

Atelier de Morphosyntaxe

Dernière mise à jour : 11 mai 2022

Responsables :

Françoise Rose Francoise.Rose@univ-lyon2.fr

Descriptif :

Cet atelier, organisé par Françoise Rose dans le cadre du séminaire de l'axe de recherches «[Diversité Linguistique et ses Sources](#)» (DILIS), a pour objectif de créer un espace de présentation et de discussion dans le domaine de la morphosyntaxe, dans une perspective typologique et fonctionnelle. [En savoir plus...](#)

Thématique(s) de l'année 2021 - 2022 :

Fillers and placeholders, animé par Françoise Rose
Nominalizations, animé par Albert Alvarez

Programme :

Pour plus d'informations, notamment sur les salles et les supports, voir le [calendrier du laboratoire DDL](#).

- 14 septembre 2021 (10h-12h)

Albert Alvarez (Université de Sonora, DDL/Collegium de Lyon): " A functional approach to nominalization"

This communication aims to present the functional approach to nominalization recently proposed by Shibatani (2019), which will be used in the research project on "Nominalizers in Uto-Aztecan languages: Origins, evolution and functions" to be developed from September 2021 to July 2022 at the Collegium de Lyon and at the DDL Laboratory. This approach considers nominalization as a metonymy-based phenomenon that applies not only to verbs (verbal-based nominalizations) but also to nominals (nominal-based nominalizations) and that yields entity-denoting structures that form nouns (lexical nominalizations) as well as larger phrasal units (grammatical nominalizations), that is, two types of nominal constituents conveying a prototypical referring function, independently of the internal structure of these constituents. Contrary to lexical nominalizations that have been largely studied, grammatical nominalizations have been neglected, despite their theoretical importance and far-reaching

implications to our understanding of the construction of grammar. For instance, in this new approach, subordination is reanalyzed as different types of verbal-based grammatical nominalizations, and possessive forms and nominal classifiers are reanalyzed as different types of nominal-based nominalizations. In this talk, the different types of nominalization will be discussed, as well as the crosslinguistic usage patterns of these structures and the diachronic paths leading to nominalization markers.

Shibatani, M. 2019. What is nominalization? Towards the theoretical foundations of nominalization. In Roberto Zariquey, Masayoshi Shibatani, David W. Fleck (eds.), *Nominalization in the Languages of the Americas*, John Benjamins Publishing: Amsterdam/Philadelphia. 15-167.

- 28 septembre 2021 (10h-12h)

Albert Alvarez (Université de Sonora, DDL/Collegium de Lyon): "Nominalizers in Uto-Aztecan languages: Origins, evolution and functions "

This talk aims to present a research project to be developed from September 2021 to July 2022 at the Collegium de Lyon and at the DDL Laboratory. This research is focused on nominalizers in Uto-Aztecan languages, a family of more than 30 languages spoken in North and Central America. Nominalizers are affixes attached to a base in order to derive a nominal constituent. These affixes are important in world's languages because they contribute to the development of language complexity. They can be used for creating new words in a language (in this case, nominalizers are working at the level of lexical morphology, and the derived nominal constituents are thus lexical nominalizations, that is complex lexical items associated with lexical complexity), but they can also be involved in the construction of grammar (syntactic complexity), in particular in the domain of clause combination (in this case, nominalizers are working at the level of morphosyntax, and the nominalized constructions are thus grammatical nominalizations functioning as subordinate clauses embedded in a complex clause). Based on the functional approach to nominalization recently proposed by Shibatani (2019), this study seeks to identify the different synchronic functions associated with these nominalizers in Uto-Aztecan languages and to propose the origins of these markers as well as the contexts and the evolutionary paths involved in their emergence and development. At this stage of the research, I will focus on the event and argument nominalizers in Uto-Aztecan languages, considering their uses in lexical and grammatical nominalizations as well as the possible source constructions at the origin of the nominalization function of these markers. Additionally, it will be shown how the different uses of these nominalizers in Uto-Aztecan languages represent a good morphological support that provides clear evidence in favor of the functional approach to nominalization.

Shibatani, M. 2019. What is nominalization? Towards the theoretical foundations of nominalization. In Roberto Zariquey, Masayoshi Shibatani, David W. Fleck (eds.), *Nominalization in the Languages of the Americas*, John Benjamins Publishing: Amsterdam/Philadelphia. 15-167.

- 5 octobre 2021 (10h-12h)

Françoise Rose (DDL): "“Thing” in Teko: a filler or a placeholder?"

In Teko (Tupi-Guarani, French Guiana), the word used when searching for a word is *baʔe*. This talk will discuss its behavior and use in this function, in order to determine whether it could be considered as a plain filler or as a placeholder. This term is obviously related to the noun *baʔe* ‘thing’, which is found throughout the Tupi-Guarani branch, and has grammaticalized in many ways. Within this diachronic perspective, this talk will therefore discuss the pragmaticalization of *baʔe* as a discourse marker.

- 26 octobre 2021 (10h-12h)

Alice Gaby (Monash University): "Out of sight and out of mind: distance and accessibility contrasts in Kuuk Thaayorre placeholders"

This talk will consider filler and placeholder terms in several Australian Aboriginal languages, with a particular focus on Kuuk Thaayorre. In Kuuk Thaayorre, the most commonly used placeholders are (etymologically) the two pronominal demonstrative forms. The proximal form *inhul* ‘this one’ is used to avoid disruption, where explicit reference is not necessary for the conversation to progress, whereas the distal form *yuunhul* ‘that one’ is used to signal disruption, where the desired lexeme is temporarily ‘inaccessible’ to the speaker and reference must be established for the conversation to progress. We will also consider a range of other forms (including ignoratives/epistememes and adnominal demonstratives) that may function as placeholders in Kuuk Thaayorre discourse. Finally, the Kuuk Thaayorre placeholders will be contrasted with the dedicated placeholder terms of Yanyuwa and Wubuy, reporting the preliminary findings of research with John Bradley and Simon Musgrave.

- 9 novembre 2021 (10h-12h)

Magdalena Lemus Serrano (Université Aix-Marseille): "Nominalization and clause linkage in Yukuna (Arawak, Colombia): towards a descriptive approach for field linguists"

The aim of this paper is to present a method for the description of nominalization and clause-linkage for field linguists, and illustrate it with data from Yukuna (ISO 693-3:ycn, Glottocode: yucu1253), based on the work in Lemus Serrano (2020). The method consists in defining a language-specific nominal gridlisting the prototypical internal and external features of Noun Phrases (NPs) and using this grid to identify the degree to which individual clause-linking strategies match or deviate from this prototype, as defined on a language-specific basis. This methodology was applied to all relevant clause-linking strategies in the language, previously identified by the author based on a first-hand corpus of texts. Elicited data was also used when necessary, for hypothesis confirmation.

- 8 février 2022 (10h-12h)

Tessa Vermeir (DDL): "Nominalizations in Swo (a Cameroonian Bantu language)"

In this presentation, Tessa Vermeir will show the different ways of nominalisation in Swo, a Bantu language spoken in the Central region of Cameroon. Bantu languages in general make extensive use of the fact that all nouns have a gender (typically at least 8 and sometimes up to 14) when nominalizing verbs: agentive nouns will obtain a different gender than instrument nouns and action nouns. Besides assigning a gender to a derived noun, bantu languages can also

require a suffix. Swo derived nouns sometimes do and sometimes don't have a suffix. Lastly, a comparison will be made between underived nouns and derived nouns as to their syntactical behavior.

- 8 mars 2022 (10h-12h)

Matt Shibatani (Rice University/Kobe University/University of Tokyo): " Toward “Dynamic Functional Typology” —Nominalization, gender, and classifiers "

While Functional Typology yields certain generalizations about form-function correlations, it, like a (synchronic) descriptive grammar, does not explain how a language ends up displaying such generalizations. By incorporating a diachronic perspective, the diverse marking patterns of grammatical nominalizations in Amami Ryukyuan are explained in terms of two competing economic motivations; namely, the hearer’s economy motivating innovations toward diversity in form, and the speaker’s economy driving changes toward form uniformity. This dynamicization of functional typology is also useful in understanding crosslinguistic patterns of gender- and classifier-marking, which, we contend, have been mishandled by leading researchers in the field such as Corbett (1991) for the former and Allen (1977) and Aikhenvald (2019) for the latter. In particular, we advance the claim that grammatical genders and (numeral) classifiers nominalize numerals, demonstratives, and other structures and at the same time classify what is being denoted according to the gender- and classifier-classes of the language. In other words, genders and classifiers are specifically classifying types of nominalization, while ordinary nominalizations classify minimally, if at all.

- 22 mars 2022 (10h-12h)

Françoise Rose (DDL): "The diversity of Mojeño Trinitario nominalization strategies"

Mojeño Trinitario (Arawak, Bolivia) shows a very large repertoire of nominalization strategies. It includes : i) 9 dedicated nominalizing suffixes on verbs; ii) an unmarked strategy where a finite clause is simply preceded by a determiner; iii) the use of a derivational suffix followed by a multifunctional classifier. This talk offers the first detailed overview of the diversity of nominalization strategies at three levels of analysis (semantic, morphosyntactic and functional) on the basis of a corpus of natural and elicited data collected by the author in the field over 15 years.

- 5 avril 2022 (10h-12h)

Maïa Ponsonnet (DDL): "Some observations on placeholders in Dalabon (Gunwinyguan, non-Pama-Nyungan, Australia)"

In this session I will present the use of the placeholder *keninjhbi* in Dalabon, a polysynthetic language of the Gunwinyguan family (non-Pama-Nyungan, northern Australia). After establishing that *keninjhbi* is best described as a “placeholder” – against other types of fillers

–, I will discuss its origins, distribution and morphological affordances, as well as potential discourse and pragmatic functions.

Based on the data at hand, the discourse and pragmatic roles of *keninjhbi* (such as euphemistic and evaluative functions) seem relatively limited. Notwithstanding some stylistic overtones, speakers appear to use this placeholder primarily as a tool to manage disfluencies. At the same time, in line with the overall morphosyntactic tendencies of Dalabon, *keninjhbi* is syntactically and morphologically flexible, thus offering speakers a range of possibilities when dealing with disfluencies. To illustrate this, in the last part of the talk I will delve into two differentiated patterns of use of *keninjhbi*, based on quantitative analysis of data from two different speakers who exhibit different “styles” of disfluency management.

- 24 mai 2022 (10h-12h)

Nino Amiridze (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University): "Some notes on Georgian placeholder verb"

This talk deals with the use of placeholder verbs in Georgian (Kartvelian). In many cases, those verbs are used when speakers have a problem recalling the exact verb in their turn in the conversation. However, those placeholders can also be used when the speakers deliberately avoid uttering the exact verb form for some reason. I will look at how morphological markers of placeholder verbs are used by language users to hide or, on the contrary, hint at certain pieces of information about the implied verb.

I will also look at the data from different periods of modern Georgian to clarify what led to having *multiple exponence* of agreement markers in Georgian placeholder verbs, a synchronic explanation of which was given in Harris (2017).