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## Editorial

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## ***Editorial***

I am delighted to introduce the **22th edition of the ITB Journal**, the academic journal of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown.

The first paper, by Evangelia K. Asproudi of the School of English at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, examines the comprehension and production of wh-interrogatives in early L1 Greek. Children's language performance is explored at in regard to argument/adjunct extraction and presence/absence of negation. In order to test the predicted lead of comprehension over production, a group of ninety four-to-seven-year old Greek children participated in elicitation tasks. It was found that the Greek children performed better in question comprehension compared to question production, with individual findings suggesting that children's economy-based processing may not be constrained exclusively by syntactic factors.

The second paper, an article by Avelino Corral Esteban of Universidad Autónoma De Madrid, investigates interrogative sentences in Lakhota within the framework of Role and Reference Grammar (RRG henceforth) with the aim of explaining their structure as well as finding out the restrictions on 'wh'-question formation that this language exhibits. A goal of this study is to verify the close relationship that exists between interrogative words and indefinite pronouns in this language, see the constraints on linking in simple 'wh'-questions and provide an account of the subjacency effects that block the formation of 'wh'-questions involving complex constructions. The paper shows the quite significant interplay between several syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features plays in the formation of interrogative sentences. It proves that the RRG analysis provides an adequate explanatory account of the structure of interrogative sentences and also of the restrictions on extraction phenomena and, in so doing, it demonstrates that these restrictions can be accounted for through the interaction of syntax, semantics and pragmatics, rather than simply through syntactic movement rules.

The aim of our third paper, by Jone Bruno of Trinity College Dublin, was to analyse the gender assignment patterns and processes to English loan nouns that were inserted into Lithuanian language during the process of natural speech. Construction Morphology and the Morpheme-based Model were fused for the purpose of the analysis thereby allowing the detailed analysis of phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic procedures. The focus of this research is the change that occurs in the word level while inserting an L2 item into L1 discourse. The findings revealed that masculine gender was assigned as a default gender regardless of stem vowel classification for inanimate nouns. Biological sex determined the gender of English nouns that are animate. Furthermore, a complex process of suffix merging from English and Lithuanian languages was observed, regarding the combined suffixes as one item. This research contributes to greater understanding of the morphological processes that occur when words are borrowed into the Lithuanian language and how assignment of grammatical and inherent gender to English loan words occurs in Lithuanian discourse.

The next and fourth paper by Farhad Moezzi-pour of Trinity College Dublin undertakes a study of Persian cleft constructions. This is also within the framework of Role and Reference Grammar. RRG intends to investigate the interaction of syntax, semantics and pragmatics via the constituent, logical and focus structure as independent but interrelated domains of the paradigm. To start, the author demonstrates the specification role of the cleft construction, which is a universally semantic property of the construction, in the syntactic, semantic and information structures. In Persian clefts, despite that the clefted constituent is the semantic argument of the predicator of the cleft clause, it bears the role of pragmatic predicate assigned by the matrix predicator and the optional presence of the cleft pronoun as well, originating from the non-isomorphic nature of the cleft construction which expresses a single semantic proposition through a bipartition syntax. Given that the copula does not agree with the clause-

initial cleft pronoun, albeit with the clefted constituent, and also that the matrix grammatical elements are considered to be merely focalizers, the so-called demonstrative, i.e. "in" is regarded as emphatic pronoun. The syntax-information structure interface in the cleft-like constructions in Persian, such as extraposition and preposed adverbials forms one of the central analyses of this paper where it will be displayed that RRG achieves higher levels of descriptive and explanatory adequacy than the other theories to reflect the linguistic interfaces within various grammatical constructions. Of the most important findings is the necessity to distinguish the anaphoric "in", 'this' in the extraposition construction and the emphatic "in" 'it' in the cleft construction.

This fifth and final paper, by Judith Gottschalk of BBDO Services GmbH, Germany, examines three-place predicates in English as a means of teasing out elements of the computability of RRG within a computational linguistics approach. The concept of computational adequacy is introduced as an important external principle from a philosophy of science perspective to sharpen the scientific principles of the area of functional computational linguistics. In addition, a pseudo-code-based meta-language is developed in order to semi-formalize the linking algorithm from semantics to syntax. This paper will show that RRG in its current fashion is not executable on an abstract machine model - called Random Access Machine - and is therefore not computationally adequate. It is highlighted that the semantics to syntax linking algorithm as presently proposed in RRG is too coarsely grained to account for the variable undergoer linking in English three-place predicates. The concept of intelligent software agents is introduced in order to account for the functional linguistic approach used in RRG. The author shows that it is possible to account for variable undergoer linking in three-place predicates using constructional schemas as considered as grammatical objects. Based on the development of typed feature structures of thematic relations, a claim of the author is that it is possible to show that semantic macroroles are epiphenomenal. And can be considered an unnecessary concept set on top of thematic relations, and thereby in conflict with the principle of economy. In this paper it is shown that thematic relations stored in inheritance networks in the mental lexicon interact with constructional schemas for transfer verbs. The concept of discourse representation structures is also of crucial importance and, as such, it is shown that variable undergoer linking in English is based on information structure considerations. In order to work towards a computationally adequate version of RRG, a revised version of the semantics to syntax linking algorithm is developed.

We hope that you enjoy the papers in this issue of the ITB Journal.

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