

Συναντήσεις για τη Συγκριτική Γλωσσολογία

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The pragmatics of lexical semantics: some crosslinguistic evidence

Abstract: While theories of truth-conditional pragmatics, and their underlying assumption that an utterance's semantic content needs to be pragmatically enriched in order to reach full propositional status, are increasingly being accepted as a norm in the study of linguistic meaning in cognitivist terms, contextual variations of lexical meaning are still being approached as adjustments of some determinate and stable (even if minimal) semantic content. In line with most mainstream research in the area, relevance theory relies on (a Fodorian version of) realist semantics as a means of accounting for lexical decoding, which is oddly enough the exact same basis on which semantic minimalists (Borg explicitly, and Cappelen & Lepore implicitly) also base their argumentation. Yet, the recent interest in lexical pragmatics and the development of the ad hoc concept construction account within the relevance-theoretic framework have revealed a tension between the traditional conception of lexical semantics and what remains of it when one fully embraces truth-conditional pragmatics as a psychologically realistic approach to the study of linguistic meaning. In this talk, I will question the extent to which, in most cases, lexical meanings can be considered to be truly shared across different languages, as per Fodor's Publicity Constraint, challenging in this way the perceived equivalence between linguistic and real semantics. Then, I will explore a number of available alternatives on the basis of current research within cognitive psychology.

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. Λεπτομέρειες για τις επόμενες συναντήσεις θα ανακοινωθούν σύντομα.