

Guest Editors' Note



© 2022 Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest

This special issue of *Acta Linguistica Academica* is the second volume of selected papers from the thirteenth Conference on Syntax, Phonology, and Language Analysis (**SinFonIJA 13**). An international linguistics conference, SinFonIJA is held annually at hosting institutions in the region of the former Yugoslavia and Austria-Hungary, and features work carried out in all areas of formal linguistics. SinFonIJA 13 was held at the Research Institute for Linguistics in Budapest (now the Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics) in September 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference took place online, with talks and poster presentations delivered in real time.

In the fall of 2020, *Acta Linguistica Academica* accepted our proposal for two special collections. The first volume appeared in December 2021 (Volume 68, Issue 4), and focused on contributions in syntax, morpho-syntax, and semantics. The present issue is the second of the two, and includes papers on phonology, phonetics, syntax, and semantics.

In *Unstressed vowels in English: Distributions and consequences*, **Péter Szigetvári** builds on **Trager & Bloch (1941)** and **Szigetvári (2016)** and provides further evidence for the claim that diphthongs in (British) English are short vowels followed by consonants (glides). Novel evidence, presented in the paper, comes from the distribution of unstressed vowels in British English. Phenomena that are brought to bear on the analysis include the parallelism between the vocalic components of diphthongs and unstressable short vowels, and the realization of diphthongs in unstressed positions.

Eirini Apostolopoulou in her paper *Place of articulation shifts in sound change: A gradual road to the unmarked* shows how markedness of codas is reduced in the diachronic development of Italic Greek. The paper focuses on the changes that affect heterosyllabic clusters consisting of a non-coronal and a coronal consonant, and proposes three stages of change: (a) no shift; (b) DORSAL > LABIAL shift, and (c) DORSAL, LABIAL > CORONAL shift. The diachronic process is accounted for in terms of **Rice's (1994)** model of the PLACE node, **de Lacy's (2002)** markedness hierarchy, and **Alber & Prince's (2015)** Property Theory.

Sebastian Bredemann's paper *The role of phonology in Vata adjectival agreement* provides novel evidence in favor of integrational theories of the morphology-phonology interface (e.g., **Wolf 2008**), as opposed to the separational ones (**Halle and Marantz 1993**). According to the former, the general phonology of a language can influence Vocabulary Insertion; according to the latter, Vocabulary Insertion does not interact with the phonological component of the grammar. The paper offers new evidence from adjectival agreement in Vata, where the shape of the agreement morpheme is determined by the phonology of the adjectival stem. This pattern can be straightforwardly accounted for under an integrational approach – but not a separational one.

Kata Baditzné Pálvölgyi's paper *Tonal peaks in the spontaneous speech of vantage level Hungarian learners of Spanish* investigates how Hungarian-speaking learners of Spanish realize tonal peaks, especially the first tonal peak, in their Spanish utterances. The paper reports on a

* Corresponding author. E-mail: lena.borise@nytud.hu

production study that included native Spanish speakers and Hungarian-speaking learners. The two groups align on many of the parameters tested – e.g., the frequency of the first tonal peak occurring on an utterance-initial unstressed syllable or the unstressed syllable immediately preceding the first stressed one. The crucial difference between the two groups lies in the fact that, for native speakers but not for Hungarian-speaking learners, the first tonal peak is commonly the highest one in the whole utterance.

Chen-An Chang in her paper *Self-addressed questions and honorifics: The case of Japanese daroo-ka/desyoo-ka* focuses on self-addressed questions (SAQs) in Japanese that include the modals *daroo-ka/desyoo-ka*. The paper presents the results of an experiment aimed at investigating whether questions with *daroo-ka/desyoo-ka* can be judged as felicitous if used in non-solitary contexts. The results show that Japanese SAQs can be felicitously uttered in the presence of a person who is perceived as having higher social standing. Additionally, the results of another (pilot) study are presented, demonstrating that *daroo-ka* questions can be interpreted as canonical questions in the performance of indirect speech acts.

In *Q-particles and islands in Sinhala wh- and polar questions*, **Maribel Romero and Erlinde Meertens** consider the semantic composition of *wh-* and polar questions in Sinhala. They examine the properties of the Q-particle *də* and, based on novel evidence from the distribution of *də* with respect to islands, propose a new approach to the semantics of questions in Sinhala. According to previous analyses (Cable 2010; Slade 2011), questions in Sinhala contain a two-legged semantic dependency, with the lower leg projecting a set of alternatives, the upper leg forming a choice-function dependency, and *də* mediating between the two. The current paper, instead, proposes that the upper leg passes up the Kratzerian focus value $[[.]]^h$ (Kratzer 1991), and the Q-particle *də*, mediating between these two legs, acts as a converter from Roothian to Kratzerian focus semantics.

Marcin Wągiel's paper *A typology of proportional quantifiers: Evidence from Polish partitives* shows that Polish proportional quantifiers fall into four classes, based on (in)compatibility with i) numerals and measure words, ii) approximative modifiers, and iii) cumulative predicates, as well as iv) spatial integrity effects (or lack thereof). The paper derives this typology from the interaction between scalar and mereotopological properties of proportional quantifiers and shows that it is necessary to combine degree semantics with a mereotopological approach in the nominal domain.

We would like to thank the authors, the anonymous reviewers of the manuscripts in the volume, as well as Marcel den Dikken, who took part in organizing SinFonIJA 13.

Lena Borise*
Irina Burukina
Éva Dékány

REFERENCES

- Alber, Birgit and Alan Prince. 2015. Outline of property theory. Ms. UniVR, Verona/Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.



- Cable, Seth. 2010. The grammar of Q. Q-particles, wh-movement and pied-piping. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- de Lacy, Paul. 2002. The formal expression of markedness. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Halle, Morris, and Alec Marantz. 1993. Distributed morphology and the pieces of inflection. In K. Hale and S.J. Keyser (eds.) *The view from building 20: Essays in honor of Sylvain Bromberger*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 111–176.
- Kratzer, Angelika. 1991. The representation of focus. In A. von Stechow and D. Wunderlich (eds.) *Semantics: An international handbook of contemporary research*. Walter de Gruyter, New York, pp. 825–834.
- Rice, Keren. 1994. Peripheral in consonants. *Canadian Journal of Linguistics* 39. 191–216.
- Slade, Benjamin. 2011. Formal and philological inquiries into the nature of interrogatives, indefinites, disjunction, and focus in Sinhala and other languages. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Szigetvári, Péter. 2016. No diphthong, no problem. In E. Cyran and J. Szpyra-Kozłowska (eds.) *Phonology, its faces and interfaces*. Peter Lang, Frankfurt am Main, pp. 123–141.
- Trager, George L. and Bernard Bloch. 1941. The syllabic phonemes of English. *Language* 17. 223–246.
- Wolf, Mathew A. 2008. Optimal interleaving: Serial phonology-morphology interaction in a constraint-based model. PhD dissertation, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

