

LinC Summer school and workshop 2016
SFL and Languages other than English

The focus of this course is on Systemic Functional Linguistics and Languages Other than English. We have brought together experts in areas such as typology, translation, language description and annotation. Each participant on the course will choose six sessions (two per day for a total of 6 hours each day) from the nine sessions listed below. Session descriptions have been presented in alphabetical order by surname.

Instructors on this course include:

- Jorge Arus Hita, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Mohamed Bardi, Macquarie University
- Robin Fawcett, Cardiff University
- William McGregor, Universität Trier
- Stella Neumann, RWTH Aachen University
- Mick O'Donnell, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- Miriam Taverniers, Ghent University
- Chris Taylor, Università di Trieste
- Gordon Tucker, Cardiff University

Metafunctional journey through Spanish

Jorge Arus Hita

After a brief presentation of the Spanish language, an overview will follow of the different strands of meaning (experiential, interpersonal, textual and logical). Emphasis will be made on the way the different metafunctions interplay in Spanish in order to construe meaning. This interplay will be discussed by means of examples and in turn compared to English examples so as to better appreciate the specificities of Spanish.

In the second part, we will work with a bilingual text (Spanish original and English translation) and together discuss how the texts reflect the contrasts in the way the different metafunctions interplay in each language.

Fluency in Spanish is not necessary. Examples with English glosses will be provided.

Analyzing Arabic Text from an Ideational Perspective: Potential and Challenges

Mohamed Ali Bardi, Al-Maarefa Colleges for Science and Technology – Saudi Arabia

Ideationally, language is a resource for construing our experience of the world around and inside us as meaning. Experience is construed as a semantic model – a vast model of the categories of experience. The most general category in this construal is that of a 'phenomenon', which is further classified into three classes of phenomena: the element, the

figure and the sequence. The elements are the components that interact within a figure. They come in three different types viz. processes, participants and circumstances. Figures, which correspond to clauses, consist of elements, but do themselves form sequences. A sequence is a series of interrelated figures which correspond to a clause complex. There are different kinds of relations which figures within a sequence can enter into i.e. either expanding or projecting. Grammatically, this has to do with the logic mode of organization which construes experience serially as a chain of sequences.

The first session about Arabic will be dealing with the figure i.e. a variety of clause types. One of the main challenges students encounter when analyzing a text is to properly divide it into sequences especially identifying minor clauses that are construed by nominalized verbal forms. Once most of the clause types are defined, we'll look during the second session into the figure to study the elements that interact within it. We will focus on the process and identify all process types. One of the main objectives of the study of the process is to demonstrate how it could also help in dividing the text into clauses. Towards the end of the second session, all that was theoretically covered earlier will be put into practice, we'll try to divide a variety of texts into clauses and then into processes and the participants in those processes. We'll try to see how language use ideationally varies from one register to another. We'll analyze depending on how much we have left a political speech, a short extract from a novel, a literary critic, two translations of one text, a news article.

Working knowledge of Arabic is expected for this workshop.

Theory and practice in creating a systemic functional lexicogrammar for an unfamiliar language (here: Japanese)

Robin Fawcett, Cardiff University

Part A. We will begin by introducing three distinctions that are needed to establish a sound basis for discussing this topic. It will emerge from these that our goal should be to create a **scientific SFL model** of the language being described, and we shall remind ourselves of what the term 'scientific' implies. Then we will familiarise ourselves with the basic components of a simple lexicogrammar for a very small area of English, as we observe it operating to generate a small set of nominal groups. Following this, we will introduce the **practice** for describing an unfamiliar language that we developed at Cardiff in the early 1990s: the **informed informant** method. This has enabled us to create scientific models for some central portions of Chinese and Japanese (with some work on Arabic) - all three languages having been unfamiliar to me before we started work on them. We shall consider the following: the role of each member of the three-person team; the value of informants using their **mother tongue** when discussing proposed descriptions; the inevitability of starting with **text-descriptive diagrams**; the three stages in developing an explicitly **systemic functional description** for an area of the language; the importance of expecting major differences between languages (e.g. the traditional morphology-based typology, here focussing on the 'isolating', 'inflectional' and 'agglutinative' types. Which language(s) and so which type(s) was SFG initially developed for? Which type is Japanese? Are there consequences for SFL theory?

Part B. The second part of this workshop will explore **the lexicogrammar of Japanese** that we developed at Cardiff. We shall look at several areas that are fascinatingly different from English, so expanding our view of the nature of human language - unless you have already studied Japanese! These include: MOOD in Japanese; the systems for TIME, VALIDITY, NEGATIVITY etc; and choices in THEME and INFORMATION (the problem of the meanings of

ga and *wa*). In the light of the realizations at the level of form of these meanings, we shall note its major difference from English in the morphological typology of languages, and ask about the implications of Japanese for traditional SFL theory. The final topic will be the fascinating role of **classifiers** (aka ‘counters’) in the realization rules for **cardinal numbers**, and their implications for SFL theory.

The **overall conclusions** include the following. Japanese (like all other languages that I know about) clearly requires a model such as SFG, with its systemically modelled **meanings** realized as **forms**. However, the theoretical concept of the ‘rank scale’ and the descriptive concept of the ‘verbal group’, which were long ago replaced by a less prescriptive, probability-based approach in the Cardiff Grammar for English, are clearly even less well-suited to Japanese than they are to English. And the Japanese phenomenon of having multiple forms to realize each cardinal number can only be handled within a grammar such as the Cardiff Grammar that makes use of realization rules with conditional features.

Optional preparatory reading: Fawcett, Robin P., 2008. *Invitation to Systemic Functional Linguistics through the Cardiff Grammar: an extension and simplification of Halliday’s Systemic Functional Grammar (Third Edition)*. London: Equinox.

Workshop language is English. No familiarity with Japanese is required.

Post-Firthian perspectives on linguistic typology

William McGregor, Universität Trier

Compared with most other modern “functional” approaches, SFG and its congeners – which I will refer to collectively as Post-Firthian (PF) – has shown relatively little interest in linguistic typology, and has made at best limited impact on it. We will begin by overviewing what makes PF approaches different from the paradigm functional-typological approach (also dubbed atheoretical), namely the central theoretical place of emic phenomena (e.g. the linguistic sign). We will examine the consequences to the practice and shape of linguistic typology. We will focus attention on experiential grammar, in particular grammatical (role) relations, transitivity, and ergativity. In the second session we will turn to (a subdomain of) possession, and examine a set of data from a small selection of languages in view of developing a typology.

The language of the session is English and there are no other language requirements.

Issues in Translation

Stella Neumann, RWTH Aachen University

Translations are often described as being recognizably different from non-translated text in terms of properties such as explicitness, interference of linguistic features of the source language, etc. Arguably these properties are a result of various factors such as contrastive differences between the source and the target language, differences between the registers involved but also understanding and workflow-related aspects in the translation process.

In the first part, this session will take a closer look at some practical issues in the translator's concrete task. Starting out from a definition of translation we will examine some of the factors that may have an impact on the linguistic properties of the final translation. The second part of the session will then concentrate on the linguistic study of translations. The focus will be on translation properties as investigated in corpus-based translation studies and in experimental studies tapping into the translation process.

There are no specific language requirements but participants are expected to be bilingual at least.

Using UAM CorpusTool for annotation of languages other than English

Mick O'Donnell, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

This workshop will lead the attendees through the process of using UAM CorpusTool for corpus annotation in languages other than English. In the first session, we will explore manual annotation in a variety of languages, ranging from those with latinized writing systems, to those with Cyrillic, Arabic, Chinese, etc. scripts. Manual annotation involves the user identifying segments and coding them themselves, which is appropriate in those contexts where automatic means to identify the pattern do not yet exist.

In the second session, we will explore the use of UAM CorpusTool for automatic analysis with languages other than English. We will start with POS (part-of-speech) analysis of texts from a range of languages, and how this analysis can be used to produce quick profiles of the texts. We will then use automatic syntactic analysis for a small range of languages where parsers are available.

Language of the workshop will be English.

Verb patterns in a typological perspective

Miriam Taverniers, Ghent University

In this session the focus is on how three structural-functional frameworks — viz. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Role and Reference Grammar (RRG), and Functional Discourse Grammar (FDG) — theorize and model verb patterns and relations between those patterns in a typological perspective. The session will consist of a presentation and then a practice part.

The presentation will be built up as follows:

1) In the theoretical exploration of each model the following topics will be focused on:

- general components in the design of the model (differentiating dimensions and levels of abstraction);
- views on the meaning-structure relation; the syntax-semantics interface and the role of 'constructions';
- conception of the lexis-grammar relation;
- modelling of the structure of the clausal syntagm, focusing on layering of structure, and the relation between syntax and morphology.

2) A second part will focus on how the three structural-functional grammars, with their own specific designs/architectures, and their specific models of variation in verb patterns, address issues in functional-language typology.

The three structural-functional models will be viewed from a meta-SFL perspective, i.e. SFL will be taken as a starting point and RRG and FDG will be explored against the background of SFL. The complete exercise of comparing the three different frameworks (i.e. what they *are* like as linguistic models) will be carried out with a view to understanding how they deal with questions in functional language typology (i.e. what they can *do* when faced with a typological challenge).

In the hands-on part, participants will work with a number of related verbal structures in Germanic and Romance languages that contain patterns of secondary predication. The aim is to explore how different patternings can be delineated and how they can be modelled as belonging to a network of patterns, and in this exploration, reflect upon the use and value of specific tools and modelling concepts that were discussed in the presentation of the three structural-functional models (esp. how the relation between lexis and grammar is modelled; and esp. the specific concepts/tools of the *system network* and *agnation* from SFL; *frames* or *constructional/syntactic templates*, *verb alternations* and *coercion* from RRG and FDG).

The language of the session is English and there are no other language requirements.

Audio Description - textual access for the sensorially disabled

Chris Taylor, Università di Trieste

This session is devoted firstly to explaining what audio description is, namely the providing of verbal descriptions of what appears on screen in a film or television programme sandwiched between the ongoing dialogues, and examining some best practices. The session will be based on the results of the European project ADLAB (Audio Description: lifelong access for the blind) and on the resulting publications Audio Description: new perspectives illustrated and the manual of guidelines for audio describers Pictures Painted in Words. The study of audio description involves many aspects of SFL ranging from theme development to appraisal. There will also be a hands-on opportunity to produce a short AD of a film clip.

Language of the workshop is English and will include examples from Italian although no knowledge of Italian is required.

Modelling lexis and phraseology in English, French and Italian in a Systemic Functional Grammar

Gordon Tucker, Cardiff University

In this session we shall explore how lexis and phraseological expressions are handled in Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG).

SFG is primarily concerned with the choices available to language users, what it means to make a given choice and what the consequences are of making one choice rather than another. In our session we shall focus on choices that involve lexis and phraseological expressions, rather than those involving 'larger' grammatical structures and meanings.

Grammar and lexis are not, however, two separate, independent areas of linguistic organisation. They are, as we shall see, extremely interdependent. This is the position now strongly adopted within major theories of language, such as Cognitive Grammar and Construction Grammar. In terms of SFG, Michael Halliday argued a number of decades ago

that 'the lexicon (...) is simply the most delicate grammar. In other words there is only one network of lexicogrammatical options' (Halliday 1978:42). Phraseological expressions (idioms, formulaic and metaphorical expressions, fixed and semi-fixed expressions etc.) can be seen to fall somewhere between 'grammar' and 'lexis' on the lexicogrammatical continuum.

So we shall explore how lexis and phraseology expressions are organised within the overall lexicogrammar, emphasising their interdependence with grammatical structure. We shall also explore how their organisation accounts for various phenomena associated with lexical choice, such as: collocation, colligation, sense relations (synonymy, meronymy, antonymy etc.), polysemy, formality, technicality etc.

We shall also explore how lexical and phraseological phenomena are handled in languages other than English, and in particular in French and Italian. There will of course be local differences between the languages, and we will need to account for phenomena that are exclusive to a given language, but on the whole, we would expect to find that the general organisational principles are the same across languages.

The language of the session is English and there are no other language requirements.