Formal and Functional Approaches to the Study of Language

Prof. Dr. Holger Diessel

Veranstaltungsart: Hauptseminar
Zeit: Mo 16:15 – 17:45
Raum: CZ3 SR 131
Sprechstunde Mi. 14:00
Email holger.diessel@uni-jena.de

The seminar is concerned with the two major approaches to the study of grammar: The formal approach, in which linguistic structures are independent of their functions and meanings; and the functional approach, in which linguistic structures are motivated by functional and cognitive forces. The first part of the course provides an introduction to formal theories of grammar. In particular, we will consider the basic principles of generative grammar and its major developments since Chomsky’s early writings. The second part of the course is concerned with various functional-cognitive approaches to the study grammar, notably with construction grammar, and considers the basic differences between the two approaches.

Requirements

Short report
Homework assignments (about 3)
Term paper

Readings

Some of the readings can be downloaded from the internet. For all other papers there are master copies in front of my office.

Course materials can be downloaded from the internet through the ‘Digitale Bibliothek Thüringen’ (Link on homepage of university library). Search for ‘Formal-functional Linguistics’.
Course schedule

1. Introduction

2. Generative Grammar 1
   Phrase Structures  
   Chomsky 1957: 13-24
   c-command  
   Radford 1988: 1-27
   binding theory  

3. Generative Grammar 2
   Phrase structures and transformations  
   Radford 1988: 27-49
   Harlow 1994: 4650-4655

4. Generative Grammar 3
   Transformations and island constraints  
   [Radford 1988: 401-446]

5. Generative Grammar 4
   Generative semantics and the restructuring of the model  
   Harlow 1994: 4655-4664

6. Generative Grammar 5
   Move alpha, X-bar theory, subjacency  
   Sells 1985: 19-31, 42-47
   Cann 1994: 5065-5070

7. Construction Grammar 1
   From idioms to constructions  
   Croft 2003: chap 9

8. Construction Grammar 2
   Syntactic constructions as prototypes  
   Taylor 1998
   Networks of grammatical constructions  
   Diessel 1997

9. Construction Grammar 3
   The resultative construction  
   Goldberg & Jackendoff 2004
   The usage-based approach to CG  
   Diessel 2004: chap 2

10. The Usage-based Model 1
    Grammaticalization  
    Bybee 2003
    Frequency effects  
    Bybee and Thompson 1997

11. The Usage-based Model 2
    Processing  
    Hawkins 1998
    Competing Motivations  
    Diessel 2005

12. The usage-based Model 3
    Language acquisition  
    Dabrowska 2000
    Diessel & Tomasello 2000

13. The usage-based Model 4
    Connectionsim  
    Bates and Elman 2002
Course readings

(http://crl.ucsd.edu/~elman/) Articles

(http://www.unm.edu/~jbybee/) Articles


(http://www.degruyter.de/journals/cogling/cl11_1_2.html) UniBibl. On-Line Journals

(http://www.holger-diessel.de/) Research > here

(http://www.holger-diessel.de/) Publications.

(http://people.brandeis.edu/~jackendo/) Recent and forthcoming papers


Short reports

Generative grammar 1
Generative Grammar 2
Generative Grammar 3
Generative Grammar 4
Generative Grammar 5
Construction Grammar 1
Construction Grammar 2
  a. Syntactic constructions as prototypes
  b. Networks of grammatical constructions
Construction Grammar 3
  a. The resultative construction
  b. The usage-based approach to construction grammar
The Usage-based Model 1
  a. Grammaticalization
  b. Frequency effects
The Usage-based Model 2
  a. Processing
  b. Competing motivations
The Usage-based model 3
  a. The acquisition of questions
  b. Learning vs. growth