Workshop on (In)definiteness and (non)specificity: Meaning and usage

Date: June 26, 2017
Venue: Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

The workshop description:

The Research Unit on Experimental Syntax and Heritage Languages (RUESHeL) of the Humboldt University of Berlin is organizing a one-day workshop on definiteness and specificity. The aim of this workshop is to discuss current issues pertaining to the acquisition, usage, meaning and interpretation of (in)definite and (non)specific noun phrases by L1 and L2 speakers. This workshop aims to address the following questions:

- What strategies do languages use to express definiteness and specificity?
- What are the possible meanings of the definite and specific noun phrases?
- What is the role of cross-linguistic influence in the acquisition of the L2 article system?

Despite advances in the understanding of the referential categories across languages, the core question of how specificity and definiteness are encoded in the grammars of different languages is still debated (Heim 1982, Ionin 2015, Kamp 1981, Lyons 1999, von Heusinger 2011). Yet another much discussed issue is how the absence or presence of a fully grammaticalized article system in the native language influences the acquisition of these features in the L2 (Ko et al. 2010, Mayo & Hawkins 2009). This workshop brings together leading researchers working on both the theory of syntactic, semantic and pragmatics of the article system and also carrying out experimental studies in L1 and L2 acquisition in order to contribute to a better understanding of the notions of definiteness and specificity.
Invited Speakers:
Prof. Tania Ionin (University of Illinois)
Prof. Klaus von Heusinger (Universität zu Köln)
Asst. Prof. Umut Özge (Middle East Technical University)
Asst. Prof. Bert le Bruyn (Utrecht University)

Location
Room: 2070a, in the main building
Unter den Linden 6, Berlin, 10099

Programme: Coming soon.
There will be 45-minutes for each presentation plus 15 minutes for discussion.

Organizers:
Artemis Alexiadou, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Gülsen Yılmaz Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Registration
Places are limited, so we ask that those interested to send an email to register for the workshop guelsen.yilmaz(at)hu-berlin.de until 1.6.2017.

RUESHel (Research Unit in Experimental Syntax and Heritage Languages)
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