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Abstracts:

WHEN SEMANTICS MEETS PHONETICS: ACOUSTICAL STUDIES OF SECOND-OCCURRENCE FOCUS

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A second occurrence (SO) focus is the semantic focus of a focus sensitive operator (e.g. *only*), but is a repeat of an earlier focused occurrence. We report on the first systematic production and perception experiments to show that SO foci occurring after a nuclear accent are, as Rooth (1996b) has claimed, prosodically marked. We find (i) there is no mean pitch rise on SO foci; (ii) SO foci are marked by longer duration and greater energy; and (iii) listeners are able to detect the difference between SO foci and non-foci. On the basis of these results, we argue that SO focus is compatible with theories of focus interpretation that it has been claimed to contradict.

THE ROLE OF PHONETIC KNOWLEDGE IN PHONOLOGICAL PATTERNING: CORPUS AND SURVEY EVIDENCE FROM TAGALOG INFIXATION

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A current controversy in phonological theory concerns the explanation of crosslinguistic tendencies. It is often assumed that crosslinguistic tendencies are explained by a mental bias: a pattern is common because it is favored by learners/speakers. But work by Blevins and colleagues in *EVOLUTIONARY PHONOLOGY* has argued that many crosslinguistic tendencies can be explained without positing such bias. This would mean that crosslinguistic tendencies cannot be unproblematically used as evidence about the mental machinery that humans bring to learning and using language. In response, many researchers have looked at different types of data, such as processing, learning of real and artificial languages, and literary invention. This article presents another type of data: extension of native-language phonology to words with novel phonological structure, in this case infixation in Tagalog into loanwords with novel initial consonant clusters. The data come from a written corpus of Tagalog and from a survey. Tagalog speakers' treatment of these clusters parallels Fleischhacker's crosslinguistic findings of cluster splittability. This article argues that explaining the data requires attributing to Tagalog speakers phonetic knowledge and a bias about how to apply that knowledge.

FUNCTIONAL COMPOSITIONALITY AND THE INTERACTION OF DISCOURSE CONSTRAINTS

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We argue for the existence of functionally complex constructions whose elements compositionally impose discourse-functional constraints on the use of the whole. In particular, we examine *th*-clefts (as in *That's John who wrote the book*), equatives with epistemic *would* and demonstrative subjects (as in *That would be John*), and simple equatives with demonstrative subjects (as in *That's John*). We show that, contra previous approaches, the latter two constructions need not be analyzed as truncated clefts. Rather, the properties that these constructions share with *th*-clefts can be straightforwardly accounted for as the sum of the constraints on their shared elements—that is, the equative construction, the demonstrative subject, and the presence of a contextually salient open proposition. The convergence of these elemental properties in each of these three constructions results in the possibility of the demonstrative being used to refer to the instantiation of the variable in the open proposition, which in turn predicts a complex of distributional behaviors shared by precisely the constructions that share these properties. Because these distributional behaviors can be straightforwardly explained in terms of this functional compositionality, the motivation for a truncated-cleft analysis disappears. These results suggest that not all functional properties must be learned on a construction-by-construction basis; instead, the discourse functions of an utterance are built up compositionally from those of its parts.

TRANSMISSION AND DIFFUSION

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The transmission of linguistic change within a speech community is characterized by incrementation within a faithfully reproduced pattern characteristic of the family tree model, while diffusion across communities shows weakening of the original pattern and a loss of structural features. It is proposed that this is the result of the difference between the learning abilities of children and adults. Evidence is drawn from two studies of geographic diffusion. (i) Structural constraints are lost in the diffusion of the New York city pattern for tensing short-*a* to four other communities: northern New Jersey, Albany, Cincinnati, and New Orleans. (ii) The spread of the Northern Cities Shift from Chicago to St. Louis is found to represent the borrowing of individual sound changes, rather than the diffusion of the structural pattern as a whole.

SHORT REPORT: PHONEME INVENTORY SIZE AND POPULATION SIZE

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Victoria University of Wellington

This short report investigates the relationship between population size and phoneme inventory size, and finds a surprisingly robust correlation between the two. The more speakers a language has, the bigger its phoneme inventory is likely to be. We show that this holds for both vowel inventories and consonant inventories. It is not an artefact of language family.

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