

# On the Diachrony of Causal Clauses

workshop

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## Workshop convenors

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## Workshop description

Causal clauses (henceforth: CausCls) usually express, as defined in Cristofaro (2003: 161), a reason relation between two events, one of which (the dependent one) represents the reason for the other to take place (for a broader discussion on what a causal relation may be, the interested reader is referred to Copley & Wolff 2014). Cross-syntactically, syntactic relations can either consist of a main and subordinate clause or be expressed by two coordinate sentences. This workshop is intended to deal with such patterns from a diachronic perspective.

In the last three decades, CausCls have attracted the attention of many linguistic sub-disciplines. They have been investigated in individual languages synchronically, see for instance Highashiizumi (2011), Lombardi Vallauri (1997) and Otori (1992) for Japanese or Diessel & Hetterle (2011) for a comparative overview of typologically (un)related languages, resulting in new empirical findings and giving rise to formally oriented approaches, cf. Antomo & Steinbach (2010), Charnavel (2017, to appear), Frey (2016), Hara (2008), Reis (2013), among many others. Likewise, in-depth studies on language processing as well as on language acquisition of CausCls are not missing nowadays, cf. Kempen & Harbusch (2016) and Zufferey et al. (2015), respectively. Besides selected case studies, cf. van Dam (1957) and Jucker (1991) for English, Evers-Vermeul (2005) for Dutch or Eroms (1980), Speyer (2015), Wegener (1999) for German, however, not much attention has been paid to the diachrony of CausCls. A meticulous account of how CausCls evolve has not been given yet. The main objective of the proposed workshop is to fill this research gap and to bring together researchers contributing to a better understanding of how CausCls come into being and develop.

Topics for the workshop include, but are not limited to, the following issues:

a) *Macro-variation and heterogeneity*. According to Sweetser (1990), three different types of CausCls exist:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| [1] <i>John came back because he loved her.</i>                         | (content)    |
| [2] <i>John loved her, because he came back.</i>                        | (epistemic)  |
| [3] <i>What are you doing tonight, because there's a good movie on.</i> | (speech act) |
- (Sweetser 1990: 77; ex 1a-c)

In the content domain in [1], the proposition embedded in the CausCl is interpreted as a fact causing another fact. A different interpretation arises in the example given in [2]., i.e.

in the epistemic domain. Here, the speaker specifies the reason for why (s)he thinks the proposition is true. Finally, the speech act CausCl in [3] reveals the motivation for why the speaker is performing a speech act. In his novel contribution on CausCls in Present-day German, Frey (2016) convincingly shows how these three types can be analyzed in a formal way. Recently, Gagel (2017) illustrated that all three types already exist in Early New High German (1350-1650). To what extent the division proposed by Sweetser (1990) can be carried over to older stages of other natural languages still remains to be investigated. Accordingly, the question what (formal) diachronic properties determine the status of a particular CausCl needs to be addressed. Synchronically driven criteria could be, but are not limited to, the following: complementizer, verb position, mood, position of the CausCl with respect to the matrix clause, correlate, information structure, root phenomena etc. Having proved such properties calls for a syntactic analysis along the lines of Haegeman (2006, 2010, 2012). In other words, it ought to be examined how the diachrony of CausCls goes along with the opposition of central adverbial clause vs. peripheral adverbial clause, and be elaborated on the issue of whether there is a strict correspondence between the external syntax and the internal makeup of the particular CausCl exemplified in [1]-[3].

b) *Micro-variation*. It is striking that individual languages usually have different possibilities to encode a causal relation on the syntactic level, possessing more than one type of CausCls. Abundant evidence for such a variation comes directly from languages having different complementizers introducing CausCls, e.g. French *car, parce que, puisque*, German *da, denn, weil*, Polish *bo, ponieważ, jako że*, to name but a few. As Frey (2016) illustrates for German, the choice of a particular complementizer correlates with interpretative differences as well as with distinct attachment heights within the clausal structure. In this context, it is tempting to examine to what extent their differences are a result of the circumstances they emerge from and where the synchronic variation originates. Recently, Pittner (2007, 2011) discovered a different pattern of CausCls, so-called verb first CausCls containing the discourse particle *doch*. Not much is known about how this pattern emerged, though.

c) *Affinity to other adverbial clauses*. CausCls are inclined to share selected properties with other types of adverbial clauses, for instance with concessive clauses (König & Siemund 2000), purpose clauses (Sæbø 1991, van Gelderen 1993, 2004) or with temporal clauses (Traugott & König 1991). In selected languages, they can even be expressed by means of the same morphology (Thompson et al. 1985, Kortmann 1997). Heine & Kuteva (2002: 246, 291) point out that CausCls can emerge out of purpose or temporal clauses and report numerous case studies. Much less is known about to what extent CausCls can give to other adverbial relations. Correspondingly, viewing both development directions as possible, we would like to pursue semantic questions along the lines of Deo (2015). Firstly, it needs to be determined what the semantic content is corresponding to the functional expressions that constitute the input to or the output of a grammaticalization path / a semantic shift, bearing in mind, of course, that CausCls can be both: input and output. Secondly, exploring the first issue immediately leads to the question of what the logical relation is between the meanings of CausCls and other adverbial relations such that a path may exist between them. Thirdly, it is interesting to figure out what the necessary and sufficient conditions

are for the origin or a semantic shift of CausCls. Having pursued the semantic questions, finally, one is simultaneously invited to provide a syntactic account in terms of reanalysis.

We invite contributions showing to what extent the attested changes have affected the present-day adverbial clause systems and how they can be accounted for in various theoretical approaches. Contributions submitted to this workshop will offer new diachronic and typological perspectives on the notion of CausCls and their relation with regard to other grammatical categories. We are certain that our workshop will interest researchers in theoretical linguistics, historical syntax and semantics, as well as typology.

### Invited speakers (all confirmed):

	NAME	AFFILIATION	TITLE
1.	Isabelle Charnavel	Harvard University (USA)	<i>The role of passive in the development of causal clauses</i>
2.	Yurie Hara	Waseda University (Japan)	<i>From settledness to unsettledness: A diachronic change of causality and conditionality in Japanese</i>
3.	Augustin Speyer	Saarland University (Germany)	<i>Factors for variation in integration of causal clauses in German from a diachronic perspective</i>
4.	Elly van Gelderen	Arizona State University (USA)	<i>Central and peripheral adverbial clauses from Old to Early Middle English</i>

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