Report on the 15th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology, School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, December 4–6, 2024

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The 15th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology was originally slated to be held at the Zhuhai Campus of Beijing Normal University in November 2024, but health issues unfortunately led to the resignation of the original conference chair, necessitating shifting the conference to another location if one could be found, or cancelling the event. In January 2024 the ALT executive committee made a request for the conference to be held at Nanyang Technological University Singapore, after which preparations were hastily set in train to secure funding and organise logistics for the new conference dates of December 4-6.

A total of 213 abstracts were submitted: 151 papers were initially accepted for oral, virtual and poster presentations in the general sessions and six workshops over the three days of the conference, and the final number of papers presented was 148. Accepted presentations included 62 papers for the general oral sessions, 66 workshop papers, 18 poster presentations, and 2 plenary papers delivered respectively by Anna Sjöberg, winner of the Greenberg Award (https://linguistic-typology.org/greenberg-award/) and Sami Honkasalo, winner of the Pāṇini Award (https://linguistic-typology.org/pa%e1%b9%87ini-award/). Both plenary speakers gave stimulating presentations, generating many questions from the audience that continued into the tea breaks.

Day 1 included 38 papers in 12 general sessions. Day 2 devoted the first morning session and the tea break to the poster presentations, in which 18 papers were displayed and discussed. The rest of the day was allocated to six workshops addressing the following themes:

- Exploring the feasibility of integrating Radical Construction Grammar and The Creation of Meaning for language description and typological comparison (Convenors: ZHOU Shihong and LU Lin)
- Proper names and their morphosyntactic behavior – special or not (Convenors: the late Johannes Helmbrecht, Thomas Stolz, Julia Nintemann)
- Understudied aspects of phasal polarity (Convenors: Ljuba Veselinova, Anastasia Panova, Bastian Persohn)
- Replication and reproducibility in quantitative typology (Convenors: Laura Becker, Matías Guzmán Naranj, Frederik Hartmann)
- Dependency grammar for typology (Convenors: Andrew Dyer, Luigi Talamo, Annemarie Verkerk, Luca Brigada Villa, Erica Biagetti)
- Valency and valency alternations within and across language boundaries (Convenors: Michael Daniel, Guglielmo Inglese, Silvia Luraghi, Chiara Zanchi)

The large number of papers in the Dependency Grammar and Valency and Valency Alternations workshops required parallel morning sessions on Day 3 to accommodate them all after the second plenary was delivered, followed by the remaining general sessions. The conference concluded with the ALT business meeting and a closing address given by ALT president Johan van der Auwera.

The large number of abstract submissions greatly exceeded expectations and put the NTU conference on par with previous editions, even though much of the organization was necessarily last-minute and some of the usual inclusions such as the teach-ins could not be arranged in the short lead-in time. The original plan was to run the conference in hybrid mode in Zhuhai; it was decided to continue with the plan to run a hybrid conference to ensure reasonable attendance, and to accommodate participants inconvenienced by the late change of conference dates and location. Thanks to the excellent work of the Humanities and Social Sciences IT team, the session chairs and our crew of student helpers, the combination of virtual and in-person presentations and discussions

worked seamlessly. Even with the possibility of participation on-line being offered, attendance was still very good, and the conference catered to over 100 in-person participants despite the late organization. A substantial number of bursaries provided by the ALT helped to ensure in-person attendance by participants with limited sources of funding.

ALT15 was generously supported by the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Science's Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences with an NTU-ANU conference support grant – special thanks are owed to Wayan Arka for facilitating the ANU collaboration, thereby allowing the organizing committee to request additional funding. My NTU colleagues Lin Jingxia and Tamisha Tan provided indispensable help in assessing abstract reviews and organizing accepted papers into the 22 thematic sessions, and ALT president Johan van der Auwera and ALT secretary/conference manager Ljuba Veselinova were a constant source of support and information.

An army of volunteer abstract reviewers ensured the quality of the accepted papers, and on behalf of the organizing committee I give my grateful thanks to the following colleagues for the contribution of their time and expertise: Adam James Ross Tallman, Anastasia Bauer, Anna Bugaeva, Antoine Guillaume, Bill Palmer, Carol Genetti, Cathryn Yang, Chia-Jung Pan, Chris Lasse Däbritz, Dana Louagie, Daniel Ross, Danielle Barth, David Peterson, Eva Schultze-Berndt, Ezequiel Koile, František Kratochvíl, Gregory Anderson, Guglielmo Inglese, Guillaume Jacques, Heiko Narrog, Hilary Chappell, Jean-Christophe Verstraete, Jeanette Sakel, Jeff Good, Jessica Ivani, Jesus Francisco Olguin Martinez, Jingxia Lin, Johan Van Der Auwera, Kaoru Horie, Katharina Haude, Kristine Hildebrandt, Ksenia Shagal, Laura Becker, Lauren Gawne, Li Nguyen, Lidia Federica Mazzitelli, Ljuba Veselinova, Luca Ciucci, Maia Ponsonnet, Marc Pierce, Marianne Mithun, Matti Miestamo, Michael Cysouw, Michael Dunn, Naonori Nagaya, Nathaniel Sims, Nikolaus P Himmelmann, Olga Krasnoukhova, Peter Arkadiev, Pui Yiu Szeto, Randy J. LaPolla, Ronald Schaefer, Seongha Rhee, Shelece Easterday, Shihong Zhou, Shobhana L Chelliah, Simone Mattiola, Sonia Cristofaro, Spike Gildea, Stef Spronck, Stephen Morey, Steven Moran, Tamisha Tan, Taras Zakharko, Thomas Stolz, Tianhua Luo, Uma Pappuswamy, Uta Reinöhl, Xuping Li, Yunfan Lai, Zakaria Rehman, and Zhengdao Ye.

Lastly, the NTU School of Humanities administrative team – Chua Ann-Marie, Cheryl Cheong, Elis Ng and especially our conference manager Felicia Tseng – deserve special mention for their outstanding competence and dedication in ensuring that ALT15 was a success.

