Berkeley Workshop on Affix Ordering

Call for Papers

The Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Toronto invite abstracts for submission to a workshop on the theme of “Affix Ordering,” to be held at the University of California, Berkeley on October 4th, 2008. We are pleased to announce that the workshop will include presentations by Sharon Inkelas (UC Berkeley) and Keren Rice (University of Toronto).

The recent literature contains diverse proposals as to what principles underlie the surface linear arrangement of morphemes in a word (e.g., scope, psycholinguistic processing-based factors, prosody, morphophonological subcategorization frames, and templates), not all of which are mutually exclusive, but whose precise nature and possibilities for interaction remain to be worked out. The study of affix ordering thus forms an ideal testing ground for theories of morphology and its interfaces with other components of the grammar. Even as documentation of lesser studied languages brings to light new patterns that challenge previous assumptions about possible affix ordering systems, closer study of languages previously considered templatic has revealed patterns of a more universal semantic or syntactic nature.

This workshop aims at facilitating collaboration between theorists, language specialists, typologists, and anyone interested in the study of affix order. We invite papers from any perspective which explore the complexity of affix ordering in specific languages, present empirical challenges for current theories, and/or seek unified explanations for the range of cross-linguistic affix ordering patterns attested to date. Papers presenting original data from lesser studied languages are particularly encouraged. Some possible questions include, but are by no means limited to, the following: What are the limits (if any) of semantics, syntax, and phonology in determining affix order? How do these limits manifest themselves universally and/or in specific languages? In cases where multiple factors interact in the determination of affix order, what is the nature of this interaction? Templates have often been used as a descriptive rather than formal mechanism. But to the extent that some affix ordering systems are genuinely templatic, what is the nature of the internal structure of morphological templates? Are there cross-linguistic constraints on these structures? Are some types of affix ordering patterns characteristic of certain kinds of morphological systems (e.g. inflectional, agglutinating, polysynthetic)? What aspects of affix ordering are to be modeled synchronically in the grammar, versus determined by grammar-external forces?

Talks will be 30 minutes with 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts (pdf files only) must be sent to: affix@berkeley.edu. Abstracts should be anonymous and a maximum of 2 pages long (including data and references). In your email please include: title of paper, your full name, and affiliation.

Submission deadline: August 1st, 2008

Organizers: Gabriela Caballero (UC Berkeley/SUNY Stony Brook), Yuni Kim (UC Berkeley), and Tanya Slavin (U Toronto)

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