

Συναντήσεις για τη Συγκριτική Γλωσσολογία

Νέο Κτίριο Φιλοσοφικής Σχολής

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Αίθουσα 417

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The syllable structure of Tashlhiyt: some new evidence

Abstract: In the majority of the world languages, the distribution between the nucleus of a syllable and its margins is almost always correlated with the lexical distinction between sonorants (mostly vowels) and obstruents. Tashlhiyt Berber, an Amazigh language spoken in Morocco, is a well-known exception to this dominant trend. In this language, it is claimed that the entire set of its consonantal inventory may alternate between nuclear and non-nuclear positions, making syllables of the shape [gz], [tf], or [tk] quite common. One reason why any consonant, even a voiceless stop, may act as a syllable peak is that this language allows particularly long strings of consonants without vowels (e.g. [tamsslkmt] “transmitter”, [tkkststt] “you took it off”, [sskʃmtɲ trɣlttɲ ɪ lqʷbbt] “bring them in and lock them inside the cupola”). In this talk I will provide a review into three main sources of evidence in favor of the proposed syllable structure. The first concerns the most disputed component of Tashlhiyt phonological system: the status of schwa that is sometimes present within some consonantal clusters. The second concerns the way vowel-less syllables and their constituents are phonetically implemented with the aim of providing empirical ways of determining syllable affiliations of consonants sequences. The third source of evidence is based on metalinguistic judgments: native perception and whistled speech.

Οι συναντήσεις στοχεύουν στην παρουσίαση ερευνητικών προσπαθειών και πορισμάτων και απευθύνονται σε (κυρίως μεταπτυχιακούς) φοιτητές και υποψήφιους διδάκτορες, είναι όμως ανοιχτές σε κάθε ενδιαφερόμενο. Γλώσσες εργασίας είναι η ελληνική και η αγγλική. Οι επόμενες συναντήσεις προγραμματίζονται για την Πέμπτη 14/12/17 και την Πέμπτη 11/1/18. Οι σχετικές λεπτομέρειες θα ανακοινωθούν σύντομα.