

November 2009

1. *Message from the President*
2. *ALT conference report: Berkeley 2009*
3. *Jury reports for the ALT awards*
4. *European Network of Amerindian Linguistics*
5. *Call: Syntax of the World's Languages IV*

### **1. *Message from the President***

Our 8<sup>th</sup> conference in Berkeley was a great success. A report and minutes of the business meeting are enclosed below. For my part, I would just like to stress how exciting it was to have so many excellent presentations at the conference. My impression was that there was a real buzz in the air, a lively exchange of ideas and much discussion of future projects. I left the conference with a feeling of optimism for our field, a feeling enhanced by the very healthy increase in our membership from 436 in 2008 to 584 just before the conference. On behalf of all of us, I would also like to extend my most sincere thanks to the local organizers, Larry Hyman and Johanna Nichols, for all their efforts in making the conference a success.

Subsequent to the conference there have been various events of relevance to us typologists. I would especially like to mention the Festival of Languages organized in the first week of October by Thomas Stolz in Bremen, in the course of which over ten workshops on language were held, including one on the languages of the Americas. During this workshop a new organization was launched, the European Network of Amerindian Linguistics (ENAL) which strives to intensify and consolidate European research on the languages of the Americas. ALT warmly welcomes this initiative in the belief that it will create more opportunities for carrying out and disseminating typologically informed research. We look forward to joint events. More information about ENAL is provided further below in the newsletter.

As for future typological events, I would like to draw your attention to:

- a) "Workshop on Perspectives of Language Typology: Slavic and Standard Average European" to be held in Potsdam, 2-5 December at the 8<sup>th</sup> Formal Description of Slavic Languages conference.
- b) "Workshop on Prosodic Typology: State of the Art and Future Prospects" to be held at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Society for Linguistics (DGfS) Humboldt University Berlin 23-26 February 2010

- c) "Deconstruction and Reconstruction of Portmanteau morphemes" to be held at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Society for Linguistics (DGfS) Humboldt University Berlin, 23-26 February 2010
- d) The workshop "Subject and transitivity in Indo-European and beyond: A diachronic typological perspective" to be held at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of Societas Linguistica Europaea Vilnius, 2-5 September 2010
- e) The workshop "Baltic Languages in Areal-Typological Perspective" to be held at the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Meeting of Societas Linguistica Europaea Vilnius, 2-5 September 2010
- f) The conference Syntax of the World's Languages IV to be held in Lyon, 23-26 September
- g) The workshop on the History and Typology of Language Systems to be held 7-10 October 2010 in the University of Zielona Góra, Poland

Finally, regarding typology in China, as was reported in the previous newsletter the next ALT conference in 2011 is to be held in Hong Kong (21-24<sup>th</sup> July). In order to encourage more scholars from China to participate there will be a workshop on the languages of China. I also mentioned in the previous newsletter that I was going to visit China. I spent three weeks there in May, visiting Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. I gave 10 lectures at Beijing Foreign Studies University, Tsinghua University, Beijing Normal University, The Chinese Academy of Sciences and Xi'an International Studies University. It was a most informative and pleasurable experience. I learnt so much about China, different varieties of Chinese and the many languages spoken within the borders of the country. I was delighted to see CUP Chinese editions of books by many colleagues in the academic bookshops. Nonetheless I was assured that there is still very much a need to have typological works translated into Mandarin. In this connection I am pleased to say that there is progress on the volume of translations of key typological articles. I have been informed by Dr Weng Feng that all the articles for the first volume have now been translated. I very much hope that this volume will appear some time in early 2010. We will, of course, announce this on the Lingtyp-list.

Anna Siewierska

## **2. ALT conference report: Berkeley 2009**

### *2.1. Conference statistics*

#### Papers:

The program committee received 165 abstracts.

- 98 were accepted as oral presentation
- 25 were accepted as poster
- 12 were alternates
- 30 were rejected

#### Attendance:

205 people registered and participated in the conference.

#### Scholarships:

Seven conference participants received scholarships covering travel, accommodation and/or registration. Three were funded by ALT and four were funded by the local organizers.

### *2.2. Business meeting*

#### 2.2.1. Membership

	Regular	Student	Total
2003:	326	68	394
2004:	369	73	442
2005:	362	62	424
2006:	364	64	428
2007:	387	65	452
2008:	376	60	436
July 2009:			584

#### 2.2.2. Finances

Date	Action	Sum	Balance
2007 (Pre-ALT VII)			+14.631,42
Aug-Nov	ALT VII costs	-9932.96	+4698.46
Dec 20	CNRS funding	+4995.05	+9693.51
Dec 21	Bank interest	+196.46	+9889.97

→ Thanks again to the organizers of ALT VII in Paris!

2008			+9889.97
(recurrent)	Banking costs	-33.4	+9856.57
Feb 06	Legal help	-95	+9761.57
Mar 05	Domain name	-110	+9651.57
May 09	Donation	+650	+10301.57
May 27	Membership	+4325	+14626.57
Jun 09	Legal costs	-403.78	+14222.79
Jun-Aug	Presents	-825.34	+13397.45
	long-serving officers		

2009			+13397.45
Jan 02	Bank interest	+258.2	+13655.65
	(recurrent) Banking costs	-24.58	+13631.07
Mar 20	Legal help	-95	+13536.07
Apr 06	Membership	+4180	+17716.07
Apr 16	Linguist List	-174.2	+17541.87
Apr 28	Greenberg Aw.	-1307	+16234.87
May 30	Scholarship	-385	+15849.87

Estimated remaining costs:

- Gabelentz Award: -650
- Remaining Scholarships: -4350
- Overhaul website: -1000

Estimated income:

- Scholarships covered by local organizers: +2850
- Membership 2010, 2011 +8000

Estimated pre-ALT IX balance +20699.87

→ Many thanks to ALT VIII organizers for their financial (and other) efforts!

### 2.2.3. Journal

#### a. Report

An interim report was presented at the business meeting by the editor (Frans Plank). One point raised in reaction to the report is that it would be good for the status of the journal if the policy of uniform double-blind reviewing was (re-)instated, instead of allowing authors the choice to be reviewed anonymously or non-anonymously. After the business meeting, the editorial board discussed this point, and decided to re-instate this policy.

#### b. Electronic access to the journal for individual ALT members

Currently, members do not have e-access unless their institution has it. This will change in the following years.

In 2010, Mouton de Gruyter will offer free e-access to all members. From 2011, members will be able to choose between:

- Only the print version
- Only on-line (including the archive)
- Print + on-line, at an extra cost (5-6 EUR)

### 2.2.4. Elections

The nominating committee is currently preparing a slate for new officers in the executive committee and the editorial board. This will be announced on the Lingtyp-list later in November, and ALT members will have a chance to vote by e-mail.

### 2.2.5. Meetings

#### a. ALT VIII

The association thanks:

- The program committee: Ekkehard König (chair), Jocelyne Fernandez-Vest, Larry Hyman, Edith Moravcsik, Johanna Nichols, Martine Vanhove
- The organizing committee: Larry Hyman, Johanna Nichols, Molly Babel, Paula Floro
- The sponsors: ALT8 was made possible through generous support from the National Science Foundation and from the UC Berkeley College of Letters & Sciences (Divisions of Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities), Graduate Division, and Department of Linguistics.

#### b. ALT IX

ALT IX will be held in Hong Kong, 21st-24th July 2011. The conference will be open to all papers in typology but a special theme will be: Typology and the languages of China.

The organizing committee consists of: Stephen Matthews (HKU), Picus Ding (HKU), Umberto Ansaldo (HKU), KK Luke (HKU & Nanyang), Foong Ha Yap (CUHK) and Matthias Gerner (City U HK)

Stephen Matthews gave a short presentation at the business meeting.

#### c. ALT X

ALT X will be held in 2013, in Europe. A formal call for bids will be sent by e-mail via the ALT mailing list.

### 2.2.6. Prizes

The association thanks the juries for the two awards:

- Georg von der Gabelentz Award: Nikolaus Himmelmann (chair), Sonia Cristofaro, Nicholas Evans, Birgit Hellwig, Randy LaPolla, Hein van der Voort
- Joseph Greenberg Award: Martin Haspelmath (chair), Eva Schultze-Berndt, Elena Maslova, Isabelle Bril, Vladimir Plungian, Edith A. Moravcsik, Matthew S. Dryer, Jae Jung Song, D. Robert Ladd, Larry Hyman, Heiko Narrog

### ***3. Jury reports for the ALT awards***

At the conference in Berkeley, ALT presented its fifth Greenberg Award, for a typological dissertation defended in 2007 or 2008, and its first Gabelentz Award, for a grammar published between 2005 and 2008.

The Greenberg Award went to Caterina Mauri of the University of Pavia, for her dissertation "Coordination relations in the languages of Europe and beyond", defended at the University of Pavia in 2007.

The Gabelentz Award went to Carol Genetti of the University of California at Santa Barbara, for her "Grammar of Dolakha Newar", published by Mouton de Gruyter in 2007.

Both award winners received payment of travel, accommodation and registration to attend ALT8, and they presented plenary lectures at the conference. They also received a set of books donated by Mouton de Gruyter.

#### *3.1. Jury report for the Greenberg Award (Martin Haspelmath, Chair)*

The 2009 Joseph Greenberg Award for the best typological dissertation defended in 2007 and 2008, goes to Caterina Mauri, University of Pavia, for her thesis "Coordination relations in the languages of Europe and beyond". The advisor was Sonia Cristofaro. The dissertation was published as a book in 2008 by Mouton de Gruyter.

Mauri's thesis studies the coding of coordination relations ('and'-, 'but'-, and 'or'-type relations) between states of affairs in a sample of 74 languages, half of them from Europe. It reveals an impressive number of implicational relationships concerning the polysemy/multifunctionality of coordination markers, the morphophonological complexity of the markers, and the use of parallel vs. non-parallel coding patterns. The final chapter focuses on the languages of Europe and identifies a number of areal properties that are specific to them. It is an excellent work that embodies the Greenbergian spirit in an ideal way.

One other thesis was also shortlisted for the award and was also judged excellent by the jury, and was given an Honourable Mention:

Jan Wohlgemuth, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, "A typology of verbal borrowings" (published as a book by Mouton de Gruyter).

This round again saw 10 submissions, and thanks are due to the jury members for their hard work: Martin Haspelmath (chair), Eva Schultze-Berndt, Elena Maslova, Isabelle Brill, Vladimir Plungian, Edith A. Moravcsik, Matthew S. Dryer, Jae Jung Song, D. Robert Ladd, Larry Hyman, Heiko Narrog.

### *3.2. Jury report for the Gabelentz Award (Nikolaus Himmelmann, Chair)*

The *Georg von der Gabelentz* award was established to encourage and honour achievements in the field of documenting the world's linguistic diversity through the writing of reference grammars. This prize is being awarded for the first time this year, for a grammar by an ALT member published between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. Among the grammars submitted, Carol Genetti's *A reference grammar of Dolakha Newar* was regarded by the jury as closest to the ideal of providing a systematic, accessible, comprehensive, original, insightful and typologically well-informed account of the workings of the language being described.

The Dolakha Newar grammar presents a thorough and thoughtful description of one of the many varieties of Newar, one of the national languages of Nepal. It consists of 21 chapters plus various appendices, covering all levels of grammatical organisation. Among the prize-worthy features noted by jury members are the following:

- the accessibility of the presentation which combines an excellent overall organisation, well-chosen and well-integrated examples with a clear, easy-to-follow writing style
- its consistently high level of analysis and exposition with regard to *all* topics dealt with
- the integration of diachronic analyses and its explicit and consistent concern with variation, including many discussions of differences from other Newar varieties
- its explicit and succinct definitions of the grammatical categories being used
- the inclusion of substantial information about prosody and intonation; specifically, the final chapter dealing with the sentence which integrates prosodic and syntactic evidence and argumentation

In short, the Dolakha Newar grammar achieves exactly the right balance between providing a thorough and exhaustive

description of the language, making it easy for the typologically oriented reader to retrieve the information they may be interested in, and allowing the reader to evaluate the data independently of the author's theoretical stance.

The jury would also like to take note of the fact that all five finalists - i.e. all the grammars chosen to be read and evaluated by all jury members - were published in the Mouton Grammar Library. All of these grammars were judged to be of very good quality, each one them having their specific strengths. Both the publisher and the three editors are to be congratulated on this success and deserve highest praise from the profession for keeping this ambitious and resource-hungry enterprise not only alive, but at the forefront of high-quality grammar publication for so long. In 2008, six grammars were published in the series, making for an all time high since its inception in 1985, nearly a quarter century ago. At the same time, the jury wishes to encourage other publishers to make efforts to have entries for the next Gabelentz award in 2013. Having a wider range of publishers can only assist in experimentations with format, content and novel approaches to grammar-writing.

It is also worthy of mention that four out of the five finalists were written, at least partially, at the Research Center for Linguistic Typology at LaTrobe University (Australia). The Center, and LaTrobe University, deserves a special commendation for its support of grammar-writing as a core scientific endeavour in our field. And again, the jury hopes that other institutions around the world, seeing the immense scientific value of work of this kind, will find their own ways of supporting grammar-writing and encouraging alternative methods of writing and presenting reference grammars.

Jury members: Sonia Cristofaro, Nicholas Evans, Birgit Hellwig, Nikolaus P. Himmelmann (chair), Randy LaPolla, Hein van der Voort

#### **4. European Network of Amerindian Linguistics (message from Thomas Stolz)**

On 4 October, 2009, the European Network of Amerindian Linguistics (ENAL) was founded in Bremen/Germany. On occasion of the Amerindian Day, which was one of the major events on the programme of the Festival of Languages (<http://www.festival.uni-bremen.de>), over 40 linguists from Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America met in order to lay the foundation stone of ENAL. ENAL is meant to be the nucleus of a network of like-minded associations of European scholars and colleagues from overseas who specialise in the study of the indigenous languages of the Americas and feel the need of an institutionalised forum to exchange ideas, co-ordinate projects and rely upon when it comes to applying jointly for funding, etc.

By unanimous vote, the participants elected

- Klaus Zimmermann (Bremen) the Honorary President of ENAL,
- Pier Marco Bertinetto (Pisa), Wolf Dietrich (Münster), José Antonio Flores Farfán (México), Bernhard Hurch (Graz), Marianne Mithun (Santa Barbara), Jeanette Sakel (Bristol) and Thomas Stolz (Bremen) members of the presidential board,
- Thomas Stolz (Bremen) acting president of ENAL.

All candidates accepted the vote.

The possibilities of a new journal devoted to Amerindian Linguistics will be looked into. The proceedings of the foundation colloquium of ENAL will be published as an edited volume.

Before the meeting, 65 linguists - including Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Spain - declared that they would join ENAL as soon as it is in working conditions. ENAL invites all those who are interested in Amerindian linguistics and languages to become members of the network.

Visit our website at <http://www.fb10.uni-bremen.de/enal>

For further information on ENAL, contact [stolz@uni-bremen.de](mailto:stolz@uni-bremen.de)

## **5. Call: Syntax of the World's Languages IV**

Call for papers: 'Syntax of the World's Languages IV'

Lyon, 23-26 September 2010

<http://www.ddl.ish->

[lyon.cnrs.fr/colloques/SWL\\_IV/index.asp?Action=Edit&Langue=EN&Page](http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/colloques/SWL_IV/index.asp?Action=Edit&Langue=EN&Page)

In the same spirit as the previous conferences of this series (SWL1 - Leipzig 2004, SWL2 - Lancaster 2006, and SWL3 - Berlin 2008), SWL4 will provide a forum for linguists working on the syntax of less widely studied languages or language varieties. Its main purpose is enlarging our knowledge and understanding of syntactic diversity. Contributions are expected to be data-driven, and the discussion of theoretical issues is appreciated to the extent that it helps to elucidate the data and remains understandable to persons that are not specialists of the relevant theory. All major theoretical frameworks are equally welcome, and papers that adopt a diachronic or comparative perspective are also welcome, as well as papers dealing with morphological or semantic issues, in so far as syntactic issues also play a major role.

The conference will be hosted by the Institut des Sciences de l'Homme (ISH) in Lyon (France) and is organized by the laboratoire Dynamique du Language (DDL) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and the Université Lumière Lyon II.

### Invited speakers

Ekkehard König (Freie Universität Berlin)

Lutz Marten (SOAS, London)

Claire Moyse-Faurie (CNRS, Paris)

Fernando Zúñiga (University of Zurich)

### Programme committee

Felix Ameka (Leiden), Peter Austin (London), Balthasar Bickel (Leipzig), Koen Bostoen (Brussels), Isabelle Bril (Paris), Claudine Chamoreau (Paris-Mexico), Hilary Chappell (Paris), Misha Daniel (Moscow), Scott Delancey (Eugene, USA), Alexandre François (Paris), Spike Gildea (Eugene, USA), Martin Haspelmath (Leipzig), Dmitry Idiatov (Antwerpen), Mathias Jenny (Zurich), Petar Kehayov (Tartu), Seppo Kittilä (Helsinki), Ekkehard König (Berlin), Renée Lambert (Montréal), Lutz Marten (London), Annie Montaut (Paris), Claire Moyse (Paris), Irina Nikolaeva (London), Pollet Samvelian (Paris), Anna Siewierska (Lancaster), Anna Sörös (Lyon), Fernando Zúñiga (Zurich), Mark van de Velde (Paris), Alice Vittrant (Aix-en-Provence), Sylvie Voisin (Aix-en-Provence)

## Organizers

Denis Creissels  
Antoine Guillaume  
Françoise Rose

## Call for papers

Abstracts of no more than one page (plus possibly one additional page for examples), should be sent in PDF format to Denis Creissels ([denis.creissels@univ-lyon2.fr](mailto:denis.creissels@univ-lyon2.fr)) before 31st January 2010, with "SWL4" in the subject line. Submissions should be anonymous and refrain from self-reference. Please provide contact details (name, phone, fax) and the title of your presentation in the body of the email. Participants may not be involved in more than two abstracts, of which at most one may be single-authored. The conference will be held in English and French; abstracts may be submitted in either language. Notification of acceptance by the 31st of March 2010.