

SPRIK activities 2004-2007

(Note: All text moved from old web pages to this pdf, due to many broken links)

Activities autumn semester 2007

We have established a mailing list (FFF-Sprik) for those interested in receiving information about the FFF-seminar as well as other activities related to SPRIK (Languages in Contrast). [Register here!](#)

[E-mail](#) us if you need help.

Seminar: "Multilingual Research Forum"

The seminar is aimed at researchers and students (Bachelor/Master in Language Programme and Translation Studies). Its primary goal is to create an active cross-disciplinary research environment for **empirically-oriented contrastive research and translation studies**. We would especially like to encourage Master- and PhD-students to take part in the seminar.

The seminar takes place **on Thursdays** at 14.15-16 (click on one of the dates below to find out where the seminar will be and then see the [map](#) of the University of Oslo for the location of a particular building).

This term (spring 2007) we plan to have presentations on the following Thursdays:

[27th of September](#), [25th of October](#), [15th of November](#)

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This term (spring 2007) we plan to have about three presentations.

Seminars will be held the following Thursdays: [May, 3](#); [June, 7](#)

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This term (autumn 2006) the seminar will take place the following **Thursdays**: [05.10](#), [19.10](#) - postponed, [02.11](#), [07.12](#).

Activities spring semester 2006

[Workshop at the DGfS \(februar 2006\)](#)

- links to PowerPoint slides and handouts are now available (see the [Workshop Programme](#))

[Explicit and implicit information in text. Information structure across languages](#)

[Conference to be arranged by SPRIK at the University of Oslo, Norway, June 8-10, 2006.](#)

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This term (spring 2006) the seminar will take place the following **Thursdays: [02.02](#)** (in Norwegian), **[16.02](#)** (in Norwegian), **[16.03](#)** (in Norw.), **[30.03](#)** (in Swedish), **[20.04](#)** (in Norw.), **[04.05](#)**, **[11.05](#)**.

[Explicit and implicit information in text. Information structure across languages](#)

Conference to be arranged by the project [SPRIK Språk i kontrast/Languages in Contrast](#) at the University of Oslo, Norway, June 8-10, 2006.

The goal of the conference is to present and discuss current research in text interpretation, particularly textual cohesion and coherence across languages. We aim to bring together researchers interested in systematizing and explaining the variety of means exploited across languages to create cohesion and establish dependencies and discourse hierarchies in text. Different languages exploit similar means differently, partly due to competing structures available in the individual languages, partly due to language-typological differences. We are interested in empirically based cross-linguistic studies that contribute to a better understanding of explicit and implicit information in 'real' discourse, as well as in theoretical research modelling textual cohesion/coherence.

Papers dealing with the following topics are welcome:

- Triggers for textual updating across languages. What are the triggers and how do they differ across languages?
- Comparable clause connectives, their distribution and interpretation in different languages.
- Discourse subordinating and discourse coordinating devices across languages.
- Implicit and explicit means of structuring information in text – what difference do they make?
- Presuppositional accounts of the implicit.
- The semantic/pragmatic distinction in text interpretation (cross-linguistic research and translation).
- The interplay between information structure (at sentence level) and discourse structure and information flow at text level.

We welcome submissions from different theoretical frameworks.

Key note speakers:

- Robyn Carston (University College London, UK)
- Regine Eckardt (Georg-August Universität Göttingen/ ZAS Berlin, Germany)
- Kjell Johan Sæbø (University of Oslo, Norway)
- Bonnie Webber (University of Edinburgh, UK)

Important dates:

Submission of abstract (**Note!** Extended deadline): December 2, 2005

Notification of acceptance/rejection: December 21, 2005

Conference schedule:

Conference dates: June 8 – 11, 2006

Start: June 8 lunch time

Conference dinner: June 10

Departure: June 11

Conference Committee:

Prof. Cathrine Fabricius-Hansen

Ass.Prof. Bergljot Behrens

Prof. Kjell Johan Sæbø

Prof. Stig Johansson

Abstracts should be at most 2 pages in length (including title page and bibliography), using a 12 pt. font with 2,5 cm margins on all sides; single spacing. Abstracts should be in form of a pdf file for A4 paper size, and submitted electronically, as an attachment, to m.f.krave@ilos.uio.no. Abstracts must be anonymous. Please write “Abstract” followed by the name of the author(s) in the subject line; please write the names of the author(s), the affiliations, the title of the abstract and email addresses in the body of the message, and only the title of the abstract followed by the abstract itself in the attached document.

Think of 35 mins talks plus 10 mins discussion. Please notify [Maria F. Krave](mailto:maria.f.krave@ilos.uio.no) if you need special equipment. The standard presentation equipment (PC, beamer, blackboard etc.) will, of course, be available.

If you need further information email to: m.f.krave@ilos.uio.no

Activities autumn semester 2005

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Two seminars for PhD students with Prof. Erich Steiner 4 - 6 October

Tid & sted 1: tirsdag 4. oktober, kl 14.15-16, Grupperom 6, Georg Sverdrups hus (UB) Tid & sted 2: torsdag 6. oktober, kl 10.15-12, Grupperom 5, Georg Sverdrups hus (UB)

1. Some properties of texts in terms of ‘information distribution’ across languages

abstract: On a global level, an attempt will be made to relate relatively macro-level intuitions about properties of texts to more micro-level notions and to empirically testable lexicogrammatical properties. The strategy will be to

- a) partly reduce an intuitive notion of ‘information distribution’ in texts and sentences to more technical and better understood notions of ‘information structure’, ‘informational density’ and ‘grammatical metaphoricity’, and
- b) operationalize these latter notions in such a way as to make them empirically testable on electronic corpora, using the ‘shallow’ concepts of ‘explicitness, density, and directness’ as properties of semantics-to-grammar mapping in sentences.

It will furthermore be suggested that aspects of intuitive qualities of texts, such as ‘content orientation’ vs. ‘interactant orientation’ and others can be partly modelled in terms of a) and b).

The argumentation in this paper thus proceeds from intuitive text level notions to more technical and clause-based concepts, and from these concepts to operationalizations. It then moves “upwards” again to text-level properties, exploring the relationships between the two levels. Finally, an outline is attempted of some implications for studies of language contact and language change.

[Handout for seminar 1.](#)

2. Some properties of lexicogrammatical encoding and their implications for

situations of language contact and multilinguality

abstract: Studies of language contact phenomena on several levels, and situations of multilinguality of speakers, communities and discourses/ texts providing an environment for language contact, have long been an area of interest in research into comparative linguistics and language change. Whereas traditionally, the dimensions and channels of contact have usually been seen as the lexicon, or else morphological and grammatical structures, some more recent strands of research have investigated clusters of lexicogrammatical phenomena and distributions of frequencies of - and proportionalities between - features of constructions in addition to, and partly in place of, lexicogrammatical structures directly. In other words, *properties* of lexicogrammatical encoding have become candidates for dimensions of variation and contact, along with the more traditional lexical, morphological and grammatical structures themselves.

I would like to situate our current proposals relative to the tradition of studies of language contact, outlining how a multifunctional and feature-based approach might usefully continue and complement these earlier investigations. I shall go on to discuss the notion of *multilinguality*, locating our object of study primarily in texts and discourses, rather than in individuals or social formations. One text-type constituting a prime example of a contact discourse will be translations. A characterization will be attempted of the suggested strand of work in terms of main objects and methods, giving an interpretation of some early findings on the way. In a final section, a detailed coding scheme will be introduced for operationalizing contact phenomena modularized by metafunctions and by linguistic strata.

The property of multilinguality that we are mainly interested in is thus an indirect property in the sense that we propose to investigate discourses which are not so much characterized by borrowing of lexical items, or structures, but rather by a kind of usage of “native” lexical and grammatical resources in ways which indirectly reflect contact with other languages. What we are interested in are ways of using existing resources in ways which feel different in explicitness, density, or directness from “native” discourses, thus leading to discourses and texts which are superficially native, but in terms of their full meaning interestingly different, noteworthy, unusual, and potentially creative.

[Handout for seminar 2.](#)

More information about Erich Steiner on his homepage (in German): <http://fr46.uni-saarland.de/index.php?id=125>

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Block course in "Discourse Structure and Discourse Relations" Prof. Henk Zeevat (University of Amsterdam)

This course is aimed at PhD-students in Language and Linguistics.

The course is scheduled as follows:

08 March 10-12 Seminarrom 441, P.A. Munchs hus
09 March 12-14 Seminarrom 441, P.A. Munchs hus
10 March 14-16 Seminarrom 50, Niels Treschow hus

30 March 12-14 Seminarrom 441, P.A. Munchs hus
01 April 12-14 Seminarrom 167, P.A. Munchs hus
04 April 10-12 Seminarrom 441, P.A. Munchs hus

See a more detailed description of the course [here](#).

Articles for the seminar:

[Asher & Lascarides](#), [Scha & Polanyi](#), [Jerry Hobbs](#)

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Demoting the Agent: Passive and Other Voice-related Phenomena

Workshop at the University of Oslo **November 25-27, 2004** (organised by Torgrim Solstad, GI, and Benjamin Lyngfelt, Göteborg University). Workshop program can be viewed [here](#). If you are interested in the Preconference Proceedings see [SpråkReports](#).

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Teoriseminar om relevanst teori i kontrastiv tekstanalyse

Held by Bergljot Behrens, ILN

Links (deactivated - not updated)

Here is a collection of links to co-operating projects, related research areas, bibliographies, corpora, etc.

- The English-Norwegian Parallel Corpus (ENPC) is the precursor of the SPRIK project.
- The Text Laboratory at the Faculty of Arts, University of Oslo has corpus resources, information about software, etc.
- Search in public-domain WHO and EU texts from the ENPC using the Translation Corpus Explorer.
- Contrastive Studies in a Translation Perspective is a project at the University of Gothenburg based on the English-Swedish Parallel Corpus.
- Språkbanken (the Bank of Swedish) at the University of Gothenburg.
- From Parallel Corpus to Wordnet is a research project at the University of Bergen directed by Professor Helge Dyvik.
- The Research Group for Language Technology at the University of Bergen.
- The Contragram group, and their selective bibliography of contrastive linguistics.
- Michael Barlow's website for corpus linguistics with corpus resources, software, corpus-based courses etc.
- British National Corpus has a resource page for English Language Corpora and Corpus resources.