Integration and Autonomy in Clause Combining: Theoretical and Empirical Aspects

The traditional classificatory dichotomy of coordination vs. subordination in clause linkage has long been replaced by parametric concepts (e.g. Lehmann 1988, Weiss 1989, Raible 1992). The different parameters operate on different levels (i.e. semantic: coreference vs. modification, syntactic: degree of sententiality, pragmatic: discourse prominence etc.) and interact with each other. These approaches fit the data more appropriately because they allow to model the oscillation of a given structure in relation to two ends of a scale from a synchronic point of view as well as in its their diachronic dimension. In addition, parametric approaches are able to capture certain features seemingly unconnected constructions might have in common, such as the similarities between relative clauses and NP complementation. However, the description and analysis of clause linkage still shows quite a few blank areas from both an empirical and theoretical point of view, the most challenging task being the identification of relevant parameters and the creation of a viable integrative model of these parameters. This holds in particular for non-standardized and older data.

In this workshop, we want to shed light on some of the blank areas by discussing clause combining strategies from a cross-linguistic point of view and from different theoretical angles.

We welcome presentations including the following topics:

- Parameters of clause combining
- Syntactic ambiguity and vagueness in synchronic and diachronic terms
- Emergence and grammaticalization of clause combining strategies
- Typology of clause combining
- Discourse structure and clause combining strategies
- Corpus-based studies on clause combining

References

