AG8: ‘Subordination’ versus ‘Coordination’ – Introduction

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Overview

1. Background
2. Questions
3. Structure of workshop
4. The language issue
5. Final discussion?
Background (1)

- SPRIK Sprachen im Kontrast/Languages in Contrast (http://www.hf.uio.no/forskningsprosjekter/sprik/english)
- Cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional research project focusing on corpus-based contrastive language studies (Norwegian, English, French, German), especially information structure at different levels
- Parallel corpora – authentic texts: insight into the interplay of various factors that determine information structure in a language while also shedding light on the cross-linguistic variation in the structuring of sentences and text.
Background (2)

Translation mismatches

- Syntactic subordination $\leftrightarrow$ Clause/VP coordination
- Clause/VP coordination $\leftrightarrow$ sentence sequence
- Syntactic subordination $\leftrightarrow$ sentence sequence
- Sentence sequence $\rightarrow$ change of punctuation
- Connectives – zero correspondence (Fabricius-Hansen 2005)
Questions (1)

Effect of translation changes on discourse structure?
→ Relationship between hierarchichical or asymmetric structure at sentence and text level?
→ Nature of / dependencies between various related distinctions at sentence and discourse level?
  • Coordination vs. subordination at sentence level
  • Discourse coordination vs. subordination (Asher/Vieu 2005)
  • Nucleus-satellite distinction in RST
  • Foreground vs. Background (sentence and discourse)
  • Main vs. Side structure at text level (Klein/v. Stutterheim 1992)
Questions (2)

Semantic / pragmatic / discourse structural aspects of

• ‘Clause combining/linkage’ continuum (Mathiessen/Thompson 1988, Lehmann 1988)
• ‘Non-integrated subordinate (dependent) clauses’ (Reis 1997, Holler 2005)
• Clause/VP coordination
  – Correlation between and-coordination and discourse coordination (Asher/Vieu 2005, Ramm/Fabricius-Hansen 2005)?
  – ‘Unit-forming’ (Carston 2002, Lang 2004)
• Adjunction
• ’Sentencehood’ and punctuation
  – Sentence as a processing unit?
Questions (3)

Cross-linguistic perspective

• Language-specific ways of encoding discourse asymmetric discourse relations (coordination – subordination)?

• Dependency between typological properties and information ’portioning’ at discourse level?
  – Structural constraints?
  – Preferences of usage?
Questions (4)

• "Wild texts"
  – Possibility of assigning discourse structure?
  – Adequacy different models / theories?
Structure of workshop – Wednesday

• Clause linking / subordination and discourse structure
• General (→ Delort, Stede)
• Contrastive
  – Evidence from translation (→ Cosme, Baumgarten, Solfjeld, Ramm)
  – Narration; impact of typological contrasts (→ Caroll et al.)
• Punctuation (→ Stavick, Thursday)
Structure of workshop – Thursday

• Coordination vs. Subordination at sentence level – mismatch syntax vs. semantics / pragmatics / discourse function (→ Franke, Reich, Lühr)

• Discourse aspects of ’orphans’ – non-integrated dependent clauses and right dislocation (→ Averintseva, Holler)
Structure of workshop – Friday

• Verb position
  – Discourse functional and diachronic aspects (→ Petrova/Solf, Hackstein; → also Lühr, Thursday)

• Connectives
  – General (→ Blühdorn)
  – Particular connectives (→ Wischer, Wöllstein)
The language issue

• Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (German Society of Linguistics)
• Conference in Germany
• Politik der ”europäischen Mehrsprachigkeit” – to understand more languages than you speak
• Problem for German as a foreign language
  → Talk in German – slides/handouts in English
    (→ Solfjeld, Ramm, … ?)
Final discussion (Friday 13 - 13: 30)?

• Wanted - by whom?
• Decide on Thursday?
• Topics
  – Publication?