

Atelier de Morphosyntaxe

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Responsables :

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Descriptif :

Cet atelier, organisé par Françoise Rose et Minella Duzerol dans le cadre du séminaire de l'« [axe « Description, Typologie, Terrain »](#), 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 2020 - 2021 :

Word constituents, animé par Adam Tallman
Alienability contrasts in grammar and lexicon, animé par An Van linden

Programme :

Pour plus d'informations, voir le [calendrier du laboratoire DDL](#).

- 21 septembre 2020 (10h-12h)

Minella Duzerol (DDL): "Constituency in Martinican" (creole, Martinique)

- 6 octobre 2020 (10h-12h)

An Van linden (University of Liège): "Alienability contrasts in grammar and lexicon"

This series of seminars looks into alienability contrasts and – taking grammatical typology as a starting point – fosters interaction with lexical typology and psycholinguistics. While adnominal possession ('my arm' vs. 'my garden') is a well-researched area of grammar where alienability contrasts show up, the series aims to cast the net wider, and also invites contributions that deal with other alienability phenomena, at any morphosyntactic level of description. For instance, whereas some clause-level phenomena have been attested in Eurasia (e.g. the body part locative construction in English as in *Sam kissed Joe on the cheek*), the Americas are well-known for the ubiquity of a particular word-level phenomenon, i.e. that of bound nouns, or obligatorily possessed nouns, as opposed to independent or optionally possessed nouns. Also welcome are talks presenting (cross-linguistic comparisons of)

inventories of lexical items that are treated as inalienable in grammar. Ultimately, the idea is to better understand to what extent the alienability contrast is universal. Where do individual languages have their “cut-off point” in the lexicon, i.e. to what extent is it culturally determined which items are grammatically treated as inalienably possessed?

- 20 octobre 2020 (10h-12h)

Françoise Rose (DDL), "Possessive noun classes in Mojeño Trinitario (Arawak, Bolivia)"

This presentation starts by describing the morphology and semantics of three classes of nouns in Mojeño Trinitario: obligatorily possessed nouns, optionally possessed nouns, and non-directly possessible nouns. It then goes on and present various aspect of the grammar of the languages where these classes of nouns show a different behavior, either exclusively or statistically: adnominal possession, denominal verbs, nominal compounds, noun incorporation and emergent prepositions. This is typical of Amazonian languages.

- 3 novembre 2020 (14h-16h)

Jorge Emilio Rosés Labrada (University of Alberta), "Alienable and inalienable possession in Piaroa (Jodí-Sáliban)"

This presentation focuses on possession marking in Piaroa (Jodí-Sáliban, Colombia and Venezuela, ISO 639-3: pid). Based on first-hand fieldwork data and building on previous descriptions, I show that Piaroa has both inalienable and alienable possession and that for a subset of nouns, possession marking is accomplished via possessive classifiers, that originated in lexical items. This presentation not only contributes to the description of Piaroa, an underdocumented and underdescribed Amazonian language, but also to our understanding of possessive classifier systems and their genesis.

- 17 novembre 2020 (10h-12h)

Iris Fabry (Université de Grenoble), « Considérer la possession externe en français "familier" »

Works on external possessor constructions (a.k.a. inalienable possession) in European languages are extensive. Regarding the French language, it appears that the focus has primarily been on its normative, written form. This presentation will therefore take an interest into “familiar” uses of the external possessor construction in modern French, focusing on its dative form (*Un chien lui a mordu la jambe*). Through the use of a corpus of authentic occurrences and an online survey, I will discuss examples of atypical possessives within the construction (*?il lui a cassé la voiture*), and a potential geolinguistic factor. I will also shed light on the syntactic interpretation of its lexical form (*Un chien a mordu la jambe de/?à Alex*).

Les travaux sur le sujet de la possession externe (aussi nommée possession inaliénable) au sein des langues européennes sont nombreux. Cependant, en ce qui concerne le français, il semblerait que la majorité de ces travaux aborde sa forme écrite normative. Cette présentation s'intéressera alors à des usages « familiers » de la construction, sous sa forme dative (*Un chien*

lui a mordu la jambe), en français moderne. À l'aide d'un corpus d'occurrences authentiques et d'une enquête en ligne, je commenterai différents exemples de possédés atypiques pour la construction (*?il lui a cassé la voiture*) et un possible facteur géolinguistique à leurs apparitions. J'aborderai également le sujet de l'interprétation syntaxique de sa forme lexicale (*Un chien a mordu la jambe de/?à Alex*).

- 1^e décembre 2020 (10h-12h)

Natalia Chousou-Polydouri, Kellen Parker Van Dam, David Inman, Marine Vuillermet (University of Zürich), " Multi-dimensional coding for possession constructions: Approach and preliminary results "

Structures of possession can vary along several dimensions: number of distinct classes (alienable, inalienable, non-possessible, and more); the morphosyntactic shape of a possession construction; the morphosyntactic shape of a non-possession construction; and how any of these vary if the possessor is nominal or pronominal. We have developed a schema targeting nominal possession (i.e., when the possessum and possessor are both non-pronominal), and will present our methods for encoding possession classes and strategies, and present some preliminary findings on the approximately 70 languages (mostly from the Americas) we have coded so far.

- 15 décembre 2020 (10h-12h)

Brigitte Pakendorf (DDL), **Natalia Aralova** (DDL), "The functions of the so-called suffix of alienable possession in Negidal and Even (Northern Tungusic) "

We investigate the marking and semantics of possessive relations in Negidal, a Northern Tungusic language spoken in the Lower Amur region of Russia. The main means to express this relation are the person-number possessive markers. These are used in possessive head-marked constructions, e.g. *olo imukse-nin* (fish fat-px.3sg) 'fish fat', but in connected speech the possessor can be understood from the context and is thus frequently omitted. In addition, like other Tungusic languages Negidal has a special marker *-ŋi*, which is called a marker of alienable, or indirect, possession in descriptions of these languages (Cincius 1982: 20, Nedjalkov 1997: 144-5, Nikolaeva & Tolskaja 2001: 111, Avrorin 1959: 155). Its main function is to mark possession (in a broad sense) of non-possessible entities, e.g. with indirectly possessed body parts: *imukse-ŋi-l-nin* (fat-aln-pl-px.3sg) 'his pieces of fat (of some animal)', with objects of nature: *beja-ŋ-ŋaj sola:ki* (river-aln-prfl.pl upriver) 'up (their) river'; or proper names: *ivan-ŋi-tin* (Ivan-aln-px.3pl) 'their Ivan (from their family)'. In this presentation, we will describe the functions of the possessive markers and discuss which noun classes require the 'alienable' suffix, which semantic nuances it might add, and what further extensions of the so-called alienable possession can be observed in our corpus.

- 5 janvier 2021 (10h-12h)

Denis Creissels (DDL), "Split genitive coding in Mandinka (Mande) "

Mandinka (Mande) has two variants of the genitival construction (or adnominal possessive construction). In the DIRECT construction, the possessor NP immediately precedes the possessee, without any intervening morphological material, as in *Jàatàkúndáa kòlójò* ‘the well of the Jaatakundaa neighborhood’, whereas in the INDIRECT construction, the possessor NP is marked by the postposition *lá*, as in *Jàatàkùndáŋkôolú lá kòlójò* ‘the well of the Jaata family’. Functionally, the coding split in the genitival construction shows unusual properties, in comparison with most of the languages in which formally similar coding splits have been observed. Crucially, any noun can fulfill the role of head in the direct construction, depending on the semantic nature of the possessor and of its relation to the possessee. In this presentation, after describing the distribution of direct and indirect genitives, I discuss the semantic distinctions that may have played a role in the genesis of this coding split.

- 19 janvier 2021 (10h-12h)

An Van linden (University of Liège), "Bound nouns in Harakmbut"

This paper focuses on the morphological distinction between potentially free and obligatorily bound nouns in Harakmbut, an endangered isolate language spoken in the Peruvian Amazon. Bound nouns require a noun prefix to obtain independent nominal status (*wa-* or *e-*) and refer to inalienably possessed entities, such as body parts, plant parts, and landscape parts, as well as kinship terms and basic shapes or qualities of entities. The same prefixes, *wa-* and *e-*, are also used in verb-based nominalization. The morphosyntactic behaviour of bound nouns is different from that of independent nouns in the areas of noun incorporation, N-N compounds and adnominal modification. However, obligatorily bound kinship terms seem to form exceptions, as they typically pattern similarly to independent nouns in these environments. Special attention will be devoted to adnominal possession, in which the presence versus omission of the noun prefix on the possessee noun makes for subtle semantic differences.