Research groups

Language, Cognition and Discourse@Lund (LCD@L)

LCD@L is a research group at the Centre of Languages and Literature led by Carita Paradis concerned with usage-based research approaches to make theoretical advances. Our research focuses on how language means when it is used in discourse, how language is acquired and processed, how it develops, and how language varies across social contexts and times. We use hypothesis-driven experimental methods, quantitative and qualitative corpus methodologies, and discourse-analytical techniques.

Current research topics include *oppositeness, negation, monitoring processes in reading and text comprehension, metonymy and metaphor, phraseological processing, trust and trust-repair, agents and argument realization, language and politics, stance-taking in big data, multilingualism, sensory perceptions, multimodal literacy, contemporary grammaticalization of stance expressions.*

Thinking in Time: Cognition, Communication and Learning (CCL)

A multidisciplinary and cross-faculty research environment, focusing on the role of timing in cognitive function. CCL brings together 40 researchers, post docs and PhD students from different departments at Lund University (http://ccl.ht.lu.se/)

Projects

Advances in the description and explanation of stance in discourse using visual and computational text analytics – StaViCTA (2013 – 2016)

This 4-year interdisciplinary project across semantics, computational linguistics and information visualization investigates stance in human communication (http://cs.lnu.se/stavicta/). Stancetaking, which is crucial for the social construction of meaning, involves expressions of attitudes, feelings, perspectives, judgements, doubts, trust and certainty. Stancetaking is a forceful factor in the communicative dynamics of Web-based social media such as websites, blogs, communities or forums. This project focuses on analysing stance in such real-world streaming language data. Our goal is to identify the resources that language offers, how these resources act together and how they evolve in large amounts of digital text over time. This goal is achieved through the development of innovative, computational and interactive information visualization techniques. We propose a visual text analytics approach for the description, explanation and interpretation of stance in digital text media that includes automatic analyses seamlessly interwoven with interactive visualizations. This combination will make it possible for human beings to make sense of large and dynamic text data and allows for exploration, control and final evaluation of the analysis processes and results. Such an approach for analyzing stance is crucial for many application fields, including intelligence and security analytics, early warning and crisis management systems, financial analytics and business intelligence, and social media monitoring. Funded by the Swedish research council, grant number 2012-5659.

Framework grant: Project partners:
Professor Andreas Kerren, Computer science/Information visualization, Linnaeus University
Professor Carita Paradis, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University
Dr Magnus Sahlgren, Gavagai, Stockholm, Dr Maria Skeppstedt, Gavagai, Stockholm
Doctoral student: Kostiantyn Kucher.

MovEs-MovEinG (2014–2016)

Rosario Caballero, Javier Enrique Díaz Vera, Ernesto Jesus Suarez Toste, Carita Paradis

This project (funded by Gobierno de España: Ministerio de economia y competivity: Programa Estatal de Fomento de la Investigación Científica y Técnica deExcelencia) explores Talmys framework on real motion events to cases of fictive and metaphorical motion in order to determine the influence of genre on the constructions use and interpretation. While consistent with the patterns described for Spanish and English, the research yielded interesting data concerning the expression of Manner of motion in both languages (more frequent and expressive than in physical descriptions) and the relevance of their discursive context to interpret them and, preliminary, to ascertain their metaphorical motivation. The goal of this subproject within the coordinated project MovEs II is to continue this research and delve deeper into the use of metaphorical motion constructions to articulate abstract notions (e.g. sport victories and defeats as in "Dokic sneaks through to final") and sensory perceptions ("La fachada irrumpe en el paisaje", "The flavors tumble across the palate"). Together with redressing the scarce (in English) and non-existent (in Spanish) research on the use of the constructions in specific contexts, the project tackles questions unresolved by previous studies, yet raised by the examples: (a) their characterization as fictive and resulting from non-metaphorical processes of mental scanning; (b) the use of manner of motion verbs only when the predicated entity involves real motion; (c) the characterization of verb-framed languages (Spanish) as poor in their use of manner verbs in the constructions. The examples contradict these postulates and suggest the presence of both conceptual and multimodal metaphors and metonymies. Approaching ficitivity and metaphoricity in relative terms, the project will explore whether the degree of ficitivity and metaphoricity of the data is affected by the factors impinging on their use from the type of trajectory predicated in the constructions to the discourse factors underlying their use. Together with these theoretical questions, the project attempts to redress methodological and applied issues. The constructions will be studied from the perspective of genre, i.e. taking into account what is construed metaphorically, the users of the expressions, and the characteristics of the discourses and genres where the constructions occur. The genres in the previous project where reviews of architecture, wine (tasting notes) and tennis, which dealt with different topics, yet shared rhetorical goals (the description and evaluation of a product) and made an abundant use of metaphorical motion constructions. This project will also explore the constructions used in real events related to those genres: experiences inside buildings, tasting events, and tennis matches plus their live broadcasting. The goal is to study the similarities and/or differences in the use of the constructions in written genres and in the genres originating them in the real world. Such sensory and emotive discourses as architecture, enology and sport competition ask for a cross -genre and multimodal approach that allows for exploring the role of metaphor in the verbal recodification and transmission of perceptual and emotional data (triggered by spaces, wines, matches) so that they can be distributed, shared and legitimized in specific communities and cultures.
http://blog.uclm.es/moveing/

How the human mind makes use of contraries in everyday life: An new multidimensional approach to contraries in perception, language, reasoning and emotions (2014 –)

An interdisciplinary project in Cognitive Science between the Universities of Macerata and Verona (Italy), Lund University (Sweden), Liverpool University (UK), University of central Lancashire (UK), the Universities of Virgina and Pennsylvania (USA).

Professor Carita Paradis, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University

Contraries are pervasive in our perceptual experience of the world, our emotions, our system of classification, our reasoning processes and in language. What lies behind this? Are we dealing with a really basic cognitive structure? Through various kinds of experiments, this project studies the invariant structures of opposition as they emerge from various different cognitive functions and considers the theoretical and methodological consequences of the results as well their application in specific contexts

The London-Lund Corpus 2 of spoken British English (LLC 2)

Carita Paradis, Nele Põldvere & Victoria Johansson
Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University
Funded by the Erik Philip-Sörensen Foundation http://www.epss.se/ 2015–2017

The goal of the project, funded by the Erik Philip-Sörensen Foundation http://www.epss.se/, is to compile a new spoken language corpus, entitled the London-Lund Corpus 2 of spoken British English (LLC 2), designed in accordance to the principles of the London-Lund Corpus (LLC 1), launched in 1975. The goal of compiling a corpus comparable to LLC 1 is to facilitate principled research on recent changes in contemporary spoken English. As opposed to written discourse, spoken discourse has not been documented on a regular basis since the 1990s. This has left a gap in the investigation of naturally occurring language developments in contemporary language use. The three fundamental stages of corpus compilation for which funding is sought are data collection, transcription and annotation. Like LLC 1, the data for LLC 2 will be recorded at the University College London, and the main emphasis will be put on capturing spontaneous face-to-face conversations between educated adults. Following the data collection process, the recordings will be transcribed and annotated by research assistants. After the completion of these stages, the corpus will be made available to the linguistics community, with the aim of stimulating new and exciting research in the field.

The compilation of LLC 1 was carried out as a collaborative project between Lund University and the University College London. Lund University was mainly responsible for the computerization of the corpus and University College London was the site of recordings of spontaneous face-to-face conversations. More than 50 years have passed since the compilation of LLC 1 started and no similar corpus of both impromptu and scripted speech exists at the moment. This is due to the fact that corpus compilation is a demanding, time-consuming and costly undertaking, and the compilation of a spoken language corpus is considerably more complicated than compiling a corpus based on written sources. LLC 1 was the first spoken language corpus and it was created to provide resources for language research, primarily about the grammar of spoken English. It contains both dialogues and monologues. The dialogue part comprises private conversations, such as spontaneous face-to-face conversations, and public discussions, like broadcast interviews. The monologues are either spontaneous or prepared. For example, spontaneous monologues are represented by running commentaries on sports events or parliamentary debates, while prepared monologues can be lectures or sermons. No comparable spoken language corpora have been compiled after the turn of the century. This has left researchers with an unfortunate gap in the investigation of developments that have taken place over this relatively long period of time.

The purpose of this project is to collect contemporary spoken data, to compile a machine-readable corpus of contemporary speech along the lines of the 50 years older LLC 1, to transcribe and annotate the corpus, to make it searchable and easy to use for academics all over the world. Due to the lack of other spoken language corpora compiled during the past decades, LLC 2 has the potential of attracting a great deal of attention in the linguistics community. The corpus will be made available from the Lund University Humanities Laboratory server that offers secure and long-term storage of digital data. Making LLC 2 accessible to the linguistics

community will stimulate research on spoken English in a number of fields in linguistics: prosody, morphosyntax, semantics-pragmatics, information structure, discourse studies, etc. It will allow linguists to make principled comparisons across LLC 1 and LLC 2, to identify and describe the changes that have taken place over the past 50 years, and to make predictions as to where the development of different constructions are heading. Research on language variation and change is crucial for our understanding of the processes that languages are constantly subject to when language users engage in human communication. It is only through real language data that we can learn more about the developments and the dynamic nature of language. The project will be carried out within the research environment of Language, Cognition and Discourse@Lund (http://www.sol.lu.se/en/research/research-groups/797), which is a research group led by myself. The members of the group are interested in how language is used in different situations in speech and writing. LLC 2 will provide the research group with a much-needed and novel dataset for future investigations.

Making sense of autism, ADHD, OCD, and Tourette Syndrome: a cognitive semantic perspective

Carita Paradis & Jenny Hartman
Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University
Funded by the Crafoord foundation, http://en.crafoord.se/, 2015–2017.

This project explores meaning making in written communication about the neurodevelopmental disorders autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), and Tourette Syndrome (TS). Three language corpora will be compiled consisting of medical writing, patient-directed information, and patient-authored blogs/websites. The corpora will include comparable amounts of data for the disorders and will enable consideration of author and intended audience. The project will make use of quantitative and qualitative methods and will utilize tools for lexical and text analysis. The project draws upon recent contributions to theory/method-building in cognitive semantics and recent proposals in discourse studies. The project aims to delineate the conceptual structures that underlie representations of these disorders. The disorders will be considered individually and comparatively across text types. In research on communication around neurodevelopmental disorders there has been a shortage of semantic studies and corpus-oriented research. This study will work towards filling these gaps. The project seeks to answer the questions: What basic conceptualizations underlie representations of autism, ADHD, OCD, and TS in written communication and how do these relate to the overall communicative aims? Do medical practitioners and patients construct and use shared meaning systems relative to autism, ADHD, OCD, and TS?

Finalized work --

Contrast in language, memory and thought (2008 – 2012)

This is an interdisciplinary collaborative project at Lund University funded by the Swedish Research Council. The members are Dr Caroline Willners, Dr Joost van de Weijer and Professor Carita Paradis from the Centre for Languages and Literature and Associate Professor Magnus Lindgren from Psychology. The main thesis of the project is that CONTRAST is an extremely powerful construal in human thinking, important to both the organization of coherent discourse and to the mental organization of the vocabulary, and CONTRAST is also part and parcel of evaluative polarity of negative and positive attitude. There is widespread consensus among

linguists that CONTRAST is a robust semantic relation, but in spite of this, relatively little empirical research has been carried out to substantially support the claim. The aim of the project is to make up for this shortcoming. To get a firm grasp of the complexities of CONTRAST, our project builds on textual (corpus-driven as well as corpus-based), psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic foundations. The languages under investigations are English and Swedish. This research is important for any theory of mental models. It is also of great importance to language technological applications such as further development of semantic webs, lexicology, applied teaching and learning and cross-linguistic lexical typology. Last but not least, research on language and cognition calls for evidence from different sources and cross-fertilization of scientific techniques. Swedish Research Council, grant no 2007-2409.

NetWordS – The European Network on Word Structure. Cross-disciplinary approaches to understanding word structure in the languages of Europe

I am a member of the steering committee for NetWordS funded by the European Science Foundation (2011–2015) investigating word structure in European languages (www.networds-esf.eu). Morphologically complex words are common to all European languages. They represent a fundamental part of what we mean by human language knowledge and the basic building blocks of language productivity. Nonetheless, words remain a challenging realm of scientific inquiry, at the interface between lexicon and grammar, requiring integration of a number of orthogonal disciplines and approaches, ranging from psycho- and neuro-linguistics, to theoretical, variationist and historical linguistics, to memory processes and computational models of (sub)symbolic processing.

Scientists all over Europe are currently pursuing important lines of work on word structure, mostly supported by nationally-funded projects or bi-lateral cooperation programmes. There nonetheless seems to be a growing need for a larger-scale integrated European effort, focusing on common medium-term objectives, to promote interdisciplinary cross-fertilization and synergy, and optimize research investments in terms of more convergent and complementary efforts. The European research scenario is particularly conducive to these goals, due to the robustly empirical character of its methodological stance and the unique range of relevant scientific domains where European scientists appear to have, at present, a huge potential for major breakthroughs.

By bringing together experts of various scientific domains and different theoretical inclinations, this Research Networking Programme intends to advance our current awareness of the theoretical, typological, psycholinguistic, computational and neurophysiological evidence on the structure and processing of words, with a view to promoting novel methods of research and assessment for grammar architecture and language physiology. This will be achieved through knowledge networking and dissemination and scientific meetings organized over a four year period. Moreover, the NetWordS will have a highly interdisciplinary profile, will promote training and development of young scientists through short visits and exchange grants, and will encourage the integration of new partners. The programme will also have a clear global dimension with collaborations with the Mental Lexicon Research Group in Canada.

The meaning of actions: motor functions, intentions and the brain (2011–2012)

This is an interdisciplinary project funded by the Pufendorf Institute for advanced studies at Lund University (http://www.pi.lu.se/). The project runs 2011–2012, involving researchers from linguistics, psychology, cognitive science, logopedics and neuroscience. The area of research is

closely related to the program of the Linnaeus project Cognition, Communication and Learning (CCL) ongoing at Lund University.