

07/10/2016

Faculté de Médecine, 2 rue de l'Ecole de Médecine

12h-12h30

Plenary VI

Sascha Diwersy (UPVM)

“Aging populations” and the age of formulae in media discourse

The aim of this talk is to provide insight into the use of expressions like German *demographischer Wandel* ('demographic change') and *Alterung der Gesellschaft* ('aging of the society') or French *vieillesse démographique* ('aging of the population') as what one might call formulae in the sense defined by Krieg-Planque, i.e. set phrases proliferating in public discourse on political and social matters. Our study focuses on the emergence and entrenchment of these expressions by investigating the variation of their lexico-grammatical and textual patterning in a corpus of newspaper articles covering the period from the mid-1940s to the present day. For this purpose, we make use of a wide range of lexico-statistical methods (comprising the computation of characteristic textual elements and preferential word associations as well as several classification techniques such as automatic periodization by variability based neighbor clustering, correspondence analysis and descendant hierarchical clustering), which yield a data-driven way to reveal the main discursive trends regarding the formulaic use of the expressions under investigation.

Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3. Site Saint-Charles

14h-16h

I.d Language and Discourse

« Corpus analysis. The question of age »

Agnès Steuckardt (UPVM) –Sybille Grosse (Heidelberg)

Sybille Grosse, Lena Sowada (University of Heidelberg)

Perception and presentation of elderly people in large cities by the French and German media

The presentation examines the media's perception of elderly people in large French and German cities. Therefore, we compare two corpora for each language: the first corpus includes texts of the domestic supra-regional print media from 08/1996 until 07/1997, while the second corpus covers print media texts from 08/2015 until 07/2016. The objective is to demonstrate the perception on elderly people in the media via recording of their lifestyle in large cities, as well as to draw a cross-border comparison. Aspects of the media perception relate particularly to demands on cities, for example, to create age-appropriate housing and to warrant satisfactory supply for an aging population.

Michel Lefevre (UPVM)

La question de l'âge dans les Lettres d'Elisabeth-Charlotte de Bavière

Maguelone Nouvel-Kirschleger (UPVM)

Récits de guerre et discours scolaires : Jules Isaac, témoin et pédagogue de la Grande guerre

16h30-18h

II.d Language and speech

« Corpus analysis. The question of age »

Agnès Steuckardt (UPVM) –Sybille Grosse (Heidelberg)

Agnès Steuckardt (UPVM), Jean-Marc Sarale (UMPV)

Naming the old people: in search of euphemistic discourse

In contemporary French society, in order to name the people whom we do not dare to call *les vieux*, as did Jacques Brel, we create neologisms that avoid pejorative connotations. Since the second half of the 20th century, new names have been emerging in French: *personnes âgées* (around 1950), *seniors* and *aînés* (around 1980), and, more recently, *papyboomers*, or *sexygénaires*. Using the database *Europresse*, we will highlight the emergence and spread of these terms in the media discourse. Building on the discursive contexts, we will analyze the euphemism strategies they implement.

Pascale Leclercq (UPVM)

Ewa Lenart, Université Paris 8 Vincennes-St Denis

Underspecification vs overspecification in L1 child and advanced L2 learner discourse in French and English: a study of nominal reference.

Abstract

This study aims at comparing L1 and L2 acquisition processes through an analysis of the linguistic means used to ensure discourse cohesion in the oral narratives of French and English four-, seven- and ten-year-old children and of adult learners of these two languages. We analyzed the way they maintained and switched reference to the protagonists of the story. Our results highlight a tendency to underspecification among children, who produce ambiguous forms in context; and a tendency to overspecification among adult advanced and intermediate L2 learners, who favour definite noun phrases even where pronouns could be envisaged. This might be explained by the impact of cognitive factors as well as crosslinguistic influences on the productions of L1 and L2 learners.

The PROMOTION project: Selective activation in multilingual minds: translingual processing of motion events

Pascale Leclercq, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3

Christiane von Stutterheim, University of Heidelberg

The project investigates language processing in multilingual minds as a window on the

interrelationship between language and conceptualization. On the basis of empirical studies in the conceptual domain of motion events, current models of multilingual processing will be put to the test with the aim of advancing the research field. The project will focus on multilingual speakers who have acquired an Arabic variety (Tunisian) as their L1, then Modern Standard Arabic as L2 and French at school as an L3. Against this background they will have moved on to acquire either German or English as L4.

Specific research questions are as follows: (1) how do multilingual speakers perceive, represent, memorize and verbalize motion events? (2) how far do possible language-on-cognition effects reach into non-verbal cognition? (3) how is relevant knowledge on motion events processed in multilingual minds?

Intervention de Melissa Barkat-Defradas (UM)

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