

Master of Arts in Language and Linguistics

Papers 2012–2014

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Effects of visual feedback on the temporal aspects of argumentative writing

Author: Vesna Mirkoska, English, Master thesis two years, October 1st 2012

The effects of visual feedback in writing have mainly been investigated in the context of L1 handwriting and findings generally point to the detrimental effects of visual suppression, in terms of lower quality of the text, shorter clauses and lack of coherence. An investigation of visual feedback effects in computer-based L2 text production has not been undertaken yet. More specifically, findings indicate that visual feedback in L2 provides a release for the limited working memory in L2. In addition, while producing argumentative text, links need to be established between arguments. This makes the role of visual feedback critical. Given the relationship established between pause duration and working memory demands, suppression of visual feedback is expected to influence the temporal patterns of text production. Against this backdrop, the present exploratory study investigated the effect of visual feedback on the temporal variables of pause duration, pause location, pause frequency, and pause distribution as well as the aspects of fluency during the production of English L2 argumentative texts. In a within-subjects study, 14 English L2 participants produced argumentative texts in a condition with visual feedback and in a condition with restricted visual feedback. Data were collected with ScriptLog, a keystroke logging programme. 28 texts were coded for pauses on three levels: metatextual level (text, movement, editing), textual (Introduction, Arguments for and against and Conclusion) and syntactic (clause and phrase). Two analyses were performed based on two pause location definitions. The first analysis defined location of the pause before the specified units, whereas the second defined location after the designated units. An exception to the dual analysis was the textual level. Results of the paired t-test(s) show that when visual feedback is restricted, frequency and duration scores for pauses at movement locations increase significantly. At editing locations, however, frequency and duration scores significantly decrease. Second, writers spend significantly less pause time in the introductory part but pause more while they produce arguments against. Third, results indicate that frequency scores are significantly higher at clause final and phrase internal locations. Finally, while fluency remained constant, wasted characters were lower in the restricted feedback condition. To conclude, manipulating visual feedback alters the temporal aspects of L2 writing but does not necessarily produce detrimental effects.

Supervisors: Prof. Carita Paradis and Victoria Johansson

Strukturelle Unterschiede bei der Satzgliedidentifikation im Deutschen und Englischen – beim Vergleich medizinischer Texte

Author: Luciano Lykkebo, German, Master thesis one year, December 19th 2012

Supervisor: Valeria Molnár

Enough Approach and Lingering Effects of Error Correction in Antonymic Pairs: Evidence from Eye Movements

Author: Alexander Strukelj, English, Master thesis two years, January 28th 2013

This study is concerned with how the reading process reacts to detection of errors in discourse, and how this differs from cases where an error is missed or if no error is present. It sets out to investigate these questions using eye-tracking methodology. In order to determine the influence of detection of errors during the reading process, native English speakers were asked to read short news items containing antonymic incongruities in an eye-tracking experiment.

Experimental items were coded as discovered or not discovered based on answers given during the experiment and post-experiment interviews. A significant decrease was found in first fixation durations on discovered incongruities compared to the control condition, suggesting that language processing is instantaneously interrupted by detection of an error, in order to revise the representation of the text.

No difference was found in first fixation duration for undetected incongruities compared to the control condition. This supports the Good Enough approach to language comprehension. It argues that the heuristics providing an analysis of what is expected from the text enable the reader to dismiss an error before it undergoes a full semantic analysis. However, a significant increase in the total number of fixations on the word immediately prior to an undiscovered incongruity was found, as well as a marginally significant increase on the incongruity itself. This suggests that while the parser is capable of initially compensating for textual errors during reading, some cost is still accrued, evidenced in late measures – a finding that mirrors the garden path linger.

Supervisors: Prof. Carita Paradis and Marcus Nyström

Northern Aslian Linguistic Prehistory: Tracing the Effects of Contact

Author: Joanne Yager, General linguistics, Master thesis two years, February 14th 2013

This study focuses on the genealogical and contact-based connections among the Northern Aslian varieties, which form one of three subgroups of the Aslian subbranch of the Austroasiatic stock, spoken in Peninsular Malaysia and southern Thailand. The complex patterns of contact that exist among the speakers of the closely related Northern Aslian varieties coupled with a scarcity of data and a lack of written history give rise to difficulties in the representation of the historical relationships among these varieties using traditional models of language

classification. In particular, the study focuses on the variety of Menriq spoken in the resettlement area of Sungai Rual, Kelantan, Malaysia. The lexical and phonological features of this hitherto undescribed variety as well as its unexpected geographical location suggest a complex and ambiguous history. Analysis of the phonological and lexical aspects of this variety using a range of different methods suggests that its speakers may have undergone periods of both isolation from and intense contact with speakers of the other Northern Aslian varieties of the study. Furthermore, a large degree of contact among the majority of the Northern Aslian varieties is evident in the analyses, and patterns suggest the past existence of a dialect continuum stretching from central Peninsular Malaysia into southern Thailand. More recently, it would appear that this continuum has been split in two by the arrival of Jahai-speaking groups in the midst of the formerly contiguous Menriq- and Kensiw/Kintaq-speaking groups, resulting in lower levels of contact involving the varieties spoken to the north of this split. The findings suggest the importance of further study of the Menriq Rual variety and of the genealogical and contact-based patterns among the Northern Aslian varieties, as well as the urgency of documentation endeavours in this part of the world.

Supervisor: Niclas Burenhult (Ph.D.)

Constant Tonal Alignment in Swedish Word Accent II

Author: Malin Svensson, Phonetics, Master thesis one year, February 21st 2013

Studies on accentual tonal alignment of intonational languages suggest a segmental anchoring of tonal targets, more specifically that L in rising (LH) pre-nuclear accents anchors with a specific point in the segment, while the timing of H varies. This study tests if lexical accents, too, exhibit a constant alignment by testing the South Swedish word Accent II using speech rate as an experimental tool. When under the strain of tempo variability the L-target was shown not to be anchored with syllable onset, while the H-target anchored close to syllable offset. This could mean that H is an important phonological event in Accent II, while L is not. Further studies are suggested on the following L-target. Results suggest further that additional factors such as individual speaker strategies and effects of speech rate should be taken into account in future studies.

Supervisor: Gilbert Ambrazaitis

Japanese numeral classifiers: A Cognitive Grammar study

Author: Adriano Sorccorsi, Japanese, Master thesis two years, February 21st 2013

The purposes of this corpus study are to analyse Japanese numerical classifiers from the perspective of Cognitive Grammar (Langacker 1987a, Paradis 2005), to investigate the difference between classifiers and quantifiers and to determine to

which extent Japanese classifiers are used to profile the nominal content of the nouns in their scope. As for the first point, the meaning of classifiers is analysed in terms of conceptual ontologies (both content and schematic ontologies) and construals, with particular focus on the schema of BOUNDEDNESS and on the construals of profiling, metonymy and metaphor. As for the second point, the difference between classifiers and quantifiers is found not to be a clear-cut and classifiers are found to be used to a certain extent as quantifiers. Finally, it has been discovered that Japanese classifiers specify the meaning of the nouns in their scope especially in the case of homophones and polysemous nouns.

Supervisors: Lars Larm and prof. Carita Paradis

Un'analisi linguistica della traduzione di un romanzo italiano contemporaneo

Author: Andreas Onorati, Italian, Master thesis one year, March 8th 2013

Questo lavoro è dedicato alla traduzione del romanzo Gomorra di Roberto Saviano, tradotto nello svedese da Barbro Andersson. Da un lato, si analizza la traduzione di vari fenomeni grammaticali, come le parafrasi, le frasi condensate, le frasi ellittiche e l'uso del gerundio. Dall'altro, si indaga su come cambino in svedese varie locuzioni e casi di linguaggio figurato.

This essay contains an analysis of the translation of the novel Gomorra written by Roberto Saviano. It has been translated into Swedish by Barbro Andersson. One part is dedicated to the translation of different grammatical concepts like paraphrases, condensed sentences, elliptic phrases and the use of the gerund. Another part is dedicated to the translations of ways of sayings and cases of figurative language.

Supervisor: Prof. Verner Egerland

Objektsflytt i L1- och L2-svenska. En kontrastiv studie av språkbruk och språkuppfattning hos svenska och polska talare

Author: Ewa Petersson, Swedish/Scandinavian languages, Master thesis two years, May 2103

Supervisor: Gunlög Josefsson

Two Millennia of Lexical and Typological Change in Western Europe – a quantitative geographical approach

Author: Filip Larsson, General linguistics, Master thesis two years, June 2103

This thesis aims to examine the lexical and typological change found in the Western European language families of Germanic, Romance and Celtic over the last two millennia. The method used was to create one lexical and one typological database and the data was analysed according to etic grids. Tree models were generated from the results of the databases and the groups found in the tree models were mapped out on a map over Western Europe. The lexical results were similar to traditional classifications. The lexical results also showed that the changes appeared according to a pattern that could be described by the wave theory where lexical changes spread from the centre to the periphery. The results of the typological data were different from traditional classifications as it did not follow the boundaries of the three language families. In general the wave theory was applicable to a lesser extent to the typological data but it was relevant for the verbal morphology. Contrary to the lexical results the typological results indicated the existence of conservative centres with the peripheral languages being more typologically innovative. The conclusions drawn were that lexical change and typological change are two diametrically different and independent processes.

Supervisor: Gerd Carling

Event-related brain potentials and the processing of filled gaps in English relative clauses

Author: Andrea Schremm, English, Master thesis one year, June 2013

The processing of filler-gap dependencies was investigated by recording event-related brain potentials (ERPs) from native speaker participants listening to English relative clauses. The stimulus material involved ungrammatical object-relative clauses in which the assumed gap position was occupied by an overt noun phrase. These items and their control conditions were adopted from Hestvik et al. (2007), who reported an ELAN effect for the filled gap. In the present experiment the extra noun phrase elicited a P600 response suggesting processing difficulties related to the formation of syntactic relations between the critical word and the preceding sentential elements. No enhanced N400 was observed, possibly due to the fact that the extra argument and the embedded verb were semantically compatible with each other. The failure to obtain an ELAN effect was attributed to the absence of phrase structure violations, and it is suggested that the early negativity observed by Hestvik et al. (2007) might have reflected prosodic incongruity or increased working memory load. Schremm (2012) investigated advanced second language learners' ERP responses to the same stimulus material as used in the present study and observed similar patterns

of ERP effects. While a delay in the onset of the P600 effect suggests slower processing of the second language, comparison of the results of the two studies did not reveal fundamental differences between native speakers and second language learners concerning the nature of representations that underlie the formation of filler-gap dependencies.

Supervisors: Prof. Carita Paradis and Mikael Roll

The Particle *wo* in Japanese: From Exclamative Particle to Case Marker

Author: Erika Andersson, Japanese, Master thesis one year, June 2013

This thesis investigates the different usages of the *wo* particle in the Japanese language, from the time of the earliest sources of the 8th century up until today, by presenting examples from different genres and time periods. It shows that the accusative function of the particle has remained in the language at least from the earliest sources while the exclamatory and interjectional usages started to decline by the 12th century. It also shows that the particle was widely used for marking adverbials in the pre-modern language while such a function is limited in the modern language. The development of the particle is discussed and a possible path of diachronic change is proposed. The development is compared to general patterns for case development. It is observed that case particles generally do not develop from exclamations and that no such pattern has been found in other languages, possibly making Japanese unique in this regard.

Supervisors: Lars Larm and Axel Svahn

Tyrtaeus in Plato: A case of Poetry at the Service of Philosophy

Author: Claudia Zichi, Greek, Master thesis one years, June 2013

This study will address a set of questions about how Plato appropriates Tyrtaeus' poetry for the benefit of his own philosophical writing. In particular we will focus on Tyrtaeus' elegiac poem, *Eunomia*, as quoted in the *Laws*, in order to show that his reception oscillates between approval and disapproval. We will try to prove that the poet's words are used in order to establish Plato's own argument about the individuation of the best virtue.

Tyrtaeus' quotation will be analysed both in the framework of its original poetic context and in Plato's new philosophical context. From this perspective we will discuss the extent to which Plato disregards and changes the content of Tyrtaeus' original. As regards Plato's misinterpretation of Tyrtaeus' poem in 660a---661e we will consider the meaning of textual variants and the significance of any change that Plato makes to it. In terms of context, it will be discussed the literary

setting of the original text and the philosophical context in which the quotation is inserted.

When it comes to poetry, it is generally accepted that Plato shows different approaches to the works of earlier poets. The philosopher discusses the poetic word and, when it is necessary, he confutes it, so that it can be functional to his own ethical principles. From this perspective the use of poetry is then not rejected but rather submitted to philosophical and ethical criteria. In other words, it should be used for “useful” χρήσιμος and “beneficial” ωφέλιμος ends.

Supervisor: Karin Blomqvist

Stance-taking and social status on an online bulletin board. A qualitative and quantitative approach

Author: Nele Põldvere, English, Master thesis two years, August 2013

In this study, I demonstrate that social hierarchy and power are important aspects for understanding the use of epistemic and evidential stance verbs in computer-mediated communication. The data for the study come from an online bulletin board, where the construction of social roles is believed to play a role in the expression of stance. The members of the community are divided into three hierarchically distinct social ranks based on status and activity on the board. I investigate whether members of a higher rank use epistemic and evidential stance verbs in a more authoritative manner than members of lower ranks using two methodological frameworks. In the qualitative part of the study, I adopt the dialogical discourse analysis to argue that epistemic and evidential stance is a dialogically constructed phenomenon that locally emerges between conversational co-participants. The quantitative part of the study employs the multifactorial usage-feature analysis, where two stance verbs think and seem are coded for a range of formal, semantic and extra-linguistic factors, which are believed to contribute to the differentiation of authoritative and tentative stance. The results show that bulletin board users of a higher rank exhibit a more authoritative and even aggressive use of epistemic and evidential stance verbs than users of lower ranks.

Supervisors: Carita Paradis and Dylan Glynn

The In-group and Out-groups of the British National Party and UK Independence Party: A corpus-based Critical Discourse Analysis

Author: Robin Engström, English, Master thesis two years, September 2013

The purpose of this paper is to determine to what degree there are textual and conceptual similarities between the British National Party's (BNP) and UK Independence Party's (UKIP) construction of in-groups and out-groups. The focus is on the two discursive strategies nomination (attribution of word form) and predication (attribution of quality).

For the present study I adopt the Discourse-Historical Approach to Critical Discourse Analysis, which offers a broad sociologic understanding of linguistic phenomena through historical contextualization. The data consist of a corpus containing news articles and policy documents from official BNP and UKIP outputs.

The in-group analysis shows that both parties have gained in confidence between the 2005 and 2010 general elections, which is mirrored in their choice of party name as preferred form of self-representation. When claiming uniqueness, both parties mix ideological themes with concrete policies, but UKIP claims ownership of more banal policies. While the BNP and UKIP criticize each other, the main recipients of their criticism are the establishment parties. Both parties feel the need to distance themselves from accusations of racism; the BNP in particular.

The out-group analysis shows that both parties frequently discuss immigration and refer to immigrants using the same word forms, although UKIP's use is more consistent with internationally agreed definitions. Both parties construct immigration as unstoppable forces, e.g. by using water metaphors. References to country of origin are also frequent; UKIP emphasizes Eastern European immigration while the BNP highlights immigration from the Third World.

Overall, the analysis shows that both parties use language extensively to distinguish between in-groups and out-groups, but that UKIP's parameters are more fine-tuned.

Supervisor: Carita Paradis

Grammatikundervisning i den nya gymnasieskolan. Ett helhetsperspektiv med utgångspunkt i Gy2011.

Author: Philippe Collberg, Scandinavian Languages, Master thesis two years, October 2013

I uppsatsen analyseras och jämförs föreställningar om grammatik och grammatikundervisning i gymnasieskolans språkämnena, mot bakgrund av de

nyligen introducerade ämnesplanerna i Gy2011. Syftet är att undersöka och diskutera grammatikundervisningen i stort, samt att jämföra hur de olika språkämnen och skolans olika aktörer förhåller sig till varandra i synen på grammatik. Det analyserade materialet utgörs dels av ämnesplanerna för svenska, engelska och moderna språk, dels av intervjuer med två gymnasielärare från varje språkämne, av gymnasieelever, samt av läroböcker från de olika språkämnen.

Analyserna visar att förställningarna om grammatik skiljer sig såväl mellan ämnena, som mellan aktörerna inom ämnena. I ämnesplanerna för grammatiken en undanskymd tillvaro när kommunikativa färdigheter skrivs fram, och den explicita grammatikundervisning som förekommer har istället förlagts till svenska 2, som inte är obligatorisk på samtliga gymnasieprogram. Flera av lärarna betonar vikten av grammatik i språkundervisningen, främst med motiveringen att det underlättar för de främmande språken, men den personliga inställningen till grammatik verkar ha stor betydelse för vilken roll och vilket utrymme den får i undervisningen. Eleverna å sin sida upplever grammatikundervisningen som viktig när de lär sig främmande språk, men överflödigt när den ges inom ramen för svenskämnet. De menar att grammatiken i det ena språkämnet inte hjälper dem när de lär sig grammatik i ett annat språkämne. I läroböckerna för svenska och moderna språk framstår grammatiksynen som en oproblematiserad begreppskunskap, medan grammatiken i engelskämnets lärobok är funktionell och normativ.

Uppsatsens slutsatser är att det på gymnasiet saknas ett gemensamt, ämnesövergripande förhållningssätt till språkens grammatiska innehåll, och att grammatikundervisningen framstår om isolerade verksamheter såväl inom de olika språkämnen, som mellan desamma. Det härleds dels till en avsaknad av explicit grammatikdiskussion i ämnesplanerna, dels till att en normativ grammatiksyn framstår som central i undervisningen av svenska och engelska. Det verkar vidare finnas en förväntan att elever kan förvärva metaspråklig förståelse implicit genom kommunikativ träning, och genom att själva se sambanden mellan de olika språken.

Supervisor: Gunlög Josefsson

Liebestod, Eros and Thanatos in the Cretan Renaissance. Women's social role as depicted by Georgios Chortatsis in the Tragedy Erophile

Author: Argiro Markaki, Greek, Master thesis two years, December 2013

Supervisor: Vassilios Sabatakakis

Tracking Linguistic Primitives: The Phonosemantic Realization of Fundamental Oppositional Pairs

Author: Niklas Johansson, General Linguistics, Master thesis two years, December 2013

This thesis investigates how cross-linguistic phoneme distributions of 56 fundamental oppositional concepts can reveal semantic relationships by looking into the linguistic forms of 75 genetically and areally distributed languages. Based on proposals of semantic primes (Goddard 2002), reduced Swadesh lists (Holman et al. 2008), presumed ultraconservative words (Pagel et al. 2013), attested basic antonyms (Paradis, Willners & Jones 2009) and sense perception words, a number of semantic oppositional pairs were selected. Five different types of sound groupings were used dividing phonemes according to; the frequency of vowels' second formant and consonants' energy accumulation (Frequency), sonority (Sonority), a combination of the aforementioned two (Combination), general phonetic traits, e.g. voicing (General), and lastly incorporating all traits of the four presented groupings (All). These were analyzed by means of cluster analyses creating biplots, illustrating the phonological relatedness between the investigated concepts. Also, the phoneme distributions' over- and underrepresentation from the average was calculated defining which sounds represented and were lacking for each concept. Significant semantic groupings and relations based solely on phonological contrasts were found for most investigated concepts, including the semantic domains; Small, Intense Vision-Touch, Large, Organic, Horizontal-Vertical Distance, Deictic, Containment, Gender, Parent and Diurnal, and the sole concept OLD. The most notable relations found were; MOTHER/I vs. FATHER, a three-way deictic distinction between I, indicatory deictic concepts and THERE, and a dimensional tripartite oppositional relationship between Small and (possibly with Intense Vision-Touch), Large-Organic and Horizontal-Vertical Distance. Embodiment, benefits of oppositional thinking and evidence for more general concepts to precede complex concepts were proposed as explanations for the results.

Supervisors: Gerd Carling, Arthur Holmer, Joost van de Weijer, Jordan Zlatev

L'intonation montante en français spontané. Continuation vs. Question

Author: Emma Valtersson, French, Master thesis two years, December 2013

Supervisor: Paul Touati

Swedish relative clause extractions: The Small Clause Hypothesis

Author: Christiane Müller, Scandinavian Languages, Master thesis two years, February 2014

On the basis of data from Swedish, this thesis investigates the Small Clause Hypothesis put forth by Kush et al. (2013). The hypothesis is suggested to account for the rare possibility of relative clause extraction, a phenomenon that poses a challenge for syntactic theories of locality. In brief, the hypothesis states that the possibility to extract from relative clauses is restricted to cases where the matrix contains a small clause-selecting verb. In that case the parser can reconstruct the complex noun phrase involving a relative clause as a small clause (from which extraction is not blocked). Language variation is claimed to be derivable from differences with regard to properties of the relative pronoun. A detailed investigation of the Small Clause Hypothesis and the analysis based on that, against data from Swedish, reveals that the predictions generated by the proposal are not borne out. First, a number of extraction examples retrieved from the literature constitute counterexamples to the claim that relative clause extraction is restricted to small clause-selecting matrix verbs. Second, Kush et al.'s (2013) assumptions about the role of the Swedish relative complementizer in the parsing process are implausible in light of data from other Scandinavian languages and extraction data from the relevant small clauses. Finally, the results of a controlled acceptability judgment experiment on Swedish relative clause extractions showed no statistically significant differences between matrix predicates. The conclusion of the thesis is that Swedish relative clause extractions do not provide any support for the Small Clause Hypothesis and therefore that another explanation for the phenomenon must be sought.

Supervisor: Anna-Lena Wiklund

The Homeric element in Cavafy's poetry: three examples

Author: Mikaela - Aiki Kamperi, Modern Greek, Master thesis one years, March 2014

Supervisor: Vassilios Sabatakakis

Anglizismen über dreißig Jahre in drei deutschen und drei schwedischen Übersetzungen

Author: Inga Christensen, German, Master thesis two years, April 2014

Supervisor: Valeria Molnár

Representations of Tragic Themes in Plutarch's Lives : Demetrius and Antony

Author: Antonios Pontoropoulos, Greek, Master thesis two years, June 2014

This thesis considers any existing representations of tragic themes in Plutarch's Lives of Demetrius and Antony. There is a modern debate regarding the nature of the tragic, which is initially addressed. The proposed themes are treated from the perspective of Plutarch's literary and moral intentions, namely the presentation of negative examples.

Supervisor: Karin Blomqvist

Laughter in Lucian: Perspectives on wealth and poverty in Nekomantia, Cataplus, and Dialogi Mortuorum

Author: Morfia Stamatopoulou, Greek, Master thesis two years, June 2014

Supervisor: Karin Blomqvist

Tid hos Jon Fosse : Stilistisk analys av gestaltningen av tidselementet i Fosses roman Det er Ales

Author: Šárka Erbenová, Scandinavian Languages, Master thesis two years, June 2014

I uppsatsen gör jag en stilistisk analys av Jon Fosses roman Det er Ales samt en analys av tidsgestaltningen i romanen. Arbetets huvudfält är litterär stilistik där form och innehåll ses som två samspelande komponenter inom ett skönlitterärt

verk. Huvudsyftet är att belysa hur form och innehåll samverkar i gestaltningen av tid i Det er Ales och vad denna gestaltning får för konsekvenser för förståelsen i romanen.

Flera mindre kvantitativa undersökningar och en kvalitativ analys inriktade på utmärkande stildrag i Det er Ales har visat att Fosses prosa är mycket särpräglad och skiljer sig i många avseenden från språket i samtida skandinaviska romaner.

I analysen av tidsgestaltningen behandlas tid, rum och perspektiv som tre samspelande element. Jag har spårat alla tids- och perspektivskiften i romanen samt undersökt på vilka sätt dessa skiften sker i romanen, vilket har belyst romanens tidsgestaltning. Denna analys har visat att tidsuppfattningen i romanen är mycket bunden till de olika platserna som gestaltas där. Alla tidsnivåer: dåtid, nutid och framtid verkar vara tillgängliga samtidigt genom specifika platser viktiga i romanens personers liv. Tiden i romanen gestaltas snarare som en krets än som en linje. Hela tidsgestaltningen byggs på ett sammanhang av flera olika realiteter. Samma historier, samma mönster i människans liv, upprepas från generation till generation.

Sammanhang mellan form och innehåll har visat sig tydligt under analysen. Både Fosses stil och verklighetsskildring i romanen bygger på kontinuitet och upprepning: både gränserna för romanspråkets standard såväl som den traditionella kronologin överskrids.

Supervisor: Lisa Holm

Constituent order in non-verbal representations: Describing events with pictures by speakers of Swedish and Kurdish

Author: Anu Vastenius, General Linguistics, Master thesis two years, June 2014

In this thesis the question concerning possible influence of language on thinking was addressed by investigating constituent orders in non-verbal representations of motion events. Forty-nine participants, 25 native speakers of Swedish with the default order SVO (or Agent-Act-Patient), and Kurdish with SOV (Agent-Patient-Act) were recruited in Sweden and 24 in Iraqi Kurdistan to take part in an experiment. Reconstructions of motion events were elicited with video-clips and picture cards to investigate whether the constituent (word) order in one's native language has an impact on the used order in pictorial sequencing. Evidence for the influence of language in the non-verbal representations could be detected in both language groups. In addition, the model of "thinking for speaking" suggested by Slobin (1996) was supported by the results, especially in the Swedish group.

Supervisor: Jordan Zlatev

Identity Performance in British Rock and Indie Music: Authenticity, Stylization, and Glocalization

Author: Christine Schulze, English, Master thesis two years, June 2014

This master's thesis, departing from the work done by Peter Trudgill and Paul Simpson, aims at widening the scope of research on the identity performance of British rock and indie musicians by taking into account the influences and intersections of local and global social contexts. It not only analyzes the musicians' accents but also focuses on their lyrics, music videos and statements in interviews. The different types of data are analyzed for references of place in relation to theories of discourse, stylization and authenticity. The thesis applies the concept of glocalization, which has been widely used in studies of hip hop music, to the genres rock and indie in order to explain how local and global forces influence discursive identity production, particularly in relation to popular culture. The first phase of the study is a lyrical analysis of five British bands. Based on the results of the first phase, three bands were chosen for in-depth multimodal discourse analysis in a second phase. Results show how the bands' identity performances were changed and (re)shaped over the course of their careers. The study reveals three different profiles of the approach to and the development of identity performance, highlighting the importance of individuality in the face of mass media. In all, with respect to methodology, the study illustrates the benefit of discourse-analytic case study for the investigation of identity performance by musical artists.

Supervisor: Francis Hult



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