

**Scientific Network
URBAN VOICES**



**Linguistic and communicative diversity in face-to-face-interaction
of Russian-speaking interlocutors in Saint Petersburg and
German cities**

kick off workshop

26th -27th April 2013

**University of Hamburg, Slavic Department
PHIL 503**

PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

Friday (26.4.2013)

9:00 Opening

9:30 h Angelika Redder (University of Hamburg/LIMA)/**Bernhard Brehmer**
(University of Greifswald)
**Documenting Linguistic Diversity in Hamburg: towards a Typology of
Multilingual Urban Areas**

In our talk we present a short summary on a pilot study that was conducted in one of the central districts of Hamburg (Sankt Georg). The purpose of the pilot study was to document linguistic diversity in urban areas with a special emphasis on people's use of languages as well as the functions that are ascribed to the individual languages of multilingual speakers. The data were collected by using different methods. In the presentation we focus on data taken from linguistic landscaping and soundscaping in two different streets of the district (Steindamm and Lange Reihe) as well as from ethnographic observation in some stores which are trying to attract customers with certain ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. The pilot study was designed as a testing case for developing a framework for the comparison of societal multilingualism and its manifestations in different linguistically diverse cities of Europe and Africa.

10:15 Tatjana Sherstinova (Saint Petersburg State University)
The ORD-Corpus

**Statistical Description of Communicative Macro Episodes in the ORD
Corpus of Russian Everyday Communication**

This paper provides a statistical description of communicative macro episodes in the ORD corpus of Russian everyday communication, taking into account general and particular types of spoken communication, as well as the other major conditions of communication, viz. place of communication and social roles of speakers. In particular, the paper gives the frequency lists for different types of communicative macro episodes, revealing the most common types.

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 Kai Wörner (Hamburg Center for Language Corpora)
**Best Practices for Compilation, Curation and Distribution of Spoken
Language Corpora**

The Hamburg Center for Language Corpora (HZSK) emerged from the Collaborative Research Centre on Multilingualism (SFB 538) in Hamburg, which documented, analysed, and described language in the context of multilingualism. Towards the end of the research centre's funding period, it became the task of the HZSK to curate the corpora of the SFB into a state in which they could be reused by other researchers.

From this process of curation, but also from the consultation of projects planning to collect and compile new data, much could be learned about the preconditions which have to be met to achieve a good level of reusability for the corpus.

In my contribution to the kick-off workshop, I will present some elements of what we consider to be „Best Practice“, including aspects of metadata collection, legal agreements with the participants as well as transcription conventions, formats and tools.

12:00 **Natalija V. Bogdanova** (Saint Petersburg State University)
Сбалансированная аннотированная текстотека (CAT) как один из модулей Звукового корпуса русского языка: принципы формирования, готовые блоки, некоторые результаты анализа и перспективы развития

В докладе будет представлен один из модулей Звукового корпуса русского языка – аннотированное собрание монологических текстов, записанных по достаточно строгой лингвистической программе от сбалансированных групп информантов с разными социальными и психологическими характеристиками. Помимо информации о типах балансировки материалов этого модуля, доклад будет содержать иллюстрации (звуковые и текстовые), полный перечень составляющих текстотеку блоков, некоторые конкретные результаты анализа этого материала, а также перспективы развития модуля.

LUNCH BREAK

14:00 **Long Term Recordings – Problems of Methodology and of Interpreting the Variational Behaviour of Informants.**

Christian Sappok (RUB Bochum)

Long term recording of one speaker and his surroundings (as, for example, in the ORD project) gives access to a huge amount of variation on all levels of language use. The linguistic observer disappears giving up his role as an instance of control and influence.

One of the most difficult tasks of interpreting the resulting material concerns recorded situations where a plurality of speakers, topics, voices and noises is involved. But this is exactly one of the standard situations of everyday communication, and it is most interesting to observe how the speaker is mastering the situation without losing orientation, his own and the one of his partners. This is, first of all, a task of acoustic discrimination which has been studied under the label of auditory streaming (cf. A. Bregman, Auditory scene analysis, 1995). But it is also a matter of speech production: The participants of multi-source communication make use of their facilities of signaling their place and source in the varying discourse scenery.

This behavior will be demonstrated in examples taken from the ORD samples, but also from recordings initiated during my stay at the University of Saint Peterburg in December 2012. The participants in multi-stage communication make use of intonational and other prosodic

markers to manifest their own position in the complex of voices and other intermingling sound sources of the discourse scenery.

14:30 **Communicative and linguistic diversity in self organized institutions of language acquisition and language improvement (L1 Russian)**

Beatrix Kreß (University of Hildesheim)

In the contribution already collected data will be presented. This includes the conditions under which the data has been collected, the transcription system and the presentation of a short extract. Furthermore, I would like to use the opportunity to discuss future designs with the group.

15:00 **Семейный русский язык: Ситуация освоения русского языка детьми эмигрантов и переселенцев.**

Tatjana Kurbangulova (University of Hamburg)

В литературе, посвященной вопросам билингвизма, часто отмечается тот факт, что дети эмигрантов владеют русским языком лишь на бытовом уровне, в то время как с литературным языком и официальными регистрами они не знакомы. В центре запланированного проекта, который будет представлен в докладе, рассматривается вопрос о качестве и количестве языкового инпута в домашней среде. В докладе будут затронуты проблемы сбора языкового материала для дальнейшего анализа.

COFFEE BREAK

16:00 **Grammatical markup in the ORD-corpus: discussion on number of cases**

Olga Blinova (Saint Petersburg State University)

The paper focuses on the problem of Russian "additional" cases such as second genitive, "count form", second accusative, second prepositional (locative) and vocative form. Using the example of disputable forms occurring in the ORD-corpus, frequencies observed as well as possible ways of markup of these forms are presented and discussed.

16:30 **Collecting Data from migrants' Interaction in Berlin/Potsdam**

Peter Kosta (University of Potsdam)

We will report from our experience in taping students of Russian origin in Berlin/Potsdam. The taped interlocutors have either the parents both being Russians or at least one from Russia and the other with a partner with Russian background and/or whose dominant language is still Russian. We examined the first recordings of these students in different communicative situations of everyday life in the urban centers of Berlin and Potsdam

(Brandenburg). The test subjects had used a digital recording device with high performance and excellent recording quality. We have first made the transcriptions of the data on the pattern of the ORD transcripts and resolved some of their inconsistencies of transcription systems or tried to perfect them.

Modern Suburban Language Variation: Russian repatriates and immigrants in Berlin / Brandenburg

Peter Kosta (University of Potsdam)

The following project is a central issue in pragmatics and syntax of spoken language between what is set as the "perfect economic" linguistic unity of an abstract system of rules and representations of language faculty (in the sense of the faculty of language in the narrow sense = FLN), and utterance in action or interaction between interlocutors. In the fulfillment of economic and linguistic perfection of design in the form of types or frames, numerous imperfections in the production, processing and in comprehension/understanding can be observed. This short article sums up a recent pilot study of recordings made with Students of the Faculty of Arts that form three different groups of more or less integrated or less integrated Russians living in the suburbs of Berlin. Based on these preliminary recording we try to identify the syntactic structures taken for being prototypical of spoken language in Urban style language of young Russian immigrants and raise the question of the analysis of configurationality and projectivity in the syntax of spoken language.

COFFEE BREAK

17:30 **Round table** – discussing further recordings, corpus management, sharing of data, publication policy, organization of follow up workshops, etc.

19:30 **DINNER at ABATON**

Saturday (27.4.2013)

10:00 **Communicative Dominance in Everyday Face-to-Face Verbal Interaction**

Elena Markasova (Saint Petersburg State University)

The paper focuses on methods of communicative dominance recognition. Communicative dominance of one interlocutor is characterized as a system of morphological and syntactical features. Dominance markers are strongly related to prosody parameters. The data accumulated within the ORD project is analyzed to determine which particular markers are involved in dominance strategies, and how interlocutors use them. Specific dominance signs involved in various communicative scenarios reflect different models of communicative behavior.

10:30 **Planning the Next Turn in Everyday Conversation and Academic Discourse in ORD**

Nicole Richter (Viadrina University Frankfurt/O.)

When interlocutors are talking to each other they are planning their contributions ahead. There are several signs for interactive activities to come. Such interactive discourse activities include turn taking, the content of one's contribution, but also the position of the speaker towards previous contributions and towards stated positions of other participants. Signs that are uttered include verbal, prosodic and gestural-facial expressions.

Depending on the planned position the speaker is producing signs of rejection or approval. But, most importantly the speaker is signalling their wish to have the next turn. I will look for such 'early signs' in the ORD corpus in every day conversation as well as in academic discourse. The signs I will concentrate on are prosodic signs and voice parameters. As a starting point for my part in the network I will present and suggest some of the relevant research done in the field and give an outline of the next steps for the analysis.

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 **The Language of Emotions in Face-to-Face-Interaction**

Elena Graf (LMU Munich)

One of the most interesting domains of research in face-to-face-interaction deals with the question how the interlocutors express their different subjective attitudes, e.g. emotive attitudes, to what they say. Emotive signs can be traced on all linguistic levels, beginning with the prosodic markers and emphatic lexis up to the syntactic structure of the sentence. The data of ORD-Corpus gives us a great opportunity to scrutinize the "language of emotions" in spontaneous speech.

12:00 From Discourse Structure to Cognition (and Back) – Conversational Joking as a Cognitive-Pragmatic Phenomenon

Nadine Thielemann (University of Hamburg)

Discourse analytic approaches to humor are predominantly concerned with forms and genres of conversational joking emerging in interaction and their social function and conceive of humor as a discourse modality contextualized by several cues observable on the surface of discourse. Cognitive approaches mostly focus on culturally well entrenched genres of humor which owe their funniness to a punch line and, hence, treat incongruity as the essential feature of humor which they subsequently describe in terms of disruptive processing (e.g. modeling the processing in Gricean terms or in terms of script- or schema-conflict).

With conversational joking in mind, we frequently deal with forms of humor not necessarily relying on a punch line. When joking interlocutors make available additional senses, meanings and interpretations either simultaneous or successively which run counter to default expectations or add to cognitively privileged interpretations. The paper presents how a discourse analytic approach to conversational joking and cognitive approaches modeling processing and cognition in terms of privileged (or default) conceptualizations can be reconciled and fruitfully combined in the analysis of conversational humor. This perspective suggests understanding discourse features of conversational humor such as deviant coherence relations as a symptom of humor-specific underlying cognitive processes and contextualization cues as signals triggering humor-specific inferences.

12:30 Information Structure in Russian Discourse

Ludger Paschen (RUB Bochum)

Languages can employ several means to express the information status of entities in discourse, e.g. particles, word order, and prosodic highlighting (see Krifka & Musan 2012 for case studies). Prosodic means have been found to play a crucial role in IS coding in both German and Russian. Baumann (2006) suggests that several pitch accent types correspond to the gradient scale of givenness degree in German. Odé (2008) claims special pitch accents mark focus in Russian.

The question in which ways marking of IS can differ in speaker communities of one language according to social status, gender etc., however, has not been thoroughly investigated yet. On the basis of recordings from German and Russian cities, it would be intriguing to analyze if linguistic marking of notions such as "given-new" or "topic-comment" depend on sociolinguistic variables. More precisely, a starting point could be the intonational marking of givenness with respect to situational parameters.

Further research could then find answers to the question whether and how those findings can be used for analyzing identity construction (Schwitalla 1994; Sappok 2011), i.e. how speakers construct their own and their audience's (Clark & Murphy 1982) identities by packaging bits of information one way or another.

References

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LUNCH BREAK

14:30 Russian Forms of Address in Russia and Abroad - a Comparative View

Bernhard Brehmer (University of Greifswald)

Russian forms of address have recently become a quite popular topic for research in pragmatics and sociolinguistics, which is mainly due to the changes in the use of forms of address that the Russian language experienced after the Perestrojka. However, the respective research is mainly based on (more or less idiosyncratic) personal observations and/or questionnaire data. Empirical studies that focus on the actual use of forms of address in communication are rather few. In my talk I will outline a project that will deal with the use of forms of address by speakers of Russian living abroad and compare their use with the addressing habits of Russians living in Russia. At the moment, only data from written sources (mainly interviews published in emigre newspapers and data from online forums and discussion groups) are available which will serve as illustrations for possible peculiarities in the addressing behavior of Russian speaking people living abroad.

15:00 Dealing with Social Meaning: What do Russian Heritage speakers know about varieties of Russian, and which images do they ascribe to them?

Marion Krause (University of Hamburg)

In the initial proposal of our network I described my interest in the social meaning of linguistic variables. Methodologically, I focused on the linguistic competence of speakers (natives vs. non-natives resp. Russians vs. migrants), on the one hand, and on variation of the place and character of communicative situation (family – workplace – institution), on the other.

This perspective remains relevant to my issues. During the last months I was concerned with a new research object: Russian heritage speakers in Germany. I paid attention to the question to

what extent people of this sociolinguistically determined group establish social meaning in their heritage language. Why this question seems to be important? In contrast to monolinguals, heritage speakers normally have a rather restricted communicative practice in their heritage language (see Achterberg 2005, Rethage 2012). Furthermore, they are cut off at least partially from socialisation processes in the homeland of their parents. For this reason, a restricted access to the whole spectrum of situational, social and regional variation may be assumed. Another factor which comes into play is the quality and variance of linguistic input within their families as the main domain of language use. This factor has not yet been studied systematically. It is not clear which idea and archetype of *standard language* heritage speaker build up. The specific conditions of linguistic input, practice, and the opposition of two ethnolanguages heritage speaker grow up with might have an impact on speakers' understanding of standard.

On these background, two studies have been conducted: The first one (Kummert 2012) addressed the ability to differentiate standard and non-standard varieties of Russian and to locate them geographically. Furthermore, row attitudes (in the sense of *pleasant – unpleasant*) to them were determined. The second study was directed on more complex attitudes which displayed social attributions within the factor groups of status and solidarity (Krause 2013, Stojanov, under preparation). The results of both studies are comparable with data from multilingual Russians, e.g., Russians who grow up in a monolingual environment (Krause et al. 2003, Krause, Ljublinskaja, Sappok 2006, Krause, Podrušnjak 2010). Spoken roughly, the results show that heritage speaker differentiate clearly between standard language and dialects, but a deeper differentiation inside the dialects as well as between Moscow/Petersburg standard and so-called regional standards seems to be a problem for heritage speakers. As for the social image of varieties, to our surprise we found the same general tendencies as we got before in the study with monolinguals. Of course, all these data require a closer look at the details. But all in all they seem to show that despite the cut off from their language homeland Russian heritage speaker develop social meanings which are not so far away from those of monolinguals.

In this context, I plan to examine instances of register or style variation which is closer to situational variance. Heritage speaker should be confronted with speech samples which vary within the diaglossic spectrum between standard language and dialect, that is – slang, jargon, prostorečie. For comparison, an analogue study should be done with monolinguals. It would be helpful to rely on the ORD data basis for linguistic samples.

References

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COFFEE BREAK

16:00 boat trip (Hamburg Harbour – Finkenwerder – Övelgönne, starting from metro station “Landungsbrücken”)

19:30 DINNER at Fischrestaurant Hoppe