

A004225A: Contrastive Linguistics: Syntax & Lexicon

Semester: Spring 2022

Time: Thursdays 13.00–15.45

Room: Avalon (third floor, Blandijn)

Credits: 6

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Keywords:

syntax, lexicon, comparative linguistics, verbs, case, dative

Initial Competence:

Previous knowledge of linguistics at master's level is required

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with different theoretical approaches to the relationship between lexicon and syntax in comparative linguistics. On the one hand, the course deals with the notion of "construction" and highlights the interaction of syntax and lexicon. The constructional approach is illustrated by means of specific verb classes, and differences in predicate- and argument structure depending on meaning. On the other hand, these theoretical approaches are further illustrated by means of different hypotheses on the dative case and the corresponding morphosyntactic structures in non-case languages. Several types of dative structures are analyzed, such as the double object structure in English and Dutch, the possessive dative in Romance, subject datives in Icelandic, German and in various Indo-European and Amazonian languages.

Each student will be asked to "represent" a language he/she knows and to analyze the morphology and the syntax of the dative in this language. The students will carry out a small comparative research, presented both orally and in a written paper.

Teaching Methodology:

Guided self-study, seminars, coached exercises. The classes consist of the reading of scholarly articles, which are commented upon and discussed in class. The students deliver short presentations on certain constructions in the language of their choice.

Final Competence:

1. Assess highly specialized scholarly articles in the field of syntax
2. Assess linguistic hypotheses

3. Evaluate the relevance of data with respect to a hypothesis
4. Reconstruct and assess the argumentation in the field of syntax
5. Build a linguistic argumentation
6. Apply language-specific hypotheses to other languages

Examination:

Students write a paper on a chosen topic that is closely related to the topic of the course.

Final paper (80%)

Class Participation (20%)

Timetable:

03.03.2022

Class 1: Case Terminology

Text: Haspelmath (2009)

Leipzig Glossing Rules

10.03.2022

Class 2: Case and Related Notions

Texts: Butt (2009)

17.03.2022

No Class; Dies Natalis Eve

24.03.2022

Class 3: Dative Subjects: A Problematization of the Subject Concept

Text: Barðdal & Eythórsson (2018)

31.03.2022

Class 4: Dative Subjects and Lexical-Semantic Verb Classes

Text: Barðdal et al. (2012)

07&14.04.2022 – Easter holiday

21.04.2022

No Class

28.04.2022

Class 5: Datives in Amazonian Languages

Text: Danielsen & Durand (2020: §1,2,3)

05.05.2022

Class 6: The Person-Case Constraint

Texts: Bardagil (2019), Barðdal & Eythórsson (2003: 759–766)

12.05.2022

Class 7: The Dative Alternation in Construction Grammar

Text: Goldberg (1992)

19.05.2022

Class 8: Possessor Datives

Text: Van de Velde & Lamiroy (2017)

Course Literature:

- Barðdal, Jóhanna & Thórhallur Eythórsson. 2003. Icelandic vs. German: Oblique Subjects, Agreement and Expletives. *Chicago Linguistic Society* 39(1): 755–773.
- Barðdal, Jóhanna & Thórhallur Eythórsson. 2018. *Non-Canonically Case-Marked Subjects: The Reykjavík–Eyjafjallajökull papers*. ed. by Jóhanna Barðdal, Na’ama Pat-El & Stephen Mark Carey, 257–274. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Barðdal, Jóhanna, Thomas Smitherman, Valgerður Bjarnadóttir, Serena Danesi, Gard B. Jensen & Barbara McGillivray. 2012. Reconstructing Constructional Semantics: The Dative Subject Construction in Old Norse-Icelandic, Latin, Ancient Greek, Old Russian and Old Lithuanian. *Studies in Language* 36(3): 511–547.
- Bardagil, Bernat. 2019. Person, Case, and Cliticization: The Panará PCC. *Proceedings of the Workshop on Structure and Constituency in the Languages of the Americas 23*, ed. by D. K. E. Reisinger & Roger Yu-Hsiang Lo, 15–25. Vancouver: University of British Columbia.
- Butt, Miriam. 2009. Modern Approaches to Case: An Overview. *The Oxford Handbook of Case*, ed. by A. Malchukov & A. Spencer, 27–43. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Danielsen, Swintha & Tom Durand. 2020. Differential Subject Marking in Arawakan Languages: Distribution and Origins. *Journal of Language Contact* 13(1): 141–176.
- Goldberg, Adele. 1992. The Inherent Semantics of Argument Structure: The Case of the English Ditransitive Construction. *Cognitive Linguistics* 3(1): 37–74.
- Haspelmath, Martin. 2009. Terminology of Case. *The Oxford Handbook of Case*, ed. by A. Malchukov & A. Spencer, 505–517. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Van de Velde, Freek & Lamiroy, Béatrice. 2017. External Possessors in West Germanic and Romance: Differential Speed in the Drift towards NP Configurability. *Aspects of Grammaticalization: (Inter)Subjectification, Analogy and Unidirectionality*, ed. by H. Cuyckens, L. Ghesquière & D. Van Olmen, 353–399. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Additional Literature:

- Barðdal, Jóhanna. 2009. The Development of Case in Germanic. *The Role of Semantic, Pragmatic and Discourse Factors in the Development of Case*, ed. by J. Barðdal & S. L. Chelliah, 123–159. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Barðdal, Jóhanna. 2011. Lexical vs. Structural Case: A False Dichotomy. *Morphology* 21(3–4): 619–659.
- Levin Beth. 2008. Dative Verbs: A Crosslinguistic Perspective. *Linguisticae Investigationes* 31(2): 285–312.