wu dialects in China) under the supervision of Prof. van Heuven and Dr. van de Weijer. I first studied phonology at Queensland University in Australia in 1992. Since then I have become interested in phonology and I have had more than 10 articles on phonology published in different recognized academic journals in China. In 2003, I came to ULCL again to work with Prof. van Heuven and Dr. van de Weijer for my PhD dissertation and set up the groundwork for the dissertation. I will be in ULCL for one more year (from Sept of 2004 to Sept of 2005) to complete my work, which deals especially with syllable structure and tonology.



***More introductions will follow in our next issue!***

### **Diary Dates**

- **Phonological Acquisition Conference:** 16 – 18 September 2004

Special theme: Developmental Paths

For more info: Marina Tzakosta, Jeroen van de Weijer and Claartje Levelt

- **'Going Romance':** 10 – 12 December 2004

For more info: Johan Rooryck

- **CLIN – Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands:** 17 December 2004

For more info: Crit Cremers and Ton van der Wouden

- **Cognitieve Linguistiekdag in Utrecht:** 17 December 2004

Speakers: Dirk Geeraerts and Arie Verhagen.

For more info: [www.uilots.let.uu.nl/events/coglingdag.htm](http://www.uilots.let.uu.nl/events/coglingdag.htm)

- **The structure of the verb phrase in Afroasiatic: Morpho-phonological and syntactic approaches:** 14-16 January 2005

For more info: Chris Reintges and Noureddine Elouazizi

See also our website: [www.ulcl.leidenuniv.nl](http://www.ulcl.leidenuniv.nl)

### **Defences**

On 17 May, Jaap de Jong and Bas Andeweg successfully defended their dissertation entitled *The first minutes*. Jaap is a member of ULCL and is UD Taalbeheersing at the Dutch Department. Below you will find a summary of the dissertation.



The beginning of a speech is of the utmost importance according to J.W. von Goethe: 'When with buttoning up the first button goes wrong the remaining ones cannot make up for it'. As everyone knows, an audience forms an image of the speaker and subject in the very first minutes of a speech. Assuming that the first blow is half the battle, it is remarkable how few speakers really pay attention to those first few minutes. In our PhD-research, defended at the Catholic University of Nijmegen on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, we pose the following question: should speakers worry about the introduction of their speeches?

This research consists of three parts; each part answers a key question of its own and belongs to a specific research tradition.

1. What are speakers advised to do in the introduction of their speeches? This is a historic reconstruction of classical rhetorical recommendations from Aristotle to Quintilian and of Dutch twentieth century recommendations on introductions.
2. What do speakers do, or say they do, in the introduction of their speeches? Here we describe

the ideas of two groups of present-day speakers: Dutch engineers (M.Sc's) and speech writers of Dutch members of government; we also analyse the speech writers' actual introduction practice.

3. What effect do introductions have on the audience? This part contains the account of various experiments. Advisors predict that specific introduction techniques have certain effects on listeners. We examine the effects of a number of these often used techniques. Finally, we explore the solidity of the techniques used and look for explanations for their efficacy.

As Quintilian and his Greek and Roman colleagues stated two millennia ago, a speaker must seriously consider what he wants to achieve with his audience in the first few minutes of his speech and what means he should deploy. According to them, only in very special circumstances can a speaker start with a direct approach: starting out with the purpose of the speech or the mentioning of the key points. To the modern consultant writer the introduction is a fixed item in every speech. Some explicitly state that leaving an introduction out is "a proof of someone's incompetence".

Modern *speaking professionals* (Dutch engineers) do not worry about an introduction; it is not an essential part of their presentation. They do find the thinking up and presenting of an introduction the most difficult presentation task. As opposed to speech writers who state that they never send their commissioners (*professional speakers*) off without an attention drawing introduction; some even regard the introduction as the most attractive part of a speech, which they can get credit for. From analysis it emerges that, besides using the attention drawer, they also deploy the two other classical introductory functions.

Finally, experimental research also proves that it makes sense for speakers to take the introduction to their speeches seriously. Introduction techniques have an observable and distinguishing effect, especially straight after the introduction. A speaker's exordial choices prove to have consequences also at the end of his speech. Why make a fuss about the first few minutes? For the simple reason that not every beginning is a proper introduction.

For more info, see [www.deeersteminuten.nl](http://www.deeersteminuten.nl).

There are more PhD defences coming up:



23 September: Klaske van Leyden: *Prosodic Characteristics of Orkney and Shetland Dialects - An Experimental Approach*

7 October: Jeroen van Craenenbroeck: *Ellipsis in Dutch dialects*

27 October: Marina Tzakosta: *Multiple Parallel Grammars in the Acquisition of Stress in Greek L1.*

11 November: Ineke van der Meulen: *Syntactic Movement and Comprehension Difficulties in Broca's Aphasia*

All ULCL members are invited to attend *all* PhD defences. Contact the defendant's paranymphs for tickets.

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