

<u>Workshop ID :</u>	47
<u>Workshop Duration :</u>	Workshop - 1 Day
<u>Workshop Title :</u>	The effects of definiteness on the verb phrase
<u>Workshop Leader :</u>	Eva-Marie Bloom Ström, University of Gothenburg

Through the use of the semantic feature definiteness the speaker distinguishes the entities that she assumes are identifiable to the hearer from those that are not (Lyons 1999). In a great number of languages, definiteness is marked overtly on the noun by using articles, demonstratives or numerals. Hence, the research on definiteness has predominantly focused on its effects within NPs. However, definiteness interacts with VPs as well. Despite the gradual increase of the number of studies investigating the relation between definiteness and VPs, more cross-linguistic insight is needed in order to explore how this relation manifests itself at the level of morphology, syntax, and discourse. Therefore, this workshop aims to explore different manifestations of definiteness on VP.

Some of the best-known effects of definiteness on VPs from the literature include object marking as for example integrated in the Bantu verbs (e.g. Seidl and Dimitriadis 1997), as well as the definite and the indefinite conjugations of the Hungarian transitive verbs (Lyons 1999, Piñón 2006). Another example is the placement restriction of definite NPs in existential and unaccusative constructions (Fischer, Kupisch, and Rinke 2016). In some languages, definiteness can be expressed with aspectuality and modality (Abraham and Nishiwaki 2016, Vega Vilanova 2016). Furthermore, word order within the VP can play a role in the expression of definiteness, as shown for Matengo (Nobuko 2011). In this language, an indefinite subject cannot appear pre-verbally when it is the only element of the sentence. When there are other elements, it has to be pre-verbal.

The understanding of definiteness may go beyond referring to familiar entities and it can extend to refer to familiar events (Lyons 1999). According to Lyons (1999, 45-6) the English present perfect I have read the book indicates that the time of the event is not known to the hearer, whereas the past simple I read the book implies that both the speaker and the hearer are familiar with the time of the event. Similarly, in East Slavic languages, the aspectual opposition perfective: imperfective may signal whether or not an event is known to the speaker and the hearer, as demonstrated in the Russian examples (1) and (2) (Dickey 2000, 20-1). The perfective aspect in example (1) is more acceptable in contexts in which the hearer's reading of the book is part of an arrangement. When this is not the case, the imperfective aspect from example (2) is more appropriate.

(1) Vy pročita-l-i Vojn-u i mir?
 2.PL read.PFV-PST-PL war-F.SG.ACC and peace.M.SG.ACC
 'Did you read War and Peace?'

(2) Vy čita-l-i Vojn-u i mir?
 22.PL read.IPFV-PST-PL war-F.SG.ACC and peace.M.SG.ACC
 'Have you read War and Peace?'

The aim of this workshop is to bring together researchers working on definiteness effects on the verb phrase. We invite contributions with empirical data on the expression of definiteness in the verb phrase from all language families, and especially from lesser studied languages. This is regardless of the existence of articles in the language. We also invite theoretical accounts of definiteness in the verb phrase. Contributions can relate to synchrony as well as diachrony.

Selected References:

Abraham, Werner, and Maiko Nishiwaki. 2016. "Modal Verbs in German and Definiteness Effects on the Subject Argument – Focusing on Modern Standard German SOLLEN and Middle High German SULN shall." In *Definiteness effects: bilingual, typological and diachronic variation*, edited by Susann Fischer, Tanja Kupisch and Esther Rinke, 244-277. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Dickey, Steven M. 2000. *Parameters of Slavic Aspect: A Cognitive Approach*. Stanford: CSLI Publications.

Fischer, Susann, Tanja Kupisch, and Esther Rinke. 2016. *Definiteness Effects: Bilingual, Typological and Diachronic Variation*. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Lyons, Christopher. 1999. *Definiteness*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Nobuko, Yoneda. 2011. "Word order in Matengo (N13): Topicality and informational roles." *Lingua* 121 (5):754-771.

Piñón, Christopher. 2006. "Definiteness Effect Verbs." In *Event structure and the left periphery of Hungarian*, edited by Katalin É. Kiss, 75-90. Dordrecht: Springer.

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Vega Vilanova, Jorge. 2016. "Verbal Aspect and Definiteness in Catalan Absolute Small Clauses." In *Definiteness effects: bilingual, typological and diachronic variation*, edited by Susann Fischer, Tanja Kupisch and Esther Rinke, 175-212. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.