

Adverbial relations and clause linkages
Syntax of the World's Languages Conference
Adjacent workshop

This workshop aims to explore the means by which languages encode semantic relations between clauses. In the study of clause combining, adverbial clauses are generally considered to be less subordinate, as compared to relative and complement clauses. Hence, the dependent unit is not syntactically embedded to particular components of the main clause but it relates to it as a whole (Thompson & Longacre 1985; Matthiessen & Thompson 1988). Perhaps due to their relative heterogeneity, adverbial clauses were not studied systematically until the 1990s, when the relevant research focused on their semantic properties (van der Auren 1998; Hengeveld 1998) and the form and function of adverbial subordinators (Kortmann 1997). More recently, the syntax and semantics of adverbial clauses have been explored, both in cross-linguistic and variational perspectives (Givón 2001; Cristofaro 2003; Van Valin 2005; Thompson et al. 2007; Dixon 2009; Schmidtke-Bode 2009).

In recent years, different syntactic and semantic aspects of adverbial clauses have been thoroughly studied. These studies include the formal variation of encoding one semantic relation, TAM dependency and scope, the coding of argument structure of main and supportive events, the relevance of subordinators, the pragmatic use of particular adverbial relations, among others (Longacre 2007; Verstraete 2008; Van Valin 2009; Nordstrom 2010; Bril 2010; Diessel & Hetterle 2011; Vallejos 2014; McDaniels 2014; Guerrero under review). Diessel has devoted several articles to the motivations influencing the order between the main and the subordinated unit in several languages (2001, 2005, 2008). Albeit less extensively, diachronic aspects of adverbial clauses in individual languages have also been discussed (Givón 2015). The typology of clause linkage and the establishment of an inventory of typologically relevant parameters is also a crucial aspect of the study of adverbial relations (Lehman 1988; Bickel 1993, 2010; Gast & Diessel 2012).

Call for papers

The aim of this workshop is to investigate the syntax, semantic, and pragmatic interplay of adverbial clause linkages in various languages. Contributions are invited, from scholars of different theoretic orientations, on in-depth (preferably corpus-based) research of different aspects of adverbial relations, including (albeit not exclusively):

- The typology of clause-linking strategies, in general, and the relevant parameters for certain adverbial relations, in particular
- The linguistic encoding of (sub)types of semantic relationships, and the possibility of structural overlaps
- The syntactic ways in which certain types of semantic relations are encoded in particular languages and/or linguistic families
- Evidence for the relationship between coordination, subordination and co-subordination for particular adverbial relations
- An assessment of previously proposed binding or implicational hierarchies dealing with adverbial relations (Cristofaro 2003; Van Valin 2005)

- The relevance of adverbial subordinators
- The sources or origins of adverbial subordinators
- Syntactic and semantic integration between focal clause and supporting clause
- Correlations between semantic relationship and constituent ordering
- The interplay of TAM marking and argument structure factors (e.g., control) in determining the rise of particular semantic relationships
- The role of language contact in the emergence of new syntactic manifestations of adverbial clauses (e.g. subordinator loans, syntactic calques).

Submissions

Abstracts are invited for 20-minute talks (plus 10 min. discussion). Abstracts must be in English and anonymous; they should be no longer than two pages, including examples and references. Please send Word / PDF / Word Perfect files and use Unicode fonts. If accepted, papers can be presented in English and/or Spanish; if the presentation is in Spanish, then there must be a full handout in English. Please send your abstract to the organizers of the workshop:

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Important dates

April 1st, 2016: Deadline for abstract submission
 April 20th, 2016: Notification of acceptance
 August 17th – 19th, 2016: SWL Conference
 August 20th, 2016: Workshops

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