

Kyle Gorman (University of Pennsylvania)

Session 35

Jennifer Cole (University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign)

Mark Hasegawa-Johnson (University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign)

Margaret Fleck (University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign)

Automatic detection of turn-taking cues in spontaneous speech using prosodic features

End-of-turn (EOT) cues allow speakers to coordinate turn-change with minimal pause or overlap. We model EOT in the Switchboard corpus by assuming that EOT cues are prosodic features on the turn-final word. A CART classifier trained on a set of acoustic-prosodic features (F0, segment and pause duration) extracted from each word and stress foot predicts EOT with .936 accuracy (baseline .5). Segment duration is a robust predictor. F0 is a poor predictor by itself but improves classification accuracy combined with other features. Segment duration is the most salient cue for low-latency (i.e., on-line) prediction.

Tania Granadillo (Miami University)

Session 98

The Kurripako-Baniwa continuum within the Arawak language family

Much confusion surrounds the position of the Kurripako-Baniwa dialect continuum within the Arawak family and the number of varieties involved. At least two different languages are called 'Baniwa', and various dialects within the continuum have at times been identified as separate languages by authorities on South American language classification. I present the more than 100 names that have been used to identify the Kurripako-Baniwadialects, explain how they have come into being, and identify those that refer to the same dialect. I propose a classification of these dialects into four groups as suggested by native-speaker collaborators and present comparative evidence that supports this classification.

Sven Grawunder (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig)

Session 21

Pharyngealized prosodeme quality in Ket

The present study of interspeaker and intraspeaker variability focuses among the prosodemes in Ket on the 'pharyngeal(ized) tone'. As acoustic measures served amplitude slope and envelope tilt of the sound pressure wave, zero crossing rate, formant transitions, bandwidths trend, and formant amplitude trend in order to calculate the coefficient of variance as a central measure. The most salient characteristic is a peak of the zero crossing rate right in the beginning of the constriction phase. Within the investigated context, the investigated characteristics are highly invariant (COV below 10%). Only in nonisolated context the speakers show higher variability, but not higher than 20%.

Stefan Th. Gries (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Session 35

Resampling corpora: Investigating the amounts & sources of variation within & between corpora

I investigate the fact that corpus analyses of even the same (kind of) phenomenon always yield different results. I introduce a new statistical approach to corpus data, which is based on simulations and bottom-up exploratory statistics and achieves three objectives. (1) The approach identifies and quantifies the degree of variability coming with the results by providing interval estimates. (2) The approach allows us to explore the source of the observed variability. (3) It even offers a measure of corpus homogeneity on the basis of any particular phenomenon (rather than just words or character n-grams).

Veronica Grondona (Eastern Michigan University)

Session 104

Chorote active-inactive alignment & its typological significance

I discuss the alignment system in Chorote, a Matacoan language spoken in Argentina and Paraguay, and situate Chorote within the typology of alignment systems and within languages of the Chaco region. Chorote, like other languages of the Chaco, has a system of person markers on the verb with active-inactive alignment (also called 'active-stative'). The parameters that define the system in Chorote differ to a certain extent from those of other languages of the area. The treatment of such systems has been disputed recently, both in terms of their theoretical treatment and the terminology applied to them.

Donovan Grose (Purdue University)

Session 21

Deriving phonological domains from morphosyntax: Evidence from nonmanual adverbials in ASL

Suprasegmental nonmanual behaviors (NM) in American Sign Language (ASL) have been recently compared to intonation in spoken languages. Accounting for the phonological domains of various types of NM requires two nonisomorphic parses: a morphosyntactic parse (M_0) derived from syntactic phases, and a prosodic parse (P_0) composed of prosodic constituents (Seidl cite). NM can be identified referring to both parses, such as adverbial NM referencing M_0 and eye-blinks referencing P_0 .