Cognitive Linguistics

Prof. Dr. Holger Diessel

Veranstaltungsart:	Hauptseminar
Zeit:	Mo 12:15 – 13:45
Raum:	UHG SR 141
Sprechstunde	Mi. 14:00
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Cognitive linguistics is concerned with the relationship between linguistic and conceptual structure. One of the central tenets of cognitive linguistics is that language reflects the way we categorize and conceptualize the world. The course introduces to central topics of the field. We will consider different theories of categorization; we will see that metaphors play an important role in the organization of grammar and that metaphorical thinking is essential to human cognition; we will consider the linguistic structuring of space, time and causation; and we will discuss the Sapir-Whorf-hypothesis, which holds that linguistic structure determines the way we see the world.

Requirements

Term paper
Homework assignments (about 3)
Short report or oral presentation of homework assignment

Readings

Croft, W. (2003) From idioms to constructions. In William Croft and Alan Cruse (eds.), *Cognitive Linguistics*, chap 9. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Diessel, H. 1997. Verb-first constructions in German. In M. Verspoor, L.K. Dong, and E. Sweetser (eds.), *Lexical and Syntactical Constructions and the Construction of Meaning*, 51-68. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Diessel, H. 1999. *Demonstratives: Form, Function, and Grammaticalization.* [Typological Studies in Language 42]. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. Chap. 5.

Diessel, H. 2003. The relationship between demonstratives and interrogatives. Studies in Language 27: 635-655.

Lakoff, G. & M. Johnson. 1980. Metaphors we live by. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 3-60.

Lucy, A. John. 1992. Language diversity and thought. A reformulation of the linguistic relativity hypothesis. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 38-63.

Taylor, J.R. 2002. Cognitive Grammar, 3-40. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Taylor, J.R. 1998. Syntactic constructions as prototype categories. In M. Tomasello (ed.), *The New Psychology of Language*, 177-202. Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Ungerer, F. & H.J. Schmid. 1996. An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics. Harlow: Longman. Pages 1-171, 205-218.

Course schedule

1. Introduction

2. Categorization 1 — prototype theory
     Ungerer & Schmid 1996: Chap 1.1.

3. Categorization 2 — color terms, folk taxonomies
     Ungerer & Schmid 1996: Chap 1.2, 1.3, 2

4. Categorization 3   **Assignment 1 due**
     Student presentations

5. Metaphors 1
     Lakoff and Johnson 1980: 3-40, 56-60
     Ungerer & Schmid 1996: Chap 3

6. Metaphors 2
     Student presentations   **Assignment 2 due**

7. The conceptualization of events
     Ungerer & Schmid 1996: Chap 4.1 (figure and ground)
     Ungerer & Schmid 1996: Chap 5.1 (frame semantics)

8. Linguistic relativity
     Lucy 1992: 38-51, 60-61

9. Demonstratives
     Diessel 1999, 2003

10. Cognitive approaches to grammar
     Taylor 2002: 3-37

11. Idioms and constructions
     Croft 2003: chap 9

12. Prototype effects in grammar   **Assignment 3 due**
     Student presentations: Idiomatic constructions in German
     Taylor 1998

13. German Verb-first constructions
     Diessel 1997