
10. International Contrastive Linguistics Conference (ICLC)

Laurenz Kornfeld

SYNTACTIC COMPLEXITY OF SANCTIONING TURNS ACROSS EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

Keywords Interactional linguistics; conversation analysis; informal interaction; spoken language; European languages

In this presentation I show first results from an ongoing study about syntactic complexity of sanctioning turns in spoken language. This study is part of a larger project on sanctioning of misconduct in social interaction in different European languages (English, German, Italian and Polish). For the study I use video recordings of different everyday settings (family breakfasts, board game interactions and car rides) with three or four participants. These data come from the Parallel European Corpus of Informal Interaction (Kornfeld/Küttner/Zinken 2023; Küttner et al. submitted).

I focus on sanctioning turns with more than one turn-constructional unit (see among others for TCUs: Sacks/Schegloff/Jefferson 1974; Clayman 2013). The study asks how often TCUs are linked to each other in the different languages, for what function, and how language diversity enters into this. Note that complex sanctioning turns do not always come as complex sentences. Consider the following example (1):

- (1) PECII_DE_20160703_1421593:
- 01 DAD: dieter
 02 (1.3)
 03 ich möchte frühstücken
I would like to have breakfast
 04 hör bitte auf an meinem stuhl rumzuklettern
please stop climbing my chair

By contrast, in the next example (2) we can see that Susanne links the second part (line 02) with a “weil” (engl. because) to the first part of the utterance (see e.g. Scheutz 2001 on *weil* in spoken German):

- (2) PECII_DE_Brkfst_20161025_1573431:
- 01 SUS: und das ist jetzt unfair
and that is now unfair
 02 **weil** Timon jetzt schon was hatte und ich noch nicht
because Timon now already had something and I haven't

The presented study explores complex sanctioning turns cross-linguistically, asking how they are formulated and when speakers link elements of a sanctioning syntactically. The study examines how frequently different elements of a sanctioning attempt are syntactically linked, and whether there are specific contexts for such syntactic complexity.

References

Clayman, Steven E. (2013): Turn-Constructional Units and the Transition-Relevance Place. In: Sidnell, Jack/Stivers, Tanya (eds.): The handbook of conversation analysis. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 150–166. http://www.123library.org/book_details/?id=54984.

Kornfeld, Laurenz/Küttner, Uwe-A./Zinken, Jörg (2023): Ein Korpus für die vergleichende Interaktionsforschung. In: Deppermann, Arnulf/Fandrych, Christian/Kupietz, Marc/Schmidt, Thomas (eds.): Korpora in der germanistischen Sprachwissenschaft. Mündlich – schriftlich – multimedial. (= Jahrbuch des Instituts für Deutsche Sprache 2022). Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, pp. 103–128. <http://doi.org/10.1515/9783111085708-006>.

Küttner, Uwe-A./Kornfeld, Laurenz/Mack, Christina/Mondada, Lorenza/Rogowska, Jowita/Rossi, Giovanni/Sorjonen, Marja-Leena/Weidner, Matylda/Zinken, Jörg (submitted): Introducing the ‘Parallel European Corpus of Informal Interaction’: A novel resource for exploring cross-situational and cross-linguistic variability in social interaction.

Sacks, Harvey/Schegloff, Emanuel A./Jefferson, Gail (1974): A simplest systematics for the organization of turn-taking for conversation. In: *Language* 50 (4), pp. 696–735. <http://doi.org/10.2307/412243>.

Scheutz, Hannes (2001): On causal clause combining: The case of ‘weil’ in spoken German. In: Selting, Margret/Couper-Kuhlen, Elizabeth (eds.): *Studies in interactional linguistics*. (= *Studies in Discourse and Grammar* 10). Amsterdam: Benjamins, pp. 111–140. <http://doi.org/10.1075/sidag.10.07sch>.

Contact information

Laurenz Kornfeld

Leibniz-Institut für Deutsche Sprache
kornfeld@ids-mannheim.de

Bibliographical information

This text is part of the publication: Trawiński, Beata/Kupietz, Marc/Proost, Kristel/Zinken, Jörg (eds.) (2023): 10. International Contrastive Linguistics Conference (ICLC). Book of Abstracts (pre-conference version). Mannheim: IDS-Verlag.