

Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas

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SULA 2 Front Matter

Jan Anderssen

Paula Menéndez-Benito

Adam Werle

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SULA 2

The Proceedings of the Second Conference on the Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas

**edited by
Jan Anderssen
Paula Menéndez-Benito
Adam Werle**

**GLSA
University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

The Proceedings of the Second Conference on the Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas, edited by Jan Anderssen, Paula Menéndez-Benito, and Adam Werle.

The conference *Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas 2* was held from the 14th to the 16th of March, 2003 at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

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GLSA (Graduate Linguistics Students' Association)
Department of Linguistics
South College
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003-7130
U.S.A.

glsa@linguist.umass.edu
<http://server102.hypermart.net/glsa/index.htm>
Logo design: E. Benedicto

Foreword

In the spring of the year 2000, Angelika Kratzer and I decided we wanted to host a semantics conference at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. SALT was already booked too far in advance, so we invented something new and complementary — SULA. We originally planned SULA as a one-off event, but the success of the first meeting inspired me to host SULA 2 at the University of British Columbia in March 2003. I am very happy to say that it looks like this may now turn into a regular biannual conference.

The goal of the SULA meetings is to bring together researchers who are working on languages which don't have an established tradition of work in formal semantics. Cross-linguistic semantics, and in particular the semantics of under-studied languages, is a growing and exciting field. The atmosphere at SULA is intense yet friendly and cooperative; while working on disparate language families and phenomena, the participants share common issues relating to fieldwork and analysis. SULA 2 was particularly focused in terms of subject matter, since the call for papers targeted tense and aspect. A large proportion of the talks dealt with these topics, and there were many lively discussion sessions. Following a tradition started at the first SULA, we also heard from a native speaker of one of the under-studied languages in question. Peter Jacobs, a Ph.D. student in the UBC Linguistics Department and a member of the Squamish Nation, gave a moving and thought-provoking address on the metaphor of language death.

I would like to thank Irene Heim for chairing and commenting on many of the sessions, and the many UBC graduate students who helped organize the conference: Solveiga Armoskaite, Clare Cook, Atsushi Fujimori, Carrie Gillon, Susie Jones, Masaru Kiyota, Karsten Koch, Jeff Muehlbauer, Tyler Peterson, Gessiane Picanco, Christine Ravinski, Sugunya Ruangjaroon, Scott Shank, Randy Sharp, Dominique Quis, Linda Tamburri Watt and especially Leora Bar-el. Thanks also to our department secretary, Edna Dharmaratne. SULA was funded by a SSHRC conference grant and by contributions from the Dean of Arts, UBC and the UBC Department of Linguistics. Thank you to the GLSA, and in particular to Anne-Michelle Tessier and the editors of this volume.

It was a great sadness for me that Angelika could not be at SULA 2. She helped with planning and had intended to attend and commentate, but was prevented from coming at the last minute. We missed her.

If SULA is going to continue as a regular event, there are some interesting issues which will arise and be dealt with. The first SULA contained several papers on child language, but unfortunately no one working on acquisition submitted abstracts to SULA 2. Our rationale for including child language in SULA was that acquisition research and fieldwork share some methodological similarities. Time will tell whether the acquisitionists feel that they gain from interaction with semanticists engaged in cross-linguistic fieldwork.

Another issue is the restriction to languages in the Americas. This was originally motivated partly by the desire to limit the scope (since it is relatively clear within the Americas what is, and isn't, an under-represented language) and partly by the desire for a nice acronym. It turns out that it is not clear, even within the Americas, what counts as an under-represented language. After sending out the call for papers for SULA 2, I received several e-mails from Brazilian Portuguese linguists, castigating me for my ignorance of the rich tradition of semantic research on their language. On the other hand, each SULA has seen two participants come from Brazil to talk about Brazilian Portuguese. Furthermore, two linguists based in the Netherlands have expressed interest in hosting

future SULA meetings, which may or may not result in a re-thinking of the geographical restriction. Again, time will tell how SULA will evolve, and I am looking forward to watching the developments.

I would like to acknowledge the following people who presented at the conference, but who for various reasons did not publish their papers in this volume: Jürgen Bohnemeyer, Benjamin Bruening, Strang Burton, Veerle van Geenhoven, and Judy Kegl and Brenda Schertz.

Lisa Matthewson

Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas 2
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC, Canada
14-16 March 2003

Friday 14 March

Relative tense vs. aspect: The case reopened

Jürgen Bohnemeyer, SUNY, Buffalo and Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

Situation types in American Sign Language

Christian Rathmann, University of Texas

Early time reference in Inuktitut child language: The role of event realization and aspectual interpretation

Mary Swift, University of Rochester

Focus Constructions in Yucatec Maya

Invited Speaker: Judith Tonhauser, Stanford

Not even in Samish

Invited Speaker: Scott Shank, University of British Columbia

Is *todo* in Brazilian Portuguese a Quantifier?

Roberta Pires (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina)

Invited speaker: Peter Jacobs, Squamish Nation

Saturday 15 March

The semantics of discontinuous noun phrases in Quechua

Invited Speaker: Rachel Hastings, Cornell University

Anaphoric R-expressions as bound variables

Invited Speaker: Felicia Lee, University of British Columbia

Toward the tenseless analysis of a tenseless language

Benjamin Shaer, Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft

Temporal interpretation in Navajo

Carlota Smith, University of Texas

Ted Fernald, Swarthmore College

Ellavina Perkins, Flagstaff, Arizona

Presuppositionality and attitude subordination in Zuni

Lynn Nichols, University of California, Berkeley

Wh-variables and Wh-movement parameters

Benjamin Bruening, University of Delaware

Controlled context elicitations

Invited Speaker: Strang Burton, Sto:lo Nation

Spatio-temporal deixis and evidentiality in Cuzco Quechua

Martina Faller, University of Nijmegen and Max-Planck-Institute for Psycholinguistics

Subject generic sentences in Brazilian Portuguese

Ana Muller, University of São Paulo

Sunday 16 March

Quantifiers and scope in ASL and ISN

Invited Speakers: Judy Shepard-Kegl, University of Southern Maine

Brenda Schertz, University of Southern Maine

Imperfectivity in Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Salish)

Leora Bar-el, University of British Columbia

Generalizing in Navajo

Ted Fernald, Swarthmore College

Ellavina Perkins, Flagstaff, Arizona

Carlota Smith, University of Texas

What West Greenlandic habitual aspect marking tells us about characterizing sentences

Veerle van Geenhoven, Universiteit Nijmegen

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