1. KONFERENCIJA CENTRA ZA JEZIČNA ISTRAŽIVANJA
1st CONFERENCE OF THE CENTER FOR LANGUAGE RESEARCH

22. – 23. svibnja 2015. / 22 – 23 May 2015

Filozofski fakultet Sveučilišta u Rijeci /
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Rijeka

Knjižica sažetaka / Book of Abstracts

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SAŽECI PLENARNIH IZLAGANJA / ABSTRACTS OF PLENARY LECTURES

Giuliana Giusti (Sveučilište Ca'Foscari, Venecija / University Ca'Foscari, Venice)

How awareness of syntax may enhance inclusive cultural identity. A case for the Eastern Romance varieties spoken in Croatia

Language is the most powerful means of cultural transmission and ethnic identity within and across borders. Cultural studies and sociolinguistics build a solid multi-disciplinary background to analyse the significance of language in the construction of group identity and distinctiveness in multi-ethnic societies and in neighbouring regions. But the linguistic research in this field has focused on accents and discourse, neglecting formal syntactic aspects, often crucial in language contact and attrition, typical phenomena of transregional and transcultural environments.
Knowledge on the cognitive and biological nature of language can certainly constitute a core component of the construction of positive cultural identification within and across boundaries, in view of the following observations:

- Language is a human capacity manifested in languages, which are multi-systems formed by and including coexisting varieties, differentiated at different degrees of inclusiveness.
- Individuals are naturally multilingual, in the sense that their cognitive capacity develops unconscious competence of more than one variety, dialect, sociolect, or standard. In this sense a single person belongs to a multi-layered group with different degrees of inclusiveness.
- Linguistic awareness of multilingualism corroborated by metalinguistic competence of human linguistic capacities can enhance the construction of language identity in an inclusive way, and help eliminate ethnic and social biases about languages/varieties.

Language typology, functional and generative theories have reached a high degree of formalization and a wide coverage of world languages thereby uncovering general abstract traits.

In this talk, I will present some of the main clausal features, such as "null subject", auxiliary selection, past participle agreement, verb position in declarative and interrogative clauses, clitic position, VP ellipsis in short answers at the blueprint of the Vlaski-Zejanski variety of Eastern Romance, as compared with Croatian, Italian, modern and old Romanian. I will maintain that knowledge of the range in which differences and similarities are manifested in these languages can contribute to create inclusive and unbiased cultural identity.

Peter K. Austin (Sveučilište u Londonu / University of London)

Current issues in language documentation and language revitalisation

Around 20 years ago a new sub-field of linguistics emerged called Language Documentation (or Documentary Linguistics) with the goal of "compiling a representative and lasting multipurpose record of a natural language or one of its varieties" (Himmelmann 1998). Language documentation involves creating archivable audio, video and textual recordings of language use in its social and cultural context, and translating and annotating them, paying proper attention to relevant contextual metadata. This approach emphasises transparency and multifunctionality, arguing that the recordings and analysis should be available and accessible to a wide range of users for a wide range of functions, including community members. There is a growing theoretical and applied literature on language documentation.

Language revitalisation is concerned with increasing the number of speakers of a language and the range of domains within which it is used. This often involves collaboration between researchers (linguists, applied linguists, educators) and community members to create relevant materials and curricula as well as contexts within which the language can be used. The origins of language revitalisation are older than language documentation; however it has not attracted the same level of funding or recognition. It has also been undertheorised and is often seen as a waste of time by mainstream linguists (Dimmendaal, Blench), while also failing to engage mainstream applied linguists.

I explore some of the current trends in these two areas, highlighting issues and challenges. I argue that work on both documentation and revitalisation has failed to pay proper attention to local ethnographies and management of language use, and the crucially important but poorly researched beliefs and ideologies about language and language use held by both speech communities and researchers.

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Kristina Štrkalj Despot (Institut za hrvatski jezik i jezikoslovlje / Institute for Croatian Language and Linguistics)

Thought and language: From neuron to metaphor

The talk will first give an overview of theories and research directions that have influenced the formation of the neural theory of language and thought: objectivism, cognitivism, functionalism (strong AI vs. embodied AI), categorization, embodied cognition, mirror neurons discovery, Hebbian learning, Spikes; Time; Dependent Plasticity. Then, an overview of the key theoretical assumptions and concepts of neural theory of language and thought will be provided: the relationship between neural theory of language and cognitive linguistics, J. Feldman's simulation semantics, types of neural networks, and Embodied Construction Grammar. Finally, attention will be directed to metaphor and metaphorical thought in the context of this theory by providing a brief overview of the basic assumptions of neural theory of metaphor.

SAŽECI IZLAGANJA / ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

Vesna Deželjin (Sveučilište u Zagrebu / University of Zagreb)

Italian enclave in continental Croatia: Problems concerning the identification of its language

Several years ago I started a research within a community of Italian speaking people who live in western Slavonia, some hundred kilometres east from Zagreb, since their identity differs from those who form the Italian ethnic minority in Croatia and live mainly in towns and villages along the Adriatic coast.

Taking into account specific historical, social and cultural aspects that characterize the community in Slavonia (the members are descendants of Italian immigrants who arrived in that area some 150 years ago), I hoped to find a linguistic community of bilinguals of various types in that area. In other words, I expected to come across informants of Italian ethnicity who were proficient in a variety belonging to the Italian diasystem (which would be considered their native language, L1), as well as in a local Croatian variety (which would be considered the language of environment, L2), and to inquire on various aspects of bilingualism in those speakers. Apart from that, the research has been highly motivated by a desire to describe the Italian variety (L1) that is in use among those speakers.

Very soon, after first contacts with the speakers of that enclave, it was obvious that the number of reliable speakers of the authentic Italian variety spoken in the area was rather low. Moreover, when I compared registrations made within a group of respondents with the examples of similar Italian varieties, I understood that it would not be easy to identify the Italian variety spoken in western Slavonia, i.e. to associate it with only one language variety in Italy. On this occasion I will point at some doubts that concern the classification of this Italian variety, in which we observe traits typical of long isolation and language attrition, as well as an adequate term to use when I refer to this language variety.

Branka Drljača Margić, Irena Vodopija-Krstanović (Sveučilište u Rijeci / University of Rijeka)

University teachers' attitudes towards English-medium instruction: Insights from Rijeka University

Despite the increasing internationalisation of higher education and the spread of English-taught programmes, rather little attention has been directed to English-medium instruction (EMI) in Croatia, and higher education there is almost exclusively conducted in Croatian. The authors therefore carried out the first Croatian study into the attitudes of teachers towards EMI implementation, canvassing the opinions of teaching staff at Rijeka University.

The aims of this questionnaire-based study were to examine whether the teachers felt competent to teach in English, believed EMI should be introduced and under what conditions, and found it possible for instruction to become English-medium. The participants were also asked to identify the strengths and challenges of EMI. The findings suggest that although half of the participants feel competent to undertake EMI, the vast majority think that it could and should be introduced. While acknowledging its strengths such as international collaboration and improved communication skills, the participants also anticipate three key challenges, which could have an adverse effect on the quality of education: a) lack of resources, b) increased preparation time, and c) inadequate level of language proficiency. In addition, the participants express concern that EMI might jeopardise the development of Croatian. In order to meet the challenges presented, certain preconditions such as financial support, workload modification, and language assistance should be fulfilled. It is not surprising that the teachers focus on preconditions given their negative experience with the hasty introduction of previous educational reforms, in particular the Bologna Process.

The study also reveals a paradox: on the one hand, increased international mobility is seen as a prerequisite for introducing EMI, and on the other, unless EMI is introduced, it is unlikely that Croatian universities will be internationally visible.

Jelena Hodak, Vesna Šendula Jengić (Odjel za istraživanje i razvoj, Psihijatrijska bolnica Rab / Department for Research and Development, Rab Psychiatric Hospital)

Neurobiological and clinical aspects of affective prosody

A very important segment of human communication is the communication of emotions. Emotions are a very powerful motivator for both positive and negative behavior, but also for the delicate biochemical processes in our body that affect our health and well-being.

One of the means of emotional communication is prosody. The delicate changes in the dynamics of pitch, loudness and duration of vowels can play a key role in how the message will be perceived regardless of the actual lexical semantics. We often find ourselves or hear someone say "Don't you give me that tone!" and often "that tone" wasn't really intended by the speaker, but was misinterpreted. So how good are we exactly in perceiving and correctly interpreting affective prosody? How good are we in producing it? In general, these situations do not happen often enough to have a significantly disturbing effect on our interpersonal relationships.

Affective prosody constitutes a very important part of social interaction as it reveals the emotional state of the speaker and induces emotional response in the listener. This process is of especially high importance in sensitive settings such as the clinical one.

Special attention should be given to people who suffer from specific diseases which are marked by the inability to recognize and/or interpret emotional cues in interpersonal communication. This important deficit has so far been found in several clinical populations with neurological and psychiatric conditions. The disorder can be manifested as *executive aprosodia*, and *receptive aprosodia*. The paper shall discuss the recent findings of neural underpinnings of perception of prosody and the clinical significance of affective prosody.

Dunja Jutronić (Sveučilište u Splitu / University of Split)

Combining cognitive and sociolinguistic methods in analyzing variation

There has recently been a plea for sociolinguistics to integrate both theoretical and methodological developments from cognitive linguistics (Gries 2013). But we also find apologies

from cognitivists' approach to communication of being psychological rather than sociological too. Thus Sperber and Wilson (2012) try to stress the possible interaction between their relevance theory and research programmes in the social sciences.

In this paper I present my own research of syntactic variables in a Čakavian urban vernacular. The results show that some of those variables are more stable or persistant in the vernacular while others are dying out. What is of interest in the framework of this methodological discussion is which explanation is more relevant: are the cognitive perceptual constraints or rather sociolinguistic factors that contribute to variation and eventual replacement or disappearance of the variables? Both views are found in the literature. Hollmann and Siewierska (2006) argue that cognitive perceptual factors are primary, not the social ones while Kerswill and Williams (2002) give priority to the social factors.

The author tries to weigh the arguments given on both sides and from the results of her own research suggests that combing sociolinguistic and cognitive approaches is potentially a beneficial solution to language variation studies at both theoretical and methodological levels.

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Tihana Kraš (Sveučilište u Rijeci / University of Rijeka), Patrick Sturt (Sveučilište u Edinburghu / University of Edinburgh), Antonella Sorace (Sveučilište u Edinburghu / University of Edinburgh)

Processing Italian subject pronouns: Evidence from eye movements

Being a null subject language, Italian allows both null (omitted) and overt (expressed) subject pronouns in finite clauses. According to the Position of Antecedent Strategy (PAS) (Carminati, 2002), in intra-sentential contexts the null pronoun is biased towards an antecedent in the

subject position (typically the most prominent antecedent in discourse) while the overt pronoun is biased towards an antecedent in a non-subject position.

In an eye-tracking study we investigate whether native speakers (*n*=28) and proficient non-native speakers whose L1 is English (*n*=28) process Italian subject pronouns in accordance with the PAS in backward anaphora contexts, in which the pronoun precedes its potential antecedents. Participants read 36 complex bi-clausal sentences with null or overt pronouns in the subordinate clause. The pronoun matched either the subject or the object of the main clause, depending on its gender (*Quando lei/lui/Ø è entrata/-o in ufficio dopo pranzo, Adriana ha salutato Roberto con un grande sorriso*, 'When she/he/null entered[fem/masc] the office after lunch, Adriana greeted Roberto with a big smile'). The backward anaphora context is theoretically interesting because the PAS predicts that the main clause subject (*Adriana*) will be ignored as a potential antecedent for the overt pronoun due to the hypothesized object preference.

Evidence from first-pass reading times suggests that the native speakers attempt to assign the null pronoun immediately to the main clause subject and the overt pronoun immediately to the main clause object; it also suggests that the non-native speakers try to assign both pronoun types immediately to the main clause subject, possibly relying on their L1 processing strategies and possibly demonstrating some general properties of L2 processing. The native speaker results for the overt pronoun show that a discourse constraint (the PAS) can lead the processor to ignore the first structurally available antecedent (the main clause subject) during active dependency formation.

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Anita Memišević, Mihaela Matešić (Sveučilište u Rijeci / University of Rijeka)

„Pardon my English": Usage and meanings of select English words and phrases in Croatian

In the context of the omnipresent communicational conflict between Croatian and English – which is the *lingua franca* of our time – scientific debates most frequently focus on the analysis of normative lexical and syntactic relations (the focus is mainly on the influence of English on

Croatian on the lexical level and on the levels of word formation, phrases and syntax). Such research usually does not touch upon the more subtle aspects of semantic properties such as semantic development that occurs in the case of some words that enter Croatian. When an English word is adopted it enables the expression of the extant communicative needs through new linguistic means. In other words, some communicative strategies are realised with the help of elements from a foreign language. The aim of this paper is to analyse a group of select English words and phrases (in particular taboo words) that have entered Croatian, and explore their functions and meanings. Their status is determined on the basis of methodology of discourse linguistics and the focus is on the role of these words in communication and on their impact on the transmission of a message. In order to achieve this, we analysed the available corpora of the contemporary Croatian language and constructed a special questionnaire that was administered to students. We analysed the frequency of use in both production and reception, and the perception of semantic development of these words. The conducted semantic analysis suggests that certain types of semantic shifts occur. We would like to emphasise the shift towards euphemisms: English words begin to function as euphemisms for Croatian words and phrases. Evidence for this can be found not only in private, but also in public discourse. These shifts are primarily motivated by pragmalinguistic reasons.

Benedikt Perak (Sveučilište u Rijeci / University of Rijeka)

Conceptualization of emotion terms in Croatian: Structuring cognitive processes within multi-layered representation of the syntactic and semantic analysis of corpus data

This paper presents a study on the conceptualisation of four emotion words in Croatian: *strah* 'fear'*, gađenje* 'disgust'*, ljutnja* 'anger' *i ljubav* 'love' combining several complementary methods and theoretical approaches. The large Croatian web corpus hrWac is used as the source for the analysis of the usage of the emotion words. This study examines the conceptual structure of the target words by analysing syntactic structure and distribution of neighbouring verbs in constructions [V.*EMOTION] and [EMOTION V.*]. For each emotion word, 50 most frequent verbs are selected and labelled according to the metaphorical process they activate (Kövecses 2000; Perak 2014), as well as the features of appraisal process within the componential process model of emotion (Scherer 2003; Fontaine, Scherer and Soriano 2013). The structure and distribution of the constructions is represented as a complex network with verbs as source nodes and emotional words as target notes. The quantitative results are interpreted in accordance with

the usage-based model of cognitive linguistics as the measure of the conventionalization and cognitive entrenchment of the constructions (Langacker 2008).

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Iris Vidmar (Sveučilište u Rijeci / University of Rijeka)

Aesthetic ways of language

In this talk I explore ways in which language works in literature, primarily in narrative prose. I bring together two opposing attitudes towards aesthetic qualities of 'literary language'. Literature has long been excluded from the domain of aesthetics because it was believed that its medium, language, was not in any interesting way aesthetic, i.e. appealing to the senses. There is nothing to 'see' beyond the shape of the letters and printed words, nothing that would touch the senses, and literature was therefore proclaimed incapable of inviting aesthetic interest or rewarding the audience with aesthetic pleasure. According to another argument, even if there are aesthetically pleasing ways of using language, perhaps analogous to the way poetry uses it, language is used to tell a story, and that is what the audience's attention is directed to. In a different discussion, over the cognitive values of arts, aesthetic features of language were insisted upon by those who opposed literature's ability to deliver knowledge. They argued that aesthetic qualities of literature, primarily semantic density, make readers liable to falling under poetic spell that clouds their judgments and prevents them from rational considerations. I confront these two views in order to shed light on the way that literature uses its medium. I argue that (i) literature is highly aesthetic art and that (ii) its aesthetic qualities speak in favor of, rather than against, its cognitive potentials.

Silvana Vranić (Sveučilište u Rijeci / University of Rijeka)

The language of Chakavian literature written by the Mediterranean in the Ikavian-Ekavian dialect

Mediterranean Croatian literature is primarily characterized by the topos of the sea and by mythology, that is, by the following constants: the material and spiritual culture of the Antiquity, Christian-Latin religious foundations, Classical-Humanistic education and cultural and literary connections to Italy.

Some poets with their works created in the Chakavian Ikavian-Ekavian dialect from the North Croatian Littoral (i.e. Milorad Stojević, Nikola Kraljić) also belong to the Croatian Mediterranean literature. All of these authors are connected not just by the so-called genotype centre – Mediterraneanism, which is a characteristic of at least some of their works, but also by the characteristics of the Chakavian dialect they use. In this paper, as an example, we will analyze the language of Nikola Kraljić's Chakavian texts. The author is a native of Omišalj on the island of Krk. The dialect of Omišalj belongs to the Chakavian Ikavian-Ekavian dialect from the North Croatian Littoral. We will analyse to which extent Nikola Kraljić uses the elements of his local dialect in his literary works and take into consideration the observed linguistic characteristics that identify these texts as those that belong to the Chakavian dialect – more specifically, to the North Chakavian dialect and to the Ikavian-Ekavian dialect, i.e. the realization of the *jat* morpheme, governed by Meyer-Jakubinskij's law (*lipo telo*), a high number of instances of the "*weak ə* vocalization*" (with the long *ə* > a, and the short *ə* > e: *dan, denes*), partial survival of the hard stem declination (G sg. and NAV pl. *ženi, sestri,* A pl. *brodi, konji*), partial survival of the *v-stem*, etc.

Zvjezdana Vrzić (Sveučilište u Rijeci / University of Rijeka)

Using implicational scaling to elucidate language shift: The case of Vlashki/Zheyanski speakers shifting to Croatian

Rickford (2010) claims implicational scaling to be a useful device "for revealing structure in variability" and argues for an increased use of implicational scales in the study of language variation and change. This presentation is a preliminary attempt to evaluate the utility of this analysis tool in the study of language shift, following Gal 1978.

The paper takes another view at the results of the sociolinguistic study of language shift, discussed previously by Vrzić and Singler (forthcoming 2015). This study looked at the patterns of language use in the communities of speakers of Vlashki/Zheyanski, an endangered Eastern Romance language also known as Istro-Romanian. This severely endangered language is spoken by around 120 fluent and active native speakers in six villages on the peninsula.

The results of the questionnaire-based sociolinguistic study of the patterns of language use among Vlashki/Zheyanski speakers showed that language shift from the local language to Croatian is well under way. The drop in the amount of Vlashki/Zheyanski language use in the domains considered in the study is rather gradual across generations. As expected, it largely correlates with respondents' ages: respondents in the oldest group (age 71 and up) use Vlashki/Zheyanski most of the time, i.e., with most interlocutor types and in varying social situations, while those in the youngest group (age 30 and below) use it extremely rarely or never, even when they report some competence in the language.

The application of implicational scaling to this data reveals implicational relationships between language choice options with different interlocutors. For example, if one uses Vlashki/Zheyanski with a sibling, he/she also uses it with his parents and grandparents, but not the other way around. In addition, the correlation with age and the amount of language use is not complete. For example, our oldest speaker, age 84, uses Vlashki less than the speaker who is 61 (and others younger than him), suggesting that other factors affecting language choice come into play, such as the language competence and use of the spouse.

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