

# Interface Workshop Schedule and Abstracts

**Friday April 23, 2010**

## **Morning Session**

**HL (Hall of Languages) 107**

- 8:00 am            Coffee and bagels
- 8:45 am            Opening remarks
- Chair: Jaklin Kornfilt, Syracuse University
- 9 am – 10 am       Lisa Selkirk (UMass, Amherst): Reconceptualizing prosodic structure formation and its role in the syntax-phonology interface
- 10 am – 11 am      Bridget Samuels (U Maryland, College Park): I-phrases and PF crashes
- 11 am – 12 pm      Jason Kandybowicz (Swarthmore College): Syntactic and Prosodic Alignment: a Case Study from Twi Do-insertion

## **Afternoon Sessions**

**Kittredge Auditorium**

- 12 pm – 1:30 pm    Lunch Break
- Session 1**            Chair: Jeff Runner, University of Rochester
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm   Molly Diesing and Draga Zec (Cornell): The positions of clitics in discourse
- 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm   Michael Wagner (McGill): Contrastive topics decomposed
- 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm    Coffee Break
- Session 2**            Chair: John Whitman, Cornell University
- 4 pm – 5 pm           Christine Gunlogson (U Rochester): On tag questions
- 5 pm – 6 pm           Mats Rooth (Cornell): Localizing the Phonology Interface for Alternative Semantics
- 6:30 pm                Reception

**Saturday April 24, 2010**

**HL (Hall of Languages) 207**

7:45 am Coffee and bagels

**Session 1** Chair: Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, Syracuse University

8:30 am – 9:30 am David Embick (UPenn): Towards a theory of stem alternations

9:30 am – 10:30 am Heidi Harley (U Arizona): Accounting for morphology/syntax mismatches: the Fun House Mirror Principle

10:30 am – 11:00 am Coffee Break

**Session 2** Chair: Greg Carlson, University of Rochester

11 am -12 pm Joyce McDonough (U Rochester): Defining the units inside a word: A paradigm-driven approach to Dene polysynthesis

12 pm – 1 pm Martina Wiltschko (UBC): Category, sound, and meaning: Exploring the syntax of polysemy

## ABSTRACTS (in order of presentation)

**Elisabeth Selkirk**  
**University of Massachusetts Amherst**

*Reconceptualizing prosodic structure formation and its role in the syntax-phonology interface*

In this paper, I will use a case study from Xitsonga (Kisseberth 1994) to illustrate a new approach to understanding prosodic structure formation that is laid out in Selkirk 2009ab. The proposal is that syntactic influence on prosodic constituent structure representation is largely embodied in a set of universal S-P correspondence constraints that essentially call for syntactic and prosodic constituents at word level and above to match up. In conjunction with this new proposal is the hypothesis that any nonisomorphism that is attested between syntactic constituents and prosodic domains is the language-particular consequence of the role for phonological constraints on prosodic structure representation in a language. At the end of the paper, I will pursue the some consequences of assuming that prosodic structure formation is part of phasal Spell-Out, as has been proposed in various works, and I will address interesting areas for future research that concern the potential influence of prosodic structure on phasal linearization and vocabulary insertion. I will not undertake any head-on comparison of this version of prosodic structure theory with recent direct syntax approaches to the characterization of domain-sensitive sentence phonology and phonetics like those of Pak 2008 or Wagner (2005, 2010), but hope that such comparisons will form part of the discussion we'll be having in this workshop.

**Bridget Samuels (presenting joint work with Terje Lohndal)**  
**University of Maryland, College Park**

*I-Phrases & PF Crashes*

This talk attempts to shed light on the ordering of operations at PF and what can cause a crash at the interface, including discussion of linearization, cliticization, copy deletion, and vocabulary insertion given a model which assumes multiple transfer, the copy theory of movement, and direct correspondence between phonological and syntactic domains.

**Jason Kandybowicz**  
**Swarthmore College**

*Syntactic and Prosodic Alignment: a Case Study from Twi Do-insertion*

In the affirmative simple past tense, intransitive verbs in Asante Twi are obligatorily followed by a non-thematic occurrence of  $y\epsilon$ , a multi-purpose predicate meaning 'do'. In all other tenses and aspects as well as under the scope of negation,  $y\epsilon$  may not accompany an intransitive verb. I propose that  $y\epsilon$  is the pronounced lower copy of a moved verb, whose appearance is conditioned by a constraint regulating the mapping of syntactic structure to prosodic structure. Following recent work, I assume that the two structures

must be isomorphic and that isomorphism requires that the edge of a spell-out domain be phonetically realized. For Twi intransitive constructions in the affirmative simple past, do-insertion is the only mechanism that will ensure prosodic well-formedness. As such, Twi do-insertion is more accurately an instance of multiple copy spell-out.

**Molly Diesing and Draga Zec**  
**Cornell University**

*The positions of clitics in discourse*

As is well known, second position clitics in Serbian can be placed after the first word or after the first phrase. It is less well known, however, that the acceptability of first word or first phrase placement depends on discourse, structural, and prosodic factors. In this talk we elucidate the interactions of these factors at the left edge relying on corpus, experimental and theoretical evidence.

**Michael Wagner**  
**McGill University**

*Contrastive Topics Decomposed*

This paper presents evidence that contrastive topics (CTs) must occur 'outside'--i.e. syntactically higher than a focus in the same structure. This is unexpected under the analyses of Büring (1997, 2003), which predict a free distribution of CT and focus relative to each other. This paper proposes that contrastive topics in fact involve a recursive nesting of two covert focus operators, and the constituent that associates with the focus operator taking wider scope is what is called a contrastive topic. The main challenge for this compositional view of contrastive topics are the pragmatic implications commonly attributed to CTs. However, it will be argued that these can be dissociated from CTs, and are actually due to independent intonational operators whose distribution is orthogonal to the presence/absence of a CT-Focus configuration.

**Christine Gunlogson**  
**University of Rochester**

*On tag questions*

Tag questions in English are complex in a number of respects, including prosody. They provide a challenging testing ground for hypotheses about prosodic meaning, sentence type distinctions, negation in polar interrogatives, and the relation between categories of meaning and of use. In this talk I will begin with a proposal for modeling the non-prosodic elements of tag questions, which then provides a foundation for investigating the contribution of prosody.

**Mats Rooth**  
**Cornell University**

We try to synthesize these hypotheses: (i) There is an isomorphy between the phonological and semantic scopes of focus. (ii) In situ WH phrases in Japanese-type languages are literally focused. (iii) Alternative semantics for WH and ordinary F are covered by a single system of semantic values.

**David Embick**  
**University of Pennsylvania**

*Towards a theory of stem alternations*

This talk looks at the status of alternations in the grammar, and, in particular, at what evidence there is for treating certain alternations as "morphological", and others as "(morpho)phonological". I bring evidence from locality considerations to bear on `_stem alternations_`, and argue that a "morphophonological" treatment is superior to a morphological alternative that lists stems as contextual allomorphs. Three main points are discussed. First, when the locality conditions on contextual allomorphy for elements other than stems (see Embick 2010) are taken into account, stem alternation does not behave like the contextual allomorphy that is seen with other types of morphemes. This is an argument for treating such alternations as non-suppletive, i.e., as morphophonological. Second, cases of stem alternation that really are suppletive must obey the locality conditions on contextual allomorphy. Third, there appear to be some differences between the alternations that occur under strict adjacency, and those that do not; some comments regarding the importance of such patterns are offered in conclusion.

**Heidi Harley**  
**University of Arizona**

*Accounting for morphology/syntax mismatches: the Fun House Mirror Principle*

In a syntactocentric approach to morphology, we expect to see morpheme orders which mirror syntactic structure. Three mechanisms are commonly proposed to change the order of syntactic terminal elements at the morphology/syntax interface, including head-movement, morpheme-specific prefix/suffix specification and morphological merger. Given that each mechanism is independently well-motivated, we can ask what kind of patterns we might expect to see when they co-occur. I argue that two particularly flagrant cases of Mirror Principle violations, in Cupeño and Navajo, can be accommodated within the syntactocentric framework using just these tools, without positing any additional special word-formation mechanisms, or any additional quasi-syntactic operations. I further discuss the status of a recent expansion of the Mirror Principle point of view, Starke and Cardinaletti (1999)'s proposal correlating morphophonological size with morphosyntactic hierarchy, illustrating and discussing with data from Hiaki.

**Joyce McDonough**  
**University of Rochester**

*Defining the units inside a word: a paradigm-driven approach to Dene polysynthesis*

Polysynthetic languages pose acute problems to theories of word formation and phonology / syntax interfaces because of the sheer amount of information encoded inside the verb complex, combined with the difficulty of encoding paradigmatic variation into models which use analytic units as primes. Many researchers working on polysynthetic languages have pointed out the compromised nature of terms like 'morpheme', which is atheoretically understood to be a 'sound-meaning unit' but has no formal definition in the grammar. In this talk, a ground-up approach to the internal structure of the Dene verb will be taken. Evidence from instrumental phonetics, phonological, phonotactic patterns and behavioral studies will be used to delineate elements in the speech stream that are likely to emerge as units of word formation in the verbal complex. A very different view of the verb structure emerges that eschews the classic template approach and aligns itself with studies on the role of paradigms and conjugations in word formation processes.

**Martina Wiltschko**  
**University of British Columbia**

*Category, Sound, and Meaning: Exploring the syntax of polysemy*

It is a common place that simplex words minimally consist of sound ( $\pi$ ), meaning ( $\Sigma$ ) and a categorial identity ( $\kappa$ ). In recent years, it has been argued that at least for lexical roots the sound meaning correspondence exists independent of its categorial identity and that categorization is essentially syntactic (Marantz 1997 among others). If sound and meaning bundles are indeed attested in the absence of categorial information (i.e.,  $\langle \pi, \Sigma \rangle$ ), the question arises as to whether other minimal combinations are possible as well. That is, we may expect to find category-meaning bundles without sound (i.e.,  $\langle \kappa, \Sigma \rangle$ ) as well as category-sound bundles without meaning (i.e.,  $\langle \kappa, \pi \rangle$ ). Based on evidence from patterns of polysemy across different languages, I demonstrate that these combinations are indeed attested. I conclude that all forms of merge are binary, including the merger of sound, meaning, and categorial information.