Invitiational workshop 'Modelling constructional variation and change: Agents, networks, and vectors'
University of Zurich, 15-16 November 2021

Organisers: Eva Zehentner, Marianne Hundt, Laetitia Van Driessche, Aitor Egurtzegi, Melanie Röthlisberger & Sophie Willimann (University of Zurich)

Place: RAA-G-01 (Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich) or *virtual* via the following link:
https://uzh.zoom.us/j/64916055267?pwd=RmwvU0RmOUI4L1pMU3I5QkkwaGFKdz09

<u>Brief description</u>

This workshop aims to spark discussion about new methodologies in linguistics and their implications for linguistic theory: recent advances in data-driven statistical modelling, including machine learning approaches, allow us to obtain novel results and perspectives on language use, language variation and language change. At the same time, it remains a challenge to integrate these novel approaches and findings with state-of-the art theory building, both in earlier stages of research (e.g. in data extraction or hypothesis formulation) and in the interpretation of results. For example, modelling competition between two variants presupposes decisions on what counts as an alternation.

The main focus of the workshop now is to bring together established and more junior experts using computational linguistic methods to explore questions of language use, variation, and change. We are open to a wide range of methodological approaches, but are particularly interested in including researchers employing statistical models based on machine learning, such as distributional semantics, neighbour-net modelling, or agent-based modelling. In terms of linguistic area, our main focus is on phenomena of morpho-syntactic variation and change; approached from a cognitive-functional perspective (e.g. construction grammar).

If you would like to attend this workshop in person, please register via the workshop website:
https://www.prepcomp.uzh.ch/en/Events/Modelling-Constructional-Variation-and-Change.html

Programme (provisional)

Monday, November 15

Time	Speakers	Topic
09:00-09:30	Welcome & introduction	
09:30-10:00	Freek van de Velde (KU Leuven)	Markov models for diachronic corpus studies
10:00-10:30	Stefano de Pascale (KU Leuven)	Token-based distributional semantics for grammatical alternation research
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-11:30	Guillaume Desagulier (University of Paris VIII) [in person]	Capturing horizontal links in a construction network using semantic vector spaces: a Diachronic Construction Grammar perspective
11:30-12:00	Andreas Baumann (University of Vienna)	Exploiting embeddings for analyzing the role of emotion in lexical change
12:00-13:00	Short presentations [VIRTUAL]: - YingYing Cai (KU Leuven): 'Understanding variation against a broader system: PP-complements to English mental adjectives in the 20th century' - Sergio Jimenez, Carlos Rodriguez-Diaz & Alexander Gelbukh (Instituto Caro y Cuervo, Bogota/ IPN Mexico): 'A corpus-based variational measure of the order of the words' - Paola Marongiu (University Neuchatel): 'Co-occurrence of modal markers in a Latin corpus: from texts to networks' - Tess Monks (Harvard University): 'Modelling Diachronic Semantics of Demonstrative Pronouns'	
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-14:30	Quentin Feltgen (University of Paris III)	On the edge of transformation: diachronic productivity at the scale of a constructional paradigm
14:30-15:00	Lauren Fonteyn & Enrique Manjavacas (University of Leiden)	A 'hands-off' approach to modelling constructional change with word embeddings: current challenges and future prospects
15:00-15:30	Sara Budts (University of Antwerp)	On flat cues and deep learning: the benefits of Convolutional Neural Networks for (historical) linguistic research
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-16:30	Stefania Degaetano-Ortlieb, Tanja Säily & Yuri Bizzoni (University of Saarland/ University of Helsinki) [VIRTUAL]	Registerial adaptation vs. innovation across situational contexts: 18th century women in transition
16:30-17:00	Peter Petré (University of Antwerp)	What is being modelled?
17:00-17:30	Susanne Flach (University of Zurich)	The individual & the aggregate: Where and why does individual variation matter in corpus linguistics?

Tuesday, November 16

Time	Speakers	Topic
09:30-10:00	Natalia Levshina (MPI Nijmegen) [VIRTUAL]	Communicative efficiency as a driving force in language variation and change
10:00-10:30	Remi van Trijp (Sony Lab Paris)	Variation as a Design Feature of the Linguistic Inventory: A Computational Perspective"
10:30-11:00	Eva Zehentner (University of Zurich)	Measuring adjunct-status in diachronic data
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:00	Harish Tayyar Madabushi (University of Sheffield) [VIRTUAL]	BERT "knows" Construction Grammar: Evidence and Implications
12:00-12:30	Laurence Romain & Dagmar Divjak (University of Birmingham)	Making new with the old: a learning perspective on the variables that guide article choice in English
12:30-13:00	Dagmar Divjak & Laurence Romain (University of Birmingham)	Learning the English TA system from usage: a view from error-driven learning
13:00-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30-15:00	Dirk Pijpops (University of Liège) [VIRTUAL]	Combining corpus research with agent-based modelling in the study of morphological and syntactic variation
15:00-15:30	Marianne Hundt, Laetitia van Driessche & Dirk Pijpops (University of Zurich/ University of Liège)	Approaching Epicentral Influence with Agent-Based Modelling
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-16:30	Luc Steels (University Pompeu Fabra) [VIRTUAL/ in person]	TBA
16:30-17:00	Sali Tagliamonte (University of Toronto) [VIRTUAL]	Under construction: Changing systems in spoken English
17:00-17:30	Workshop closing	