Summary

KÁLMÁN LÁSZLÓ

Compounds and theory of language

The paper intends to answer the question what exactly distinguishes analogy-based approaches to language from rule- and constraint-based ones. Using the example of compounding, the paper argues that one problem area in which the difference is relevant is the gradual character of the boundary between memorized vocabulary and regularly formed expressions. A brief survey of a type of Hungarian compounds (consisting of a noun, a verb plus a nominalizing ending) reveals why rule- and constraint-based theories are unable to explain the degrees of productivity and transparence within such a large family of expressions. The conclusion is that analogy-based theories, but not constraint- and rule-based ones, posit a strict and meaningful relationship between the stochastic parameters of rules and categories, on the one hand, and the patterns arising from memorized experience, on the other.

Keywords: theory of language, compounds, analogy

FEHÉR KRISZTINA

Compound words and transitional probabilities

The differentiation between compound words and syntagms has a definitional problem in linguistics. This paper intends to point to a possible background of this problem, i.e. linguists make a presupposition that there has to be one or more absolutely context-free criteria with which one can obviously differentiate between compound words and syntagms. Nevertheless, similarly to other linguistic phenomena, linguistic data show heterogeneity even in this issue. Therefore the idea for this paper comes from a research field where relativism, including language variation and change, is emphasized to a larger degree. I turn to cognitive psychology, mainly to an L1 experiment conducted by Saffran et al. (1996), and I also analyze other tests from psycholinguistics in order to demonstrate how people use statistical information about transitional probabilities of speech in order to segment certain utterances into words. My attempt is to provide evidence for the plausibility of the statistical model of word-segmentation, for its being able to handle the fact that the distinction between compound words and syntagms is also relative, and dynamic.

Keywords: compound words, transitional probability, descriptive grammar, psycholinguistics, first language acquisition

REBRUS PÉTER – TÖRKENCZY MIKLÓS

On the graduality of compounds

Some recent approaches to morphological complexity (e.g. Hay 2001, Hay & Baayen 2005) claim that (i) morphological complexity is gradient so that even different forms that share the same affix may differ in complexity and (ii) a frequency-dependent measure of complexity is appropriate for capturing these differences. In this paper we argue that this approach can explain the unusual harmonic behaviour some compounds and compound-like words in Hungarian which unexpectedly show variation or unexpectedly do not show variation in palatal suffix harmony. We argue that this unusual harmonic behaviour is due to the fact that "compoundness" is gradient and put forward a measure of compound complexity based on the relative frequency of a compound and its constituents.

Keywords: vowel harmony, harmonic transparency, compounds, vacillation, graduality

SZABÓ VERONIKA – ALBERTI GÁBOR – FARKAS JUDIT

Subordinate and attributive nominal compounds

The vast majority of compound nouns are subordinate, that is, the second element functions as the semantic and syntactic head of the compound. Kiefer (2000: 537) claims that a derived head inherits the event structure and the argument structure of the input verb and the inherited argument appears as the non-head element of the compound. In this paper we make a further observation: the non-head can also realize an optional modifier of the input verb. We also suggest that compounds headed by a derived noun give us a better understanding of other nominal compounds. On the one hand, we examine derived nouns with non-productive suffixes which are blocking forms of those with productive ones; on the other hand, we study so-called representational nouns like *story, picture,* and *game* (Runner–Goldwater (2011: 220). We claim that these kinds of nouns also have a conceptual frame with thematic arguments. Following Broekhuis–Keizer–den Dikken (2012: 275–296) we propose the presence of a "meta verb" in such constructions. We assume a theoretical framework which explains the appearance of the dependents of the input meta verb by the combination of clausal and word-internal syntactic structures. This model is also suitable for analysing attributive compounds.

Keywords: subordinate compounds, attributive compounds, deverbal suffixes, semantic arguments, causal chain

KUGLER NÓRA – SIMON GÁBOR

Hungarian participle-noun compounds: the emergence of semantic schemas in constructionalization

The paper investigates the constructional patterns of Hungarian participle-noun compounds featuring an *-ó/-ő* '-ing' participle with two empirical methods. The most entrenched constructions are established by questionnaires asking for meaning attribution to nonsense words. This study yields constructional schemas which are in turn compared to data from the Hungarian National Corpus 2. We then zoom in on patterns with the participle *érintő-* ('touching') in order to elaborate a usage-based description of participle-noun compounds that takes degree of conventionality into account. In addition to describing structural patterns conventionalized to varying degrees, the paper also provides a semantic analysis of Hungarian participle-noun compounds, informed by cognitive grammar and frame semantics. The most important finding is that compounds are formed not by combining the components or welding them together: it is the emergence of schemas (via constructionalization) at a higher level of abstraction which makes the development of productive compounding patterns possible.

Keywords: conceptual proximity, iconicity, semantic integration, construction, constructionalization, corpus analysis, participial component, compound

PÉNTEK JÁNOS

The distribution shift of the elements of compounds as a language contact phenomenon

The phenomenon of using loan translations, i.e. separately translating all the structural elements of certain constructions, is well known in the history of languages and in contact linguistics. This is always the sign of intensive language contact. In Hungarian, for example, many such construction types were integrated in the earlier periods of its history, mainly from Latin and German. Greek and Latin plant names were often taken over by European languages as direct translations (e.g., the Latin *Tragopogon*, German *Bocksbart*, English *goat's beard*, Russian *kozloborodnik*, French *barbe de bouc*, Romanian *barba caprei* and Hungarian *bakszakáll* are loan translations of the Greek construction *trago-pogon*), but the phenomenon is frequent in the case of modern constructions as well (E. Haugen's example: American English *skyscraper* > German *Wolkenkratzer*, French *gratte-ciel*, Spanish *rascacielos*, Hungarian *felhőkarcoló*; Haugen 1950: 215). The distribution of the structural elements (as shown by the above examples) depends on the type of the language in question: in Latin and Romanic languages the head is on the left, while in Germanic languages and in

Hungarian it stands on the right side of the construction. The same holds true for the case of Hungarian–Romanian language contact as well.

In the Hungarian dialect of Moldova the influence of the dominant language, i.e. Romanian, is particularly intensive: bilingualism is general and the process of language shift is continuous here. The phenomenon discussed in this paper, based on data from this dialect, is strongly related to the phenomenon described above. In addition to the continuous integration of Romanian loan translations into this Hungarian dialect, the use of the Romanian distributional counterparts (with their head on the left) of Hungarian constructions (initially with their head on the right) is more and more frequent. This is not only a simple contact phenomenon: it is part of the language shift process occurring at the structural level of the language, and it signals the intensity of the process. Among the analysed examples there are constructions which only have Romanian distributional versions (with their head on the left) and constructions with both distributional patterns. We may find hybrid constructions where one or both structural elements are Romanian loanwords, as well as constructions clearly based on the Romanian distributional pattern, which, however, do not originate from Romanian expressions.

Keywords: Hungarian dialect of Moldova, Romanian as the dominant language, bilingualism, language shift, loan translation (calque), inversion in compounds

LUDÁNYI ZSÓFIA

‘The word *antibioticum* may not be a compound’. Compound words with loan prefixes in the Hungarian medical terminology

Most medical terms are compounds made up of root words which are combined with prefixes *(antibiotikum, adenokarcinóma, citoplazma, endotoxin).* According to the Hungarian general orthographic rule of syllable counting, in compounds that consist of at least three words and are seven or more syllable long, the main compound element boundaries have to be hyphenised. Ambiguities arise in the case of prefixes with words of Latin−Greek origin i.e. *anti-, endo-, cito-* etc. The question is: should they be considered a compound?

The first part of this study with an overview of the theoretical bases deals with the approaches of the prefixed words in the descriptive grammars and in the academic orthography regulations. The second part analyses the spelling practices in the light of a questionnaire survey. The survey has been carried out among 188 physicians or medical students and 202 other speakers. The survey comprises medical terms where a prefixed word from a foreign language and a Hungarian word are compounded (e.g. *antibiotikumkezelés, citoplazma-fehérje*). There were also prefixed words whose second element occurs independently (e.g. *citoplazma – plazma*) and words which can be broken down into two parts but none of them occurs independently *(antibiotikum – *biotikum).* In most cases speakers

tend to hyphenise (according to the syllable counting rule) because they consider the words compounds.

The results show that there is a significant difference in spelling with respect to the physician and non-physician group but there is no notable difference between words with independent and dependent second element.

Keywords: medical terminology, compound, foreign prefixes, semi-word, orthography