

BCGL 16

The morphosyntax of speaker and hearer

The Center for Research in Syntax, Semantics, and Phonology (CRISSP) of KU Leuven invites abstracts for the 16th edition of the Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics (BCGL 16), to be held on 5–6 October 2023. The conference will take place in Brussels and the theme of BCGL 16 is *The morphosyntax of speaker and hearer*.

Different languages employ different strategies to express the relationship between the speaker and the hearer, or to express the speaker's attitude towards (the contents of) her utterance. This conference will focus specifically on the strategies that involve morphosyntactic properties of the languages in question and on how to represent these phenomena in a formal grammatical model.

Several authors have agreed that speaker/hearer-related elements are part of the syntactic representation. Many proposals pursuing this idea suggest a high, left-peripheral functional domain in the clause that serves as the locus for such elements (see a.o. Ross 1970, Speas and Tenny 2003, Hill 2007, Giorgi 2010, Sigurðsson 2004, 2014, Miyagawa 2012, 2017, 2022, Haegeman and Hill 2013, Haegeman 2014, Wiltschko 2014, 2021, Krifka 2015, 2019, Heim and Wiltschko 2017, Zanuttini 2017, Miyagawa and Hill To appear). In addition, similar peripheral structure has also been proposed for clause-internal and other non-clausal domains (Bayer and Obenauer 2011, Trotzke 2015, 2018, Corver 2016, Biberauer 2018).

BCGL 16 wants to further explore this general topic by focusing on empirical phenomena that encode speaker/hearer-elements. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Allocutivity**, a term first used to describe cases in Basque where a non-argumental addressee is encoded on the verb (see Bonaparte 1862), has recently been extended to refer more broadly to the left-peripheral encoding of features of the hearer, the speaker's attitude towards the hearer, the relationship between speaker and hearer, and also the degree of formality of the interaction (Miyagawa 2012, 2017, 2022, Antonov 2015, Haddican 2019, Portner et al. 2019, Alok and Baker 2022, Kaur and Yamada 2022).
- **Modal particles** (also called **discourse particles/markers**) have a range of functions, among them to express the relationship between the speaker and the hearer/event (Cardinaletti 2011, 2015, Coniglio 2012, Haegeman 2014, Thoma 2016) or to mitigate or strengthen the utterance (Fehringer and Cornips 2019).
- **Imperatives** is a clause-type that has been argued to syntactically encode the addressee/hearer in a unique 2nd person projection (Potsdam 1998, Rupp 1999, 2003, Jensen 2003, Zanuttini 2008, Zanuttini et al. 2012, Alcázar and Saltarelli 2014, Isac 2015, Kaur 2020). Imperatives also employ other speaker/hearer-strategies (for example modal particles (Fehringer and Cornips 2019) or allocutives (Kaur 2020)) in order to mitigate or strengthen the imperative or to encode familiarity with the hearer.
- Relatedly, **promissives** always refer to the speaker (as the one promising to do something), and **exhortatives** always refer to both the speaker and hearer (as them doing something together) (Zanuttini et al. 2012).
- **Exclamatives** are speech acts which convey the speaker's attitude or perspective and can take a form similar to *wh*-questions (*wh*-exclamatives) or to *yes/no* questions (*yes/no*-exclamatives) (Zanuttini and Portner 2000). **Negative exclamatives** are further examples of a linguistic form that can be used to convey the

speaker's perspective. They can, for example, be used to emphasize the speaker's surprise about a certain event (Delfitto and Fiorin 2014, Greco et al. 2019, Greco 2020).

- **Insubordination** is the main clause use of something that looks like a subordinate clause to express the speaker's attitude or manage speaker/hearer interactions (Evans 2007, D'Hertefelt 2018).
- **Progressives** are periphrastic constructions in which motion and posture verbs are used as 'light' verbs to indicate progressive aspect. These constructions often indicate frustration or surprise by the speaker (Copley and Roy 2015, Tellier 2015, Anthonissen et al. 2016, Breed 2017).

We invite abstracts addressing the theoretical insights that generative syntax and morphology could offer in relation to, for example, the sizes of these speaker/hearer-domains, the feature inventories associated with encoding speaker and hearer, optionality of elements in this domain, and syntax-interface mappings. Furthermore, we welcome abstracts with a comparative perspective (both synchronic and diachronic) on speaker/hearer-elements and also studies that look at languages that have not been considered in this regard. We are also interested in papers that offer insights into the acquisition and development of these speaker/hearer-related phenomena and that are concerned with the role of language contact in the development of these elements. Moreover, we invite abstracts that consider these phenomena in spoken language compared to written language.

Invited speakers

- Anna Cardinaletti (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- Gurmeet Kaur (Georg-August Universität Göttingen)
- Miok Pak (George Washington University), Paul Portner (Georgetown University), and Raffaella Zanuttini (Yale University)

Abstract guidelines

Abstracts should not exceed two pages, including data, references, and diagrams. Abstracts should be typed in at least 11-point font, with one-inch margins (letter-size; 8.5 by 11 inch or A4) and a maximum of 50 lines of text per page. Abstracts must be anonymous and submissions are limited to max. 2 per author, at most one of which is single-authored. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Please submit your abstract using the EasyChair link for BCGL 16: <https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=bcg116>

Important dates

- First call for papers: 13 February 2023
- Second call for papers: 13 March 2023
- Abstract submission deadline: 3 April 2023
- Notification of acceptance: 2 June 2023
- Conference: 5-6 October 2023

Conference website

<https://www.crissp.be/bcgl-16-the-morphosyntax-of-speaker-and-hearer/>

Organising committee

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