Transferring concepts from one to another discipline or to another linguistic subdiscipline is a special case of establishing correspondences between concepts of different (sub)disciplines. Here problems arise in both interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work, which may lead to misperceptions and illusions. But problems differ between the domains of theoretical research and of other scientific endeavours, such as the new approaches of open science, due to the differing degree of precision intended and particularly due to differing degrees of focus on biuniqueness of scientific terms. This paper will limit discussion to theoretical and descriptive research.

Examples planned to be discussed will be correspondences of concepts in reconstructing the original area of the reconstructed Proto-Indoeuropean language, in providing external/substantial evidence for linguistic constructs, in the regression hypothesis of aphasic language disturbances, in the notion of self-organization and of complexity, figure vs. ground, transparency and opacity; furthermore subdisciplinary differences in the notions of what “language” means in language acquisition, of productivity, toptdown processes, default and input. Transfer of concepts has to be distinguished from homophony (including faux amis) and vagueness. Clearly these have to be avoided, at least in the process of operationalising initial concepts.

The proposal will be to combine interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity and to try to avoid dangers which threaten when proceeding beyond one’s own field of specialisation.