

We are happy to announce the last two talks in the colloquium *Recent Trends in Linguistic Research WiSe 2018/19*:

Frank Kügler
**“Aspects of prosodic phrasing of pronouns in
German”**

5.2.2019, 14.15-15.45, IG 0.251

Pronouns are function words syntactically, and are commonly viewed as weak elements in prosodic constituency (Selkirk, 1996; Truckenbrodt, 2007). A pronoun constitutes a functional head without any complement, and thus the pronoun usually does not project a mapping constraint from syntactic to higher prosodic structure (Truckenbrodt, 2007; Bennett et al. 2015). Function words may be either phrased as a prosodic word (ω) or phrased as a prosodic clitic (Selkirk, 1996). Recently, increasing evidence arises that function words, such as pronouns, have both weak and strong versions, and that strong functional elements are treated similar to lexical words in that they receive a pitch accent (Bennett et al. 2015). In languages such as English or German, the head of a ϕ -phrase is usually realized as a pitch accent (e.g. Selkirk, 1995). If a pronoun is accented the question arises how an accented pronoun is prosodically phrased and if it can be interpreted as a head of a prosodic phrase.

This study is concerned with personal pronouns in German and their conditions for prosodic phrasing. I will explore the ability to carry an accent for these pronouns. The presence or absence of a pitch accent is tested in different syntactic positions. Ten German native speakers read about 30 different sentences each. Results show some variability with respect to accentuation. Pronouns may either receive a full pitch accent, or not. Accent types that are realized on pronouns appear to be less prominent accents than nuclear accents (cf. Baumann & Röhr, 2015 on the prominence of different accent types). On the basis of these first results I would argue that pitch accents on pronouns are optional as opposed to obligatory sentence accents and their appearance can be accounted for in terms of ‘minor phrase stress’ in the sense of Kratzer & Selkirk (2007).

References

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Nicolas Lamoure

“Binding in DP Coordination”

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Previous investigations of binding in DP - coordination found that only part of the binding Conditions (BC) hold between conjuncts. While BC A and B seem to be inactive, C is partially active, notably when a pronoun binds an R-expression. I will present new data from German and English that show that BC C cannot be responsible for the observed unacceptability, which will pave the way to a unified solution with regard to the lack of binding effect in-between conjuncts. I will propose that inter-conjunct-binding is inactive because conjuncts are not arguments in their own right (Munn 1993) and Binding is a theory of A-binding (Chomsky 1993). Theoretically explanations in terms of anaphora raising (Hartmann 2001) and lack of c-command between conjuncts (Progovac 1998) are therefore not needed.

Everybody is welcome!

Best, *Katharina Hartmann & Manfred Sailer*

The program of the colloquium is available at: <https://www.english-linguistics.de/recent-trends-in-linguistic-research-wise-2018-19/>