AN INTRODUCTION
TO
FUNCTIONAL-TYPOLOGICAL GRAMMAR:

Argument structure and voice systems

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Please put “language4” as title for e.mail messages concerning this course

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THE GOALS OF THE COURSE

The goals of the course are double. The first idea is to help you get over hesitation or even resistance to using English, and the other is to teach you some linguistics.

The first goal will be limited to the passive skills of listening and reading. There will be readings in English for each class and the lectures will be in English. You are encouraged to produce English, in your homework or in your exams, effort for which you will be rewarded by some extra point, but you may also write in French if you do not feel confident enough and particularly if there is a risk that I will not understand you!

The second goal is to introduce you to a certain way of doing syntax, within the theoretical framework that Givón has come to label "functional-typological" grammar and within a certain way of doing collective research. The loose network of linguists that have been interacting most intensely at constructing this particular approach to doing linguistics, in particular syntax, is sometimes referred to as the West Coast functionalists.

The course will present the basics of this approach, and do so by concentrating on the issue of argument structure and the phenomenon known as "voice". It will also invite you to pay attention to the dynamics of the development of this framework, by noting the chronology of the discussions of the various voices, for instance, and the habitual cross-referencing of the linguists. It will encourage you to identify concepts, proposals, linguists and languages.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

about the system of "CONTROLE CONTINU":

- Weekly "homework" assignments:
  You are expected to turn in weekly written assignments. They are usually based on the reading you must do in preparation for the class, but occasionally can also be notes on a lecture given by a visiting professor.
  This homework is due every class, at the beginning of each class.

- The homework to be turned in consists in:
  - list of at least 10 new words or expressions, with an illustrative example TAKEN FROM THE TEXT ITSELF (do NOT invent sentences!!!), and translation or definition.
  - your rewording of at least three key points of the reading or the lecture (i.e. at least three paragraphs of writing, about either something new, or interesting, or surprising, or hard to understand etc...).

- You are strongly encouraged to work in groups, but you must turn in individual homework
• The homework will be checked and graded as follows:
  ➢ It will be checked every week but not necessarily graded that week
  ➢ it will be actually graded twice in the semester, but you will not know when.
• grade calculation:
  ➢ You will get 10% of the final grade for turning in 9 or 8 homework (and 0 if less than 8);
  ➢ and up to 10% for each homework corrected (so up to 20% graded).
  ➢ This means that this homework will be worth up to a total of 30% of the final grade.

about the classes:

• the class will start with some work on the vocabulary of the reading, and with your questions about the reading.
• lecturing will be in English and chitchatting during actual teaching time, will not be tolerated, particularly if in French
• questions are welcome all through class time. They may be asked in French. Written questions put or left on the desk will be addressed in class if of general interest.
• otherwise e-mail is the surest way to communicate with me. But please use a title that identifies you as a student from this class!

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about exam and final grading:

• The exam is worth 70% of the final grade and will consist of: definitions of terms (15%), essay questions (15%) AND data recognition/analysis (40%).
• Therefore,  Homework = 30% and Exam = 70%

Recommended dictionary:

  Oxford University Press. 4th edition, 1989
  (ISBN 0 19 431136 8)
COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to the course; descriptive and typological linguistics at Lyon2, the relation of this course to other courses. The functional-typological framework in context.

   About the framework...

2. About the essentials of functional-typological grammar. HW 1
   
   - Functional: no autonomous syntax, syntax as the encoding of semantics and pragmatics
   - Typological: constructions types, coding strategies, crosslinguistic variation, universals
   - Prototype approach to categorization; implicational hierarchies
   - Iconicity: the matching of form and function
   - Grammaticalization

   about simple affirmative declarative ACTIVE clauses...

3. The predicate and its arguments (1): HW 2
   
   - Types of predicates: verbal and non verbal predicates, semantics of predicates, valency of predicates, argument structure of predicates.
   - Semantic relations (or roles): agent, experiencer, patient, dative, benefactive, instrument, locative...
   - Grammatical (or syntactic) relations (or roles): subject, object, (secondary object), (indirect object), obliques; their referential and topical properties, their (morpho)syntactic coding strategies, their syntactic behavioral properties.

4. The predicate and its arguments (2): HW 3
   
   - Pragmatic roles: topic1, topic2; quantitative text study of the topicality of subjects and objects.
   - the alignment between pragmatic, semantic and syntactic roles: One set of syntactic relations for the encoding of two functional relations, semantic and pragmatic;

   first approach to voice systems in this framework...

5. Detransitivization (1): HW 4
   
   - Semantic vs pragmatic detransitivization: middle, reflexive, passive (antipassive) voices
   - Passive: the three functional dimensions of passive, pragmatically driven syntactic "demotion" and "promotion", prototypical (canonical) passive vs non prototypical passive;
looking beyond the familiar notions of "subject" and "object"...

6. A typology of case marking systems : HW 5
   - Pragmatically oriented case marking system: the nominative- accusative system
   - Semantically oriented case marking system: so-called active-stative system
   - Transitivity oriented case marking system: the ergative-absolutive system
   - *ergativity*: split ergativity, syntactic ergativity

   now back to voice systems....

7. Voice: Detransitivization (2) : HW 6
   - *ANTIPASSIVE*: the prototypical antipassive voice of ergative languages; the functional dimensions: object demotion, the subtypes of antipassive
   - *the notion of antipassive applied to French and English?*

8. Quantitative text studies of the pragmatics of active/passive / antipassive voices : HW 7
   - *AKATEK voices: a case study of a Mayan language*: a story of the semantics and pragmatics of three passives and three antipassives of an ergative language, and text counts on their pragmatic use.

9. Voice : applicatives (3) : HW 8
   - *applicatives as a cover term*: promotion of obliques; prototypical vs non prototypical applicative voices. obligatory vs optional applicatives; benefactive voice, instrumental voice, "dative shift" of English.

   a functional-typological glance at complex sentences with an eye to grammatical relations and voice systems...

10. Relativization : HW 9
    - *typological variation in coding strategies*
    - *NP Accessibility hierarchy, syntactic use of voices*

11. Complementation : HW 10
    - *typological variety*: finite, non finite, nominalized, participial , coding strategies
    - *a review of behavior properties of subjects and objects:*
      - equi-NP deletion, raising
    - *iconicity revisited*
ABOUT THE COLLECTION OF READINGS

The readings are organized in the packet by authors, in an alphabetic order, to encourage people to identify sources of information and refer to them. The collection was assembled to present some of the more recent writings by linguists who are considered to be some of the actual leading linguists in the development of this particular framework and compatible frameworks (like Givón, deLancey, Heine, Keenan, Van Valin), who themselves cite others to be taken into account (Bybee Dixon, Greenberg, Perlmutter, for instance).

The material consists of whole chapters or excerpts of chapters on specific concepts, with specific illustrations. Its ordering in the packet does not reflect the order in which these readings will be discussed in class. There are overlaps in the reading sections; some topics are treated in excerpts from several authors, on purpose, to allow for further exploration of some topics beyond class. Instructions as to what exactly must be read, how much of it, and for when will be given in class. The weekly readings will be on between 8 and 12 pages per week, generally of the same author.

LIST OF SELECTED READINGS


- DeLancey S. Lectures on Functional Syntax. Prepublication book manuscript available at http://www.uoregon.edu/~delancey/sb/fs.html (Lecture 1, Lecture 5, Lecture 9)

  • In Chapter 1 ‘The functional approach to language and the typological approach to grammar’ (pp.9-11; 13; 17; 20-23; 29-34; 34-37; 40-41)
  • In Chapter 4 ‘Grammatical relations and case-marking systems’ (pp.175-179; 195; 195-197; 198-201; 197-201; 201-205; 208-209; 220-227)
  • In Chapter 5 ‘Word order’ (pp.233-241)
  • In Chapter 9 ‘Referential coherence I’ (pp.399-436; 408-416; 416-417)

  • In Chapter 13 ‘De-transitive voice’ (pp.122-131; 144-145; 168-172)

  • In Part 1 ‘Introduction’ (pp.1; 2-5)


  - Chapter 2 ‘Grammatical relations’ (pp.21-85) & Abbreviations (XV-XVI)

Andrews A.


- selection in packet: pp.62-81
DeLancey S.

Lectures on Functional Syntax.

Prepublication book; manuscript available at:

http://www.uoregon.edu/~delancey/sb/fs.html

- Lecture 1: On functionalism
- Lecture 5: Grammaticalization
- Lecture 9: Subject and Topic: Starting points
In Chapter 1 ‘The functional approach to language and the typological approach to grammar’ (pp.1-42) :

- 1.2.1.4 The interaction between words, propositions and discourse (pp.9-11)
- 1.2.3.2 What grammar does (p.13)
- examples of different syntactic structures for the same propositional-semantic content I (p.17)
- 1.6 The typological approach to grammar : functional domains, cross-language diversity and universals (pp.20-23)
- 1.7.2 Categories, continua and prototypes (pp.29-34)
- 1.8.1 Iconicity vs. arbitrariness (pp.34-37)
- more examples of different syntactic structures for the same propositional-semantic content plus frequency of constructions (pp.40-41)

In chapter 4 ‘Grammatical relations and case-marking systems’ (pp.173-232) :

- 4.3 Formal properties of grammatical relations (pp.175-179)
- 4.3.3 Universality and variation : The prototype approach to grammatical relations (p.195)
- 4.3.4 Functional correlates of grammatical relations (pp.195-197)
- 4.4.2 Topicality and grammatical relations (pp.198-201)
- 4.4 The typology of case-marking systems (pp.197-201)
- 4.4.3 Major types of case-marking systems (pp.201-205)
- 4.4.3.3 Transitivity-oriented case-marking : the ergative-absolutive system (pp.208-209)
- 4.5.2 and 4.5.3 Promotion to DO (pp.220-227)

In chapter 5 ‘Word order’ (pp.233-284) :

- 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 Word-order types (pp.233-241)

In chapter 9 ‘Referential coherence I’ (pp.399-436) :

- 9.3.2 Pronominal agreement on the verb (pp.408-416)
- 9.4 The implicational hierarchies of pronominal agreement (pp.416-417)
In Chapter 13 ‘De-transitive voice’ (pp.91-173) :

• 13.3 Pragmatic de-transitive voice constructions [passive] (pp.122-131)

• The KinyaRwanda solution [applicative] (pp.144-145)

• 13.3.4 The antipassive voice (pp.168-172)
Keenan E. L.

‘Relative clauses’

(1985)


• whole chapter pp.141-170
Noonan M.

‘Complementation’

(1985)

Cambridge University Press

- whole chapter. pp.42-77
Zavala R.

‘Functional analysis of Akatek voice constructions’

(1997)

*International Journal of American Linguistics* vol. 63, n°4

- whole article . pp.439-474
Heine B. & T. Kuteva

*World lexicon of grammaticalization.*

(2002)

Cambridge University Press.

In Part 1 ‘Introduction’ (pp.1-14):

- Introduction (p.1)
- 1.1 Grammaticalization Theory (pp.2-5)

In Part 3 ‘Source-Target Lexicon’ (pp.27-316):

- ‘Give’ and ‘Go’ as sources (pp.149-165)
- ‘Hand’ and ‘Head’ as sources (pp.165-169)
- ‘Sit’ and ‘Stand’ as sources (pp.276-282)

Abbreviations (XV-XVI)
Van Valin R. D.

An introduction to Syntax

(2001)

Cambridge University Press.

• Chapter 2 ‘Grammatical relations’ (pp.21-85)