

In the meeting of the syntax-semantics colloquium of IEAS,

Jackie Nordström (Frankfurt)

will speak on

A functional-semantic account of case and adpositions

When? Monday, 4.12.2017, 16ct

Where? IG 3.201

Abstract

In this talk, it will be argued on the basis of data from Icelandic, German and a variety of other languages, that case is a functional category of the noun, signaling its relation to the selecting head word (as argued for by Bittner and Hale 1996 and others). It will be argued that structural cases such as the nominative and accusative can also be given this semantic explanation since their distribution is dependent upon reference saliency hierarchies (semantic role, animacy, volition, affectedness, etc.) and the presence of other cases. Furthermore, it is argued that lexical (idiosyncratic) cases such as the genitive can be associated with particular semantic roles, just like inherent (semantic) cases such as the dative and ergative. In fact, in agreement with Blake (2001) and others, it is argued that case can be put together into a relational category with adpositions, case being their synthetic counterparts.

In this framework, case does not represent uninterpretable features that must be deleted before the derivation is sent to the interfaces, but instead the most peripheral functional category of the noun. It is also demonstrated that there is a disassociation between Tense and the nominative case in Icelandic, leaving nominative case to be assigned/selected in the vP by v or V (depending on construction).

Everyone is cordially invited!

Manfred Sailer, Frank Richter, Gert Webelhuth

You will find an up-to-date program of our colloquium at:

<https://www.english-linguistics.de/oberseminar/oberseminar-wise-201718/>