

Atelier de Morphosyntaxe - Programme 2014-2015

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Thématique : Syntaxe diachronique

- 10 octobre 2014

Spike GILDEA (Université d'Oregon à Eugene, Collegium de Lyon) :
"Grammaticalization and Mechanisms of Syntactic Change"

I have been offered the chance to present five talks on different aspects of the same theme: Diachronic Syntax. These talks will come from different chapters of a textbook I am writing this year on how to reconstruct morphosyntax. The first talk will be introductory, presenting foundational material from the literature and arguing for the importance of historical syntax in understanding synchronic grammar. The other four talks will each present material from my own research, each highlighting a different aspect of diachronic syntax and its connections to descriptive and typological linguistics.

- 24 octobre 2014

Spike GILDEA (Université d'Oregon, Collegium de Lyon) : "Diachronic Construction Grammar and the Pieces of the Historical Syntax Puzzle"

- 14 novembre 2014

Spike GILDEA (Université d'Oregon, Collegium de Lyon) : "The Role of Reanalysis in Creating New Main Clause Constructions"

- 28 novembre 2014

Spike GILDEA (Université d'Oregon, Collegium de Lyon) : "The roles of Extension, Contact, and Conservatism"

- 5 décembre 2014

Spike GILDEA (Université d'Oregon, Collegium de Lyon) : "Internal Reconstruction of Morphosyntax"

- 27 février 2015

Jorge ROSES LABRADA (DDL, University of Western Ontario): "Extended subject agreement on the Piaroa verb and its origin"

Animate subjects are usually cross-referenced on the Piaroa verb by means of a set of word-final suffixes. In future verb forms, however, subjects are additionally cross-referenced using either a set of prefixes or a set of inner suffixes that immediately follow the root. This realization of subject marking by more than one morpheme constitutes an example of extended--in the sense of Matthews (1972)--agreement, a phenomenon that is cross-linguistically rare. In this talk, I attempt to show how this pattern of extended subject agreement results from a diachronic change whereby a non-verbal predication construction entered the verbal predication domain and came to replace the inherited subject marking strategy (i.e., two sets of affixes, one set prefixal, the other suffixal) in all tenses except for the future.

- 20 mars 2015

Françoise ROSE (DDL) : "Reconstructing two functionally-related Tupi-Guarani *ta*-clauses"

This paper will deal with two constructions involving a prefix *ta-* in Tupi-Guarani languages, a subgroup of Tupi languages from the Amazonian basin. The first construction is made of a prefix *ta-* attached to the main verb and its meaning is hortative/polite imperative/jussive. The second construction is also made of a prefix *ta-* attached to the verb, but it attaches to a dependent finite verb and the resulting meaning of the construction is purposive. This paper shows that data from a non-Tupi-Guarani Tupi language, Xipaya (Rodrigues 2007b), points to two possible source constructions involving a *ta* auxiliary. The paper hypothesizes two different processes of reanalysis from these two source constructions resulting in the two constructions under study. This paper shows that although a functional explanation for the close resemblance of two synchronic constructions is attractive, diachronic syntax can reveal that this resemblance is actually an epiphenomenon.

- 24 avril 2015

Natalia CÁCERES (DDL) : "Reconstructing the causative-reflexive passive in Ye'kwana"

Four different passive constructions are available in the Ye'kwana language (Cariban, Venezuela). This paper illustrates two of the constructions. The first one followed a REFLEXIVE>MIDDLE>PASSIVE evolution. The second one builds on the first where a causative makes it possible to add an oblique CAUSEE, subsequently inherited as an oblique agent.

- 22 mai 2015

Antoine GUILLAUME (DDL) : "Reconstructing the morphology and syntax of core argument pronouns in Takanan languages"

The paper reconstructs two series of core argument pronouns to Proto-Takanan: a set of first-position independent pronouns (P1) used to express contrast and a set of second-position weak or enclitic pronouns (P2) used to express accessible referents. In the reconstructed P1 set, there are both ergative and absolutive forms of the pronouns. The P2 weak or enclitic pronoun sets of the modern languages are historically derived from P1 independent pronouns, showing phonological and morphological reductions which result in loss of case distinctions found in the P1 forms.

- 5 juin 2015

Géraldine WALTHER (DDL) & **Spike GILDEA** (Université d'Oregon à Eugene, Collegium de Lyon) "Syntactic reanalysis, information load, and phonetic reduction in Akawaio(Cariban): *I'mənə shrink that /mörö/*"

In four Cariban languages (Akawaio, Makushi, Ye'kwana, Kari'nja), former pronominal subjects of historical predicate nominal constructions, such as the pronoun 'mörö' in Akawaio, still appear but no longer serve as subjects in a newly developed type of contemporary finite main clauses (MC). In fact, within these new constructions, the former pronominal subjects do not seem to carry any semantic meaning at all, and have even become optional. We investigate the properties of MC-'mörö' in the broader language system, notably comparing the structure of MCs with that of subordinate clauses (SC). It appears that, apart from the presence of MC-'mörö' in MCs and a SC-head in SCs, new MCs and SCs exhibit the exact same structure. MC-'mörö' and the postposed SC-heads thus stand in a neat paradigmatic distribution, allowing for a reinterpretation of MC-'mörö' as a simple MC-marker that retains no synchronic pronominal properties. Using the information theoretical concept of information load (Shannon, 1948), we argue that, due to its paradigmatic distribution and additional measurable subphonemic features in MC-'mörö''s context, the informativeness of MC-'mörö' itself is very low, leading to its apparent optionality.

- 26 juin 2015

Denis CREISSELS (DDL) : "Le principe du codage obligatoire et le changement linguistique"

Le 'principe du codage obligatoire' rend compte des inventaires de cadres de codage possibles pour les verbes dans les langues qui, selon la terminologie courante, sont systématiquement accusatives ou ergatives dans le codage des arguments. Selon ce principe (qui correspond à ce que les générativistes appellent 'obligatory case parameter'), tout cadre de codage dans une langue donnée doit inclure un terme dont le codage constitue le codage d'argument non marqué (ou par défaut) dans la langue en question. Ce codage non marqué (ou par défaut) peut être, soit celui qui caractérise l'argument A des verbes transitifs (langues à codage A obligatoire), soit celui qui caractérise l'argument P des verbes transitifs (langues à codage P obligatoire). Toutefois, les langues ayant des inventaires de cadres de codage possibles qui violent plus ou moins ce principe ne sont pas exceptionnelles. Dans ma présentation, j'examinerai les types d'évolutions pouvant avoir pour conséquence, soit un changement global affectant le principe du codage obligatoire, soit la diffusion progressive de cadres de codage non canoniques.