

Znanstveni skupovi  
Conference reports  
Tagungsberichte

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**10th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Krakow, Poland,  
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The 10th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, organized by members of the Polish Cognitive Linguistics Association headed by Prof. Elżbieta Tabakowska, took place in July 2007 at the University of Krakow. The 2007 special theme was Cognitive Linguistics in Action: From Theory to Application and Back.

Some 500 linguists attended the conference exchanging their ideas in general and 20 theme sessions featuring contributions from a wide variety of research areas such as cognitive sociolinguistics, cognitive approaches to language acquisition, historical linguistics in a cognitive framework, embodiment, vantage theory, motivation in language, corpus-based studies, phonology in cognitive grammar, metonymy, application of cognitive linguistics in second language learning, and other. Six plenary speakers were invited to share their experience and expertise on a number of important topics.

Since it is, obviously, impossible to give an account of everything that was said at the conference, I will just try and give a brief overview of talks presented at plenary sessions but also of those given by Croatian scholars.

*Dirk Geeraerts* (University of Leuven) in his talk *Contextualization and Methodology: 30 Years of Cognitive Linguistics (and Beyond)* attempted to answer the question as to the fundamental underlying trends in cognitive linguistics. He argued that cognitive linguistics is, unlike generative grammar, essentially characterized by gradual recontextualization of the grammar which by ne-

cessity calls for a methodological shift towards empirical forms of data analysis. He added that the complexity of a fully recontextualized grammar requires a methodology that goes beyond introspection and stressed the need for the usage of an advanced quantitative analysis which is able to capture the multivariate nature of linguistic usage. He illustrated his arguments by means of a corpus-based study of causative alternation in Dutch.

*Laura A. Janda* (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) in her presentation *How Theory Informs Application and How Application Informs Theory* maintained that the theoretical framework of cognitive linguistics affords some real advantages in producing applications for second language learners because it is based on embodied human experience and can be made utterly transparent to the user. By means of three examples, two involving the expression of case and aspect in Slavic languages and one examining cognitive categories relevant to language and nationalism, she went on to illustrate how application can help us take a comprehensive look at a phenomenon, and in turn broaden our horizons and yield new insights.

In his talk *Ronald W. Langacker* (University of California, San Diego) argued that although the notion of embodiment is antithetical to the classic mind/body duality, that dualism is, nevertheless, a natural product of embodied cognition. It underlies a basic distinction between effective relationships, primarily concerned with the occurrence of events, and epistemic relations, primarily concerned with the validity of knowledge. In his presentation he explored the manifestation of this duality in the realm of English complementation. He recognized the systematicity of this opposition along two axes which leads to substantial unification in the analysis of clausal and complement structure. Along one axis, a progression leading from effective to epistemic relationship correlates with the progression based on levels of structural complexity (lexical predicates > direct complementation > infinitival complementation > finite complementation). Along the other axis, an effective/epistemic opposition is observable within each level.

In his presentation *Language as a biocultural niche and social institution* *Chris Sinha* (University of Portsmouth) attempted to answer the questions as to the relations between biology and culture and as to how theories of biology and culture bear upon theories of language. He argued in favour of those accounts which accord with the view that what makes humans unique is not an innate language acquisition device and a range of other species-specific innate cognitive modules, but a generalized semiotic or symbolic capacity developed from a suite of cognitive capacities shared with other species but attaining higher levels of organization in humans. He accordingly contended that contemporary devel-

opments in evolutionary biological science can be adduced in support of a semiotically and socio-culturally situated approach to language and mind.

*Leonard Talmy* (University at Buffalo, State University of New York) in his talk *Introspection as a Methodology in Linguistics* took a stand against those who dismiss introspection as not objective or empirical, not faultable or repeatable, and not accurate or consistent. He argued that, on the one hand, introspection, just like any other methodology, has its own profile in addressing the diverse aspects of language, saying that it is better at addressing some of them and worse at addressing others. He continued adding that while none methodology is the gold standard, they should be used to corroborate and complement each other. On the other hand, introspection is ubiquitous and essential process in the cognition of speakers and those linguists who use it to examine language are merely systematically employing a cognitive faculty in place for everyday function.

*Francisco José Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez* (University of Rioja) in his presentation *Cognitive modeling and levels of linguistic explanation: applications and implications* examined the applications and implications some analytical tools developed within the domain of Cognitive Model Theory (Lakoff, 1987) have on a fully fledged account of meaning construction. Among the tools examined there are cognitive operations such as enrichment, parametrization, development, highlighting, and chaining and cognitive constraints such as invariance, correlation and mapping enforcement. These tools are further applied to a model of meaning construction called the Lexical Construction Model (LCM) which is intended to be operational at all levels of linguistic description, including pragmatics and discourse. The building blocks of the model are the notions of lexical template (LT) and constructional template (CT). The principled interaction between these two templates supplies the central or core meaning layer for other more peripheral operations, involving implicated meaning, to take place.

Cognitive linguistics community in Croatia is a young, vibrant and prolific one with its scholars undertaking studies in research areas as diverse as motivation in language, metonymy, historical linguistics, second language learning, and others. What follows is a short account of some talks given by Croatian cognitive linguists.

*Mario Brdar* (Osijek) and *Rita Brdar-Szabo* (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest) within the framework of the theme session *Motivation in Language* presented the results of their case studies of the CAPITAL-FOR-GOVERNMENT metonymy in the language of the media. Their studies showed that although this metonymy is present in Croatian and Hungarian, it is rather underused in compari-

son to English and German. They further observed that the distribution of this type of metonymy is very uneven across the subcorpora in Croatian and Hungarian but also that their use is most frequent on weekends. They argued that this occurrence could be explained by the workings of the conceptual metaphor PROXIMITY/DISTANCE IN THE SOCIOPHYSICAL AND MENTAL WORLD IS PROXIMITY/DISTANCE IN TIME. They maintained that it may be that journalists by the end of the week assume a more holistic perspective giving them more distance as regards the week's events. They further argued that some pragmatic factors might be at play as well such as perspective and the degree of empathy and respect towards the political authority. The CAPITAL-FOR-GOVERNMENT metonymy, in their opinion, might be underused in Croatian and Hungarian newspapers due to journalists' subconscious deference towards authority and their traditional reluctance to breach the 'safe distance' in real time reporting. Just before the weekend, however, the distance is increased as journalists project themselves mentally into an off-real-time state which offers them more distance from events and entities involved.

In their second presentation, one on multiple activation of metonymic targets *Rita Brdar-Szabo* and *Mario Brdar* analyzed the phenomenon of metonymic chaining in discourse in order to note regularities in the online construction of metonymic meanings in the case of multiple activation of targets. In the analysis they paid particular attention to the alternation between domain expansion and reduction which takes place at subsequent metonymic tiers and between co-metonyms.

*Vlatko Broz* in his *Diachronic investigation of false friends* presented the results of an investigation of a group of false friends in English, German, Spanish and Croatian. His analysis showed that the false friends in question have retained more or less the same meaning in German, Spanish and Croatian whereas those in English showed a departure from the original meaning. He argued that these changes were triggered off because the lexis of Middle and Early Modern English was a result of a merger of the Germanic and Romance vocabularies. The usage of words therefore had to change if they were to survive the cases of near synonymy. He explained the causes for the shift in meaning through cognitive mechanisms of metonymy and metaphor.

In her presentation *Gabrijela Buljan* addressed the problem of various semantic complexities of English verb conversions and demonstrated that the process of zero-affixation is motivated by the workings of conceptual metonymies, conceptual metaphor and conceptual integration, e.g. the metonymy IDEAL MEMBER OF CATEGORY FOR CATEGORY. She further argued that other cases of 'semantic residue' could be explained by proposing the activation of metaphorical scenar-

ios and conceptual integration patterns behind the linguistic blueprint as in the example *Phoney psychics milked their rich clients for years*. She also insisted that by exploring the predicate argument construction in which verb conversions are embedded, we also address the semantic relations holding between verb conversions and constructions, e.g. instantiation, cause, manner, etc.

*Renata Geld* presented her research, based on the constructionist view of language, the aim of which was to establish patterns in L2 processing, particularly those related to topological and lexical determination in the meaning construal of English particle verbs. The results suggested that meaning construal could be used as evidence towards the connection of cognitive strategies employed in the acquisition of L2 and general cognitive processes present in L1.

In their talk on euphemistic and dysphemistic expressions in English and their equivalents in Croatian, *Tanja Gradečak-Erdeljić* and *Goran Milić* presented two case studies. The first was the study of the euphemism 'to step down' and the second of the dysphemism 'chickenhawk'. In their research they encountered two different lexical networks reflecting different ICMs. In order to account for the said expressions they applied the metaphor HUMANS ARE ANIMALS having cognitive background in the form of metonymic mapping CATEGORY FOR DEFINING PROPERTY in the case of 'chickenhawk' and in the case of 'stepping down' a very productive metonymic mapping PART OF SCENARIO FOR THE WHOLE SCENARIO.

*Marija Kraljević* prepared a poster on quantification in Croatian and English. Her primary interest was in quantifiers as constituents of noun phrases. She argued that the assumption that a noun is the head of any phrase containing a noun and a quantifier is challenged by the way those phrases agree with the verb, which is not determined by the morphological features of the noun but by those of the quantifier. In her poster she gave a cognitive perspective on quantification in Croatian and English.

In her diachronic study of the conceptual category of *light* in Croatian *Ida Raffaelli* maintained that in languages with rich word formation such as Croatian, the diachronic analysis of grammatical structures provides clear insight into the extension of conceptual categories. She showed that the most salient conceptual shift within the category of *light* was towards the mental domain which is reflected in the semantic and grammatical formation of the vocabulary related to the concept of *light*. Her analysis of the vocabulary related to the visual domain points to the fact that the said vocabulary has acquired meanings connected not only to the mental domain but also to other domains such as luxury and abundance, personal character, moral qualities, etc.

In their talk on metonymy and metaphor in Croatian SMS text messages *Milena Žic Fuchs* and *Nina Tuđman Vuković* presented the results of their investigation pertaining to a corpus consisting of over 3,000 SMS text messages. They found out that brevity, highly characteristic of such messages, is achieved through the exceptionally frequent usage of metonymy, which shed light primarily on pragmatic role metonymy plays in achieving understanding between participants in SMS exchanges. In view of the results of their investigation, they argued in favour of the complementariness of cognitive and pragmatic perspectives of metonymy and metaphor. Their analysis also provided some findings concerning our understanding of knowledge organization and the notion of conventionality. They illustrated their claims that misunderstandings often occur when conventionality of metonymy (and metaphor) is not adhered to, i.e. when ‘creativity’ exceeds the boundaries of shared knowledge.

*Mateusz-Milan Stanojević* and *Renata Geld* gave a talk on the current usage of the aorist in Croatian. According to traditional Croatian grammars the aorist is described as a general past tense used with perfective verbs and thus denoting completed past. Moreover, according to those grammars, the aorist is stylistically marked since it is primarily used in traditional narrative fiction. Some Croatian authors have, however, noticed the recent emergence of the aorist as generic past tense as well as a tense expressing recent past. *Stanojević* and *Geld* observed that the symbolic value of the aorist in its current usage has come to denote epistemic immediacy, i.e. the immediacy of the process in relation to the speaker and his/her knowledge about the event. They showed that the aorist is most frequently used in the first person singular, and that it can also refer to the future, which, again, indicates that it describes events in the epistemic region closest to the speaker’s vantage point (Langacker 1991). *Mateusz-Milan Stanojević* and *Renata Geld* were awarded the prize for the best talk given by Ph.D. students, which only proves Croatian linguists to be quite an asset for the international cognitive linguistic community.

The conference also marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of seminal events in cognitive linguistics in the period 1987-89. On this occasion four linguists, René Dirven, George Lakoff, Ronald Langacker, and Leonard Talmy (collectively dubbed Founding Fathers) were honored for their part in sparking off research in cognitive linguistics.

In the course of the conference the ICLA Assembly meeting took place. Elections were held in the meeting in which Laura A. Janda (University of North Carolina) was elected President of ICLA. During the meeting some questions were raised as to the appropriateness of the ICLA holding the 2011 international

conference in China in the light of human rights situation in that country. The heated debate was also continued in the aftermath of the conference on the ICLA website.

Finally, I would like to compliment the organizers who, together with their helpful staff, succeeded in their efforts to ensure the smooth running of the conference. We all had a pleasant and fruitful stay in Krakow.