CamCos 3 Announcement and Call for Papers

The ERC project 'Rethinking Comparative Syntax'

presents the

Third Cambridge Comparative Syntax conference (CamCoS 3)

`http://www-falcon.csx.cam.ac.uk/site/RECOS/conference/camcos-3/camcos3-info`

Conference description

After the success of the two previous CamCoS conferences, we are happy to announce that CamCoS 3 is going to take place on **8–10 May 2014**.

The first half day will feature talks by Cambridge-based researchers, followed by a full-day general session on comparative generative syntax. The final day of the conference will feature a themed session with invited speakers on the topic of variation in the morphophonological, morphosyntactic and morphosemantic domains. **Abstracts, which may, but need not, pick up on the conference theme, are invited for the general session.**

In relation to the themed session, the central question we would like to address is to what extent it is possible to provide a formal account of cross-linguistic variation in the domain of morphology. More specifically, to the extent that there is a deeper basis to the classic morphological types proposed by 19th and early 20th century philologists and anthropologist-linguists (principally, the Schlegels, Humboldt, Schleicher and Sapir), can they be captured in a principled and explanatory manner? In other words, is it possible to think of morphology in parametric terms?

More specific potential questions include, but are not restricted to:

- What is the **typology of morphology**? How can this be captured formally? Is there any evidence that parameter hierarchies regulate morphological variation (see Roberts 2012, Biberauer & Roberts 2012, Biberauer et al. submitted, Sheehan to appear on syntactic parameter hierarchies, and Dresher & Kaye 1990 on phonological parameter hierarchies)?

- What is the **status of classic distinctions** such as analytic, synthetic, agglutinating and isolating? Do they have any morphological (or syntactic) basis? Is it, for example, possible to refine our understanding of morphological typology in a way comparable to what generative investigation of classic Greenbergian word-order typology has achieved (see i.a. Broekhuis 2011, Cinque 2013 and Biberauer & Sheehan 2013 for recent discussion)? For example, can generative analyses of agglutination give us insight into the difference(s) between consistently head-final and Bantu-type systems? Or into the difference(s) between concatenative and non-concatenative morphology? Or into how templatic morphology interacts with concatenative morphology?

- Is there a **distinction between purely morphophonological (i.e. PF) variation as distinct from syntactic variation**? If so, what are the diagnostics for "surface" (PF) vs "deep" (syntax-internal) variation? If not, can we begin to flesh out the proposal that linguistic variation is restricted to the PF component (cf. Chomsky & Berwick 2011)? What types of PF variation are there? Is it feasible to view all PF variation in terms of PF-internal "depth" vs "surfaceyness", along the lines proposed in Arregi & Nevins (2012)?

- To what extent is it true that there is "**syntax all the way down**" (Halle & Marantz 1993)? Is morphology subject to the same constraints and typological patterns as syntax or do the two domains function differently?

- Does morphophonological variation give us clues as to the nature of the **formal features** that regulate the syntactic computation? Can we classify clues of this type in such a way that they might give us insight into how children are able to employ them in language acquisition?

- Can we identify **syntactic properties that determine word structure** in given domains? What role, for example, does incorporation play? We know that it can be sanctioned to differing extents in different systems – productive incorporation as in Mohawk (Baker 1988), Athapaskan (Rice 2000) and Algonquian (Denny 1989) vs. pronoun incorporation as in Chichewa (Bresnan & Mchombo 1987) vs. preposition incorporation as in Mandarin (Gao 2005) vs. restricted noun incorporation as in Dutch, etc.): does this have further consequences?

- Are there **fundamental formal differences between concatenative and non-concatenative morphology**? Can we identify degrees of "templaticity"? Consider, for example, the verb templates proposed for Bantu (Meeussen 1967; Nurse 2003; Hyman 2007) as opposed to what has been proposed for Athapaskan (Kari 1989; Rice 2000), or the Root-and-Pattern morphology found in Afroasiatic (McCarthy 1982; Kramer 2009) and that ascribed to Sign Languages (Sandler & Lillo-Martin 2006). Does the amount of inflectional and/or derivational morphology affect the templatic organisation of the inflectional system (Stump 2006)?

The invited speakers for CamCoS 3 are:

Iris Berent (Northeastern University)

Phil Branigan (Memorial University)

Dunstan Brown (University of York)

Nigel Duffield (Konan University)

Daniel Harbour (Queen Mary, University of London) – **tbc**

Martina Wiltschko (University of British Columbia)

Call for papers

For the general comparative syntax session, we invite abstracts for 30-minute presentations on any topic in comparative generative syntax as well as the topics outlined above. We particularly welcome papers explicitly addressing parametric issues and/or offering comparative analyses (synchronic or diachronic) of previously un(der)studied languages and/or phenomena, and papers concerned with "bigger picture" questions, such as what insights modern comparative generative syntax might offer in relation to linguistic typology and syntax-interface mappings. We also encourage papers concerned with methodologies for modern comparative generative syntax.

Anonymous abstracts should not exceed two pages (12-point Times New Roman font, with single spacing and margins of at least 2.54cm/1 inch), including examples and references. They should be uploaded in pdf format via EasyAbstracts (`http://linguistlist.org/easyabs/camcos3`). The submission deadline is **Wednesday, 15 January 2014**.

For more information, please see the conference and project website (`http://www-falcon.csx.cam.ac.uk/site/RECOS/conference/camcos-3/camcos3-info`) or contact Theresa Biberauer (mtb23@cam.ac.uk).

Summary

What?

Third Cambridge Comparative Syntax Conference (CamCoS 3)
`http://www-falcon.csx.cam.ac.uk/site/RECOS/conference/camcos-3/camcos3-info`

When?

Abstract deadline: 15 January 2014
Conference dates: Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 May 2014

Where?

Cambridge, U.K.

Who?

Researchers (including students) of comparative generative syntax and word structure

How to submit an abstract?

`http://linguistlist.org/easyabs/camcos3`

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