

TLA 17
September 15-16, 2017
Julius Glickman Conference Center (CLA)
The University of Texas at Austin

Friday: September 15, 2017

8:30am Registration opens and breakfast—CLA 1.302C

8:50-9:00am Opening Remarks—CLA 1.302B

9:00-10:30am Session 1

QIANGPING GU—*University of Texas at Austin*

An Analysis of Telicizing Morphemes in Mandarin Chinese

SHANNON GRIPPANDO—*University of Arizona*

More Characters, Longer Speech: Effects from Orthographic Complexity in Japanese

Previous research found in English the more letters in a sound's spelling correlates to a longer speech duration of that sound (Brewer, 2008). I investigate similar effects in Japanese, a language with logographic characters, by comparing the duration of homophone pairs that differ in stroke number (目; 芽) or character number (糊; 海苔). No effect was found for strokes, but 2-characters words were significantly longer than 1-character words. These data suggest that this effect is not limited to alphabetic languages and may be driven cross-linguistically by whole, discrete orthographic units, not character-internal complexity.

KRISHANTHA FEDRICKS—*University of Texas at Austin*

Emergent Identities: Religio-Racial Identity Making in Interaction between Two
Opposing Religious Groups in Sri Lanka

This paper investigates the communicative strategies of a high profile Sri Lankan Buddhist monk, and their role in identity-making during a heated verbal exchange between opposing religious activist groups in Sri Lanka. Drawing on Goffman's (1981) notion of "footing" in his participant framework, and the linguistic identification framework proposed by Bucholtz & Hall (2005), this study builds on the idea that ethno-religious identities are emergent and interactional rather than pre-existing cultural categories. It demonstrates how the dominant interlocutor changes in his footing in the course of interaction whereby constituting two self-identities, identity of a respectful polite Buddhist monk and an identity of an impolite policing nationalist. Furthermore, it shows how racist ideologies in prior discourses are entextualized to constitute religious identities in interaction.

10:45am-12:15pam Keynote address

DR. RUTH KRAMER—*Georgetown University*

Number and Gender Agreement in Saudi Arabic: Morphology vs. Syntax

In Saudi Arabic (Hijazi and Najdi dialects), plural non-human nouns unexpectedly trigger feminine singular agreement. In this talk, we examine this agreement pattern through the lens of "gender switch," a phenomenon where certain nouns in a language seem to change gender in the plural. Gender switches

have been explained either by syncretism (the form for one gender is “re-used” in the plural) or by syntactic differences (the noun actually has different syntactic gender features when singular and when plural). We argue that the Saudi Arabic gender switch is syntactic using evidence from interpretation, and show how this supports a Distributed Morphology approach to gender switches in general.

12:15-1:15pm Lunch (On your own)

1:15-2:15pm Session 2:

BERNADETT BÍRÓ—*University of Szeged, Hungary*

Action Nominals in Northern Mansi—Nouns or Verbs?

In my paper I examine the morphological and syntactic characteristics of Northern Mansi action nominals from a typological point of view.

Mansi (or Vogul) is a seriously endangered Uralic (Finno-Ugric) language spoken in Western Siberia by less than 1,000 people. Action nominals constitute a subgroup of non-finite verb forms, they occur in typical nominal positions but they combine both nominal and verbal features.

In Northern Mansi the deverbal nouns in -n and -m – traditionally considered participles – are used as action nominals. My analysis demonstrates that Northern Mansi action nominals seem to be of more nominal than verbal nature since most of the verbal categories are lost in the nominalization while nominal features are almost completely retained.

MAYOWA AKINLOTAN, ALEX HOUSEN—*Vrije Universiteit Brussels/University of Texas Austin*

Predicting the use and structure of postmodifier in Nigerian English noun phrase

ABRAHAM CHANG, GRETA KIERS, ANNA MEYER, HAN CHANG & WON CHANG—*Taylor University*

Vocabulary Learning vs. Vocabulary Acquisition

According to Ferdinand Saussure’s model of the linguistic sign, the “language acquisition” that children experience involves the establishment of the “signified” in the child’s mind. In contrast, adults experience “language learning” when introduced to a second language (L2). The “signified”, already present, needs only to be linked to the new vocabulary. While previous studies support the use of graphic illustration in textbooks and multimedia as effective tools for learning L2 vocabulary among children (Moeller 2009), the same may not apply to the adult learner, although it is increasingly popular. The learner’s age is a critical distinction.

2:30-4:00pm Session 3:

SPENCER CAPLAN & KAJSA DJÄRV—*University of Pennsylvania*

Embedded V2 is Anti-licensed by Discourse Familiarity

A current question in the syntactic and semantic literature concerns the conditions licensing embedded Main Claim Phenomena (MCP) -- syntactic structures typically confined to matrix clauses (Hooper and Thompson 1973). We present new data from a quantitative corpus study looking at the distribution of Swedish embedded V2 (EV2) -- a classic MCP (Anderson 1975), and demonstrate that EV2 is anti-licensed by discourse familiarity

ADAM J.R. TALLMAN—*University of Texas at Austin*

Towards a Radical Construction Grammar approach to clitic phenomena: a case study of Southwestern Amazonian languages.

This paper presents an approach to understanding clitic phenomena based on Radical Construction Grammar (Croft 2001). I present a case study of clitic phenomena in 12 Southwestern Amazonian languages. Based on data from these languages I argue that a distinction between affixes and clitics on the one hand and words and clitics on the other hand cannot be made in a methodologically consistent way. Based on these data I argue that the concept of morphological autonomy needs to be reconceptualized as an index on which languages can vary (morphologies can be more or less autonomous). Statistical analyses which analyze correlations between criterial wordhood properties across morphemes and constructions in the languages of this study provide support for this perspective. The solution I present rejects the idea that morphological and syntactic or lexical and grammatical phenomena need to be distinguished a priori (Croft 2003, 2007; Haspelmath 2010).

4:15-5:45pm Keynote address

DR. ANDREA SIMS—*The Ohio State University*

Morphological connectivity in the mental lexicon: Does ‘irregular morphology’ exist?

In this paper I examine some examples of irregular inflectional morphology from Slavic and other languages and show that even extreme irregularities are integrated into the system of morphological organization. I explore some of the consequences of this for our understanding of inflectional structure, looking in particular at whether ‘irregular morphology’ is subject to the same principles of generalization as regular patterns, and ways in which cross-linguistic differences in inflectional structuring affect this. The overarching goal of this talk is to argue for a systems-oriented approach to morphological theory and typology that is rooted in the topological organization of the mental lexicon.

Saturday: September 16, 2017

9:00am Breakfast—CLA 1.302B

9:30-11:00am Session 4:

GENOVEVA DI MAGGIO—*Ohio University*

Comparative analysis of courtesy strategies and their relationship with gender.

This study investigated the courtesy strategies used in Uruguayan, Mexican, and Peninsular varieties of Spanish, and if the gender of the participants influences the strategies used. To compare the strategies this study focuses on speech-threatening acts (see Brown and Levinson, 1987). To collect data, two scenarios were given to the participants - a less and a more threatening context (adapted from Thimm et al, 2013). Ten interviews were carried out in each Spanish variety. The results show that in Uruguayan Spanish (cf. Peninsular Spanish) the tone of the request is more tentative, and the use of longer preambles is favored.

LAURA VALENTIN-RIVERA—*Kansas State University*

Aspectual differentiation among heritage speakers: a case in the Midwest

OMAR ALKHONINI—*George Mason University*

Sonority and Final Word Clusters: A Case Study on Najdi Arabic

This study examines the coda clusters in Classical Arabic and how Najdi Arabic (NA) speakers, modern inhabitants of the central area of Saudi Arabia, pronounce them. Fourteen NA participants were asked to read a list of thirty-one words that took into account falling, equal, and rising sonority clusters. The instrument contained one, two, and three steps of sonority for each level of sonority (falling and rising) to determine the minimal sonority distance used in NA. The results showed that the subjects added epenthesis in the rising and equal sonority clusters containing sonorants. However, they did not add epenthesis in the falling or equal sonority clusters containing obstruents.

11:15am-12:45pm Keynote address

DR. DAVID QUINTO-POZOS—*University of Texas at Austin*

Signed language pronouns have been studied for decades, and they have generally been the source of much debate in the literature. For example, various competing proposals have been put forth concerning the grammatical category of *person* in signed language (Meier, 1990; Lillo-Martin & Klima, 1990; Neidle et al., 2000), and pronominal points in signed language have also been compared to gestural pointing that can accompany speech (Liddell, 2000; Cormier, Schembri, & Woll, 2015). Signed language pronouns typically mark *number* distinctions, although *gender* and other categories of information (e.g., *kinship*, *formality of address*) are generally not marked. The forms of possessive and reflexive pronouns vary across sign languages, whereas personal pronouns are notably similar across signed languages—including those languages that are unrelated. These personal pronouns have been described as exhibiting a high degree of referential specificity in comparison to personal pronouns across spoken languages (McBurney, 2002). Referential specificity might predict reliable reference tracking and interpretation, although preliminary analyses of signed-to-spoken-language interpretations suggest a more complex picture. This presentation will highlight various challenges for the interpretation of signed language pronouns using data from multiple signed and spoken languages.

12:45-1:45pm Lunch (On your own)

1:45-3:15pm Session 5:

ÁNGELA ROMERO RODRIGUEZ—*Ohio University*

Elision in Medial and Final Clusters by Andalusian Learners of English

Andalusian Spanish is a variety that has both a tendency towards the relaxation of the articulatory and a long tradition of stigmatization associated with its characteristics, elision being one of them. The present study explores the different realizations of elision produced by Andalusian learners of English when facing medial and final clusters in their L2. The participants were recorded while completing three different reading tasks containing instances of elision. The acoustic analysis of the samples was carried out using Praat. Results indicate a greater number of realizations as elision for certain clusters, but a clear pattern could not be traced.

SPENCER CAPLAN—*University of Pennsylvania*

Mandarin “Descriptive Complements” are Adjuncts

In this paper, we argue that the main predicate in the Mandarin descriptive complement construction is the linearly first predicate. Our account of the relative scope of each predicate explains asymmetries in the distribution of negation within the construction. The same scopal properties additionally account for other phenomena in Mandarin such as the perfective aspect alternation. On this account the descriptive projection occupies a verbal adjunct position rather than being a real complement.

JUN LYU—*Stony Brook University*

Weak Crossover in Chinese—Now you see it, now you don’t

In this research, I looked at the behavior of Chinese weak crossover (WCO). On the one hand, while previous research claims that Chinese wh-in-situ phrases exhibit WCO effects (Huang & Li, 2006), a closer examination suggests that it is not always the case. On the other, it has been observed that configurations involving preposed wh-phrases give rise to no WCO effect, despite its violation of many of the constraints on WCO. Two possible accounts were examined with an offline experiment. The data falsified the A-scrambling account and partially supports the null operator movement account.

3:30-5:00pm Session 6:

ZACH CHILDERS—*NarrativeDx*

Disposition, Register, and Sentiment: A hierarchical taxonomy of the periphrastic causative verbs in English

This project investigates the so-called periphrastic causative verbs in English – verbs such as *cause*, *make*, *have*, *force*, and *let* – and distinguishes them with respect to their selectional behavior and inferential properties. I suggest that these verbs are primarily differentiated in terms of the evaluative and affective dispositions of participants in the speech act and the caused eventuality. The empirical basis for the claim incorporates corpora as well as experimental elicitation and judgment tasks. Based on these findings, a feature hierarchy is proposed.

WOJCIECH LEWANDOWSKI—*University of Copenhagen*

Motion events again: lexicalization patterns or constructions?

Since the publication of Talmy's (1991) seminal work, the domain of motion became the focus of a great deal of research; however, scant attention has been paid to the advantages of a construction-based approach to Talmy's findings. Crucially, it has been observed that a phrasal level of representation is necessary to deal with so-called unselected objects (Goldberg 1995, Narasmihan 2003). Here, I take this finding one-step further and I show, following Croft (2007), that using constructional frames as a *tertium comparationis* is more appropriate when dealing with cross-linguistic generalizations. Specifically, it allows for elucidating both general trends that go beyond Talmy's binary typology, as well as contrasts within a typological group (intra-typological variation).

RANIA HABIB—*Syracuse University*

Use of Standard Arabic [q]-Lexical- Borrowings in Syrian Rural Migrant Speech

This study examines the effect of gender, age, and education, on the frequency of lexical borrowings from Standard Arabic (SA) containing the voiceless uvular stop [q] sound in the speech of 52 rural migrant speakers to the city of Hims in Syria. Results show that unlike age, gender and education play a role in the frequency of lexical borrowings. Males use more lexical borrowings than females, and highly educated speakers use more lexical borrowings than those with less education. However, lexical borrowing becomes a marker of higher education among males and females, diminishing the gender effect among highly educated speakers.

7:30pm Reception

Butterfly Bar—2307 Manor Rd

Biographies

Keynotes:

RUTH KRAMER—*Georgetown University*

Ruth Kramer is an Associate Professor at Georgetown University. Her research focuses on the syntax-morphology interface, especially gender, number, clitics, agreement and all kinds of DP-related phenomena. She specializes in the morphosyntax of Amharic (Ethiosemitic), and has worked on several other Afroasiatic languages including Ancient Egyptian, Saudi Arabic, and Somali. Her publications include the monograph *The Morphosyntax of Gender* (Oxford, 2015) as well as articles in *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, and other journals.

DAVID QUINTO-POZOS—*University of Texas at Austin*

David Quinto-Pozos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin, USA. His research focuses on signed language, communication disorder, language acquisition and the interaction between language and gesture in the signed modality.

ANDREA SIMS—*The Ohio State University*

Andrea Sims is Associate Professor at The Ohio State University, jointly appointed in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures. She is interested in all aspects of morphological systems, from synchronic, historical, and typological perspective. Much of her work has focused on the internal organization of inflection class systems (e.g. defectiveness and irregularity, syncretism, inflection class complexity), and factors that influence its emergence, reinforcement, and generalization.

Presenters:

OMAR ALKHONINI—*George Mason University*

Omar Ahmed Alkhonini is a linguistics PhD student who is studying and working towards becoming an assistant professor, and who is expected to be graduating with his PhD in May of 2020 from George Mason University. Omar's preferred major field of linguistics is phonology.

MAYOWA AKINLOTAN—*Vrije Universiteit Brussels/University of Texas Austin*

Mayowa Akinlotan, a PhD student at Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB), is currently a visiting scholar at the Linguistics Research Center, UT Austin. My research focuses on the structure NP in new varieties of Englishes, and in particular, Nigerian English. Findings have been presented at international conferences (e.g. CICL Malaga Spain 2015, IFESAN Nigeria 2016) and published in international journals such as *English Today* (Akinlotan and Housen 2017), *Token* (Akinlotan 2016), *Anglica* (2017), etc.

BERNADETT BIRÓ—*University of Szeged, Hungary*

I am a research fellow at the Department of Finno-Ugric Linguistics at the University of Szeged, Hungary currently working on my postdoctoral project Nominalization in Mansi. I got my PhD degree from the University of Szeged in 2014 (Action Nominal Constructions in Northern Mansi). My areas of interest include: nominalization, nominalizers, grammaticalization, action nominal constructions, non-finite verb forms, ditransitive constructions as well as language endangerment and language loss.

SPENCER CAPLAN—*University of Pennsylvania*

Spencer is a Ph.D student in the Linguistics Department at the University of Pennsylvania. His research lies at the intersection of computation, cognition, and theoretical linguistics with a focus on language acquisition. Recent work includes a computational account of vowel harmony acquisition and models of word learning and biases in vocabulary development. He is also interested in linguistic “optionality”, particularly as it relates to morpho-syntax and language processing.

ABRAHAM CHANG—*Taylor University*

Dr. Abraham Chang is Professor of Spanish and Linguistics in the Department of Modern Languages at Taylor University. His research area includes syntax, morphology, applied linguistics and language teaching methods. He is currently interested in research on the factors classifying language proficiency levels, bilingualism and second language acquisition. Dr. Chang has been a long time active member of professional organizations such as AATSP, ACTFL, MLA as an article reviewer and writer.

HAN CHANG—*Taylor University*

Han Chang is in his third year as an undergraduate at Taylor University with a major in Biology and a minor in Spanish. Han has previously studied Spanish in Ecuador on two separate occasions for a

total of seven months and the research that he and his team will present during the conference. Han is on his track to completing his studies in Biology and hopes to further his studies in medical school.

WON CHANG—*Taylor University*

Won Chang is an undergraduate student at Taylor University majoring in Biology with a minor in Spanish. He is entering into his Junior year after just spent a semester abroad in Ecuador. Won's education at Taylor includes participating in research in both fields of Biology and Spanish.

ZACH CHILDERS—*NarrativeDx*

Zach Childers received his PhD in 2016 from the University of Texas at Austin. He currently works in industry as an evangelist for the structure of “unstructured data”.

KAJSA DJÄRV—*University of Pennsylvania*

Kajsa Djärv is a PhD candidate in the Linguistics Department at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests are in syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and their interface. Her dissertation research includes theoretical and experimental work investigating the nature and processing of presupposition and factivity, and its interaction with clausal complementation.

KRISHANTHA FEDRICKS—*University of Texas at Austin*

I am a second year PhD student in Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. I graduated from the California State University at Long Beach with an MA in linguistics. I earned my bachelor's degree in Sinhala language and literature at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and I taught Sinhala language and linguistics at the Department of Sinhala in the same university before I came to UT.

MURIEL GALLEGOS—*Ohio University*

SHANNON GRIPPANDO—*University of Arizona*

Shannon Grippando is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona's linguistics department studying psycholinguistics and computational linguistics. His research focuses on how orthography and literacy affect speech and the organization of language in the brain. His current work investigates how complexity in cross-linguistic orthographic forms contributes to spoken language alterations.

RANIA HABIB—*Syracuse University*

Rania Habib is Associate Professor of Linguistics and Arabic in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics at Syracuse University. She is interested in bilingualism, sociolinguistics, language variation and change, second dialect acquisition in children and adults, and the influence of urban varieties on rural varieties and vice versa with special focus on Syrian Arabic. Her research has appeared in prestigious venues, e.g. *Language Variation and Change*, *Journal of Child Language*, and *Journal of Pragmatics*.

GRETA KIERS—*Taylor University*

Greta Kiers began studying Spanish five years ago in Ecuador, and is now a graduate of Taylor University with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish. She is also a volunteer ESL teacher in Marion, Indiana, working primarily with immigrants from Mexico. This current research examines the effectiveness of

graphic versus written methods of teaching adult second language learners. Possible future research may include analysis of Spanish language proficiency testing.

WOJCIECH LEWANDOWSKI—*University of Copenhagen*

Wojciech Lewandowski (Marie-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Copenhagen) received his Ph.D. from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. His research focuses on semantic typology (Romance, Germanic, Slavic), argument structure and construction grammar. He has published in specialized journals such as *Linguistics*, *Studies in Language* and *Folia Linguistica*.

JUN LYU—*Stony Brook University*

I'm a 2nd year PhD student at Stony Brook. My main research interests lie in sentence processing (psycholinguistics) in L1 and L2. Current projects I'm working on include Chinese NPI processing using ERP and English crossover processing. I'm also intrigued by the Shallow Structure Hypothesis which makes interesting predictions on L2 processing. I have also previously worked on language production (Chinese RC processing with L2 speakers).

GENOVEVA DI MAGGIO—*Ohio University*

Genoveva Di Maggio is a graduate student in the Department of Modern Languages at Ohio University. Her research interests include Sociolinguistics and Second Language Acquisition. She is currently working on the intersection of gender and courtesy strategies in different Spanish varieties, as well as on the acquisition of mood and mood alternation abilities in L2 Spanish.

ANNA MEYER—*Taylor University*

Anna Meyer is a senior undergraduate student at Taylor University, majoring in Spanish Education with a minor in Biology. Her experience in Spanish includes a total of seven and a half months spent studying in Spain and Ecuador, along with the guided research that she is presenting with her team at this conference. She is currently completing her student teaching and will graduate in December.

ANGELA ROMERO RODRIGUEZ—*Ohio University*

Angela Romero Rodriguez is a graduate student in the Department of Modern Languages at Ohio University. Her research interests include Sociolinguistics, Pragmatics and Second Language Acquisition. She is currently working on the acquisition of mood alternation abilities in L2 Spanish through collaborative writing tasks, the intersection of gender and courtesy strategies in different Spanish varieties, and the (de)stigmatization of the Andalusian variety.

ADAM J.R. TALLMAN—*University of Texas at Austin*

Adam J.R. Tallman is a PhD candidate in linguistics at the University of Texas at Austin. His thesis is a description of Chácobo, a southern Panoan language of the northern Bolivian Amazon. He specializes in field methods and functional typological linguistics. He has done field work on Saulteaux-Ojibwe, Chácobo, Pacahuara, Araona, and Aymara.

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