Across the world's languages, we find a wide variety of phenomena that can be regarded as instances of control in that they involve a referentially dependent unpronounced subject in an embedded (typically non-finite) clause. While the canonical cases of obligatory exhaustive control (including both subject and object control) are well-researched, the nature and analysis of what we refer to as "non-canonical control" is still subject to substantive discussion and the empirical generalizations are less clear. Non-canonical control phenomena by our definition include, but are not restricted to, anti-control, backward control, and control shift, as well as cases of non-obligatory and/or non-exhaustive control such as split-control, partial control, and implicit control (see Stiebels 2007 for a survey of relevant phenomena).

Investigation of these non-canonical control structures has proven fruitful both from a typological and from a theoretical point of view. For instance, differences in the control properties of infinitive-selecting predicates have been shown to correlate with the syntactic structure as well as with the temporal and modal interpretation of the embedded control constituent in interesting ways (see e.g. Landau 1999, 2000; Wurmbrand 1998, 2001, 2002; Pearson 2013, 2016; Brandt et al. 2016). While the theoretical literature on control phenomena is extensive and controversial (for an overview see Landau 2013), controversy partly originates from disagreement over the nature of control as a lexical, syntactic or pragmatic phenomenon (Köpcke & Panther 1993, 2002; Stiebels 2007) and over what the exact empirical generalizations are (as argued by White & Grano 2014 for the case of partial control).

Focusing on non-canonical control phenomena, this workshop aims to address pertinent issues concerning the grammar and typology of control based on novel empirical evidence. For this we invite submissions from all theoretical frameworks and various linguistic subfields or their interfaces, including syntax, semantics, pragmatics, linguistic typology, psycholinguistics, language acquisition, and cognitive linguistics. Since the primary goal is to strengthen the empirical basis for discussion, contributions presenting experiments, cross-linguistic work or corpus studies are specifically encouraged.

Selected References:


