Current Exploits in the Morphosyntax of Slavic Languages

ABSTRACTS

Pavel Caha
"Numerals as nouns"

I argue that Czech numerals like "five" spell out a phrasal projection that has a noun at the bottom. I argue that this proposal sheds light on three aspects of their peculiar syntax: (i) the case that we find on the counted noun (ii) the ambiguity between a numerical and nominal syntax (for some of them), and (iii) the fact that they may move across the demonstrative (with a partitive effect).

Jacek Witkoś and Dominika Dziubała-Szrejbrowska
"Morphology meets nano-syntax: the puzzle of the Polish Genitive of Quantification solved without Undermerge"

We base our analysis on the nano-syntactic model of Kase Phrase which together with some additional assumptions regarding the scope of inherent case marking and the nominal-like properties of higher numerals (5 and up) provide the answer to the problem of Genitive of Quantification in Polish. Moreover, the nano-syntactic inspired proposal straightforwardly extends to other troublesome aspects of agreement, i.e. the relation between quantified subjects and predicative adjectives/participles.

Piotr Cegłowski
"Extraction of classificatory adjectives as evidence for NP(KP)-internal phase boundaries"

The presentation is devoted to the peculiar behaviour of classificatory adjectives out of KP/NP objects in Polish. Specifically, it seems that they can be extracted from non-canonical position only, an unexpected fact given the ostensible lack of phasal projections within the nominal (cf. Fanselow - Ćavar 2002). I will present an analysis of the extraction facts based on 1/ the assumption that postnominal classificatory adjectives are in fact merged prenominally (cf. Rutkowski 2007), 2/ there is a phasal projection within the NP/KP that prevents the adjective from being extracted from an NP/KP object placed in the canonical position.

Selected references:

Fanselow, G. - D. Ćavar. 2002. Distributed deletion. In: A. Alexiadou, ed., Theoretical approaches to universals, pp. 65-107, Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
Rutkowski, P. 2007. Hipoteza frazy przedimkowej jako narzędzie opisu składniowego polskich grup imiennych. Warszawa: UW.

Mojmir Dočekal
"A scalar approach to neg-raising in Slavic languages"

In this talk I focus on three points:

a) experimental data in support for the existence of neg-raising (NR) in Slavic languages;
b) comparison with the Boškovič & Gajewski's (2009) claim about the non-existence of NR in Slavic languages;

c) a scalar approach to NR (extending Romoli's 2012, 2013 work) which allows me to account for more complex behavior of Slavic NR predicates (compared to more uniform English) but which also allows me to bring together data showing the suspension of NR by manipulations of context or focus alternatives (noticed for English e.g. by Gajewski 2007).

Petr Biskup
"Idiomatic Prefixed Verbs in Slavic"

This talk deals with differences between compositional and non-compositional prefixed verbs in Slavic. Using a paraphrase test, it classifies prefixed verbs into four basic categories. In the course of this, it is shown that non-compositional prefixed verbs do not form a unified class. It provides a syntactic and semantic analysis of the particular classes and argues that also prefixed verbs with an idiomatic meaning can receive a compositional analysis.

Bartosz Wiland (presenting joint work with Lucie Taraldsen Medova)
"Semelfactives are bigger than degree achievements"

Using a fine-grained approach to syntactic representations and mechanisms of exponence in Nanosyntax (phrasal spell out and the Superset Principle), we argue that semelfactives are syntactically bigger than degree achievements. On the basis of the syntax of Czech and Polish verb stems, we argue that there is a full syntactic structure behind these aspectual categories.

Franc Marušič
"On Sluicing and island repair"

Sluicing is widely assumed to fix island violations. We show that this assumption results in a number of wrong predictions - sluicing constructions that are simply impossible. The conclusion drawn from this data is that Sluicing actually never repairs island violations, it only obscures traces of proper movement.

Jadwiga Bogucka
"Patterns of conjunct agreement in Polish"

The aim of this paper is to present a systematic account of different patterns of subject-verb agreement with coordinated subjects in Polish. Â The paper focuses on the interaction of syntactic and semantic features of coordinated nominals and the extent to which they determine the agreement with the verb. The realization of agreement on the verb depends on the interaction of features within the conjuncts and computation of these features on the coordination head.