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Scope of the journal

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- 7-21 **Aguilar, Lourdes; Casacuberta, David; Marín, Rafael** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Departament de Filologia Espanyola)
Labeling Melodic Movements at the Stress Group Level. *CatWPL*, 2000, vol. 8, p. 7-21, 30 ref., 6 tab.

The aim of this work is to propose a system of F0 labeling using the stress group as the prosodic unit that can accurately relate linguistic and acoustic information. To obtain data, a corpus of sentences is given to read to a male speaker and the melodic information contained in the vowels is analyzed. The basic melodic movements —encoded as rise, fall and connection elements— between stress groups in an intonation group are observed in order to develop a set of rules assigning them from text.

Results show that by means of the stress group it is possible to model some prosodic facts, such as the effect of sentence length on the height of the first F0 peak in the sentence, as well as to incorporate the syntactic information encoded in the lexical labeling of the stress group.

Key words: intonation, stress group, tonal assignment, melodic movements.

- 23-46 **Borràs Barber, Zulema** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Departament de Filologia Catalana)
Prospective Readings Revisited. *CatWPL*, 2000, vol. 8, p. 23-46, 16 ref.

In this paper I analyse the Prospective readings of sentences like *El Ton cantava ahir, però li van ajornar la funció* ('Ton was to sing yesterday, but they postponed the performance'). I follow Delfitto's (1998) proposal for generics and try to extend it to prospectives. I will point out that in prospective readings the event asserted is not the one expressed by the verb, but a complex event created from the material in the VP plus an operator binding the event variable of the verb: a modal operator with a lexical meaning paraphrasable as *was to + Infinitive*. This idea allows me to make a distinction between the temporal modifiers that are associated with the Event Time of the event of the verb and those that affect the temporal reference of the sentence. I will suggest that in prospective readings, the temporal modifiers associated with the Event Time of the

event expressed by the verb modify this event as event-type, not as a concrete token: they behave as circumstantials.

Key words: prospective readings, complex event, event-type, circumstantials.

47-69 **Espinal, M. Teresa** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Departament de Filologia Catalana)

Expletive Negation, Negative Concord and Feature Checking. *CatWPL*, 2000, vol. 8, p. 47-69, 35 ref.

The aim of this paper is to explore some aspects of the syntax-semantics interface representations which correspond to expletive negation (EN) and negative concord (NC). I shall postulate that a syntactic operation of logical absorption, conceived as feature checking, is needed in the theory of grammar in order to account for both phenomena. EN instantiates a nonnegative context; it will be characterized by means of a covert negative feature movement, from either a light negative marker or a negative indefinite, up to a nonveridical X⁰ head. NC instantiates a negative context; it will be characterized as either category movement (when the Spec-Head relation holds in explicit syntax) or feature movement (when the Spec-Head relation does not hold in overt syntax) to an averidical Neg⁰ head.

Key words: syntax, semantics, negation, Catalan, Spanish.

71-95 **Mateu Fontanals, Jaume** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Departament de Filologia Catalana)

Why Can't We Wipe the Slate Clean? A Lexical-Syntactic Approach to Resultative Constructions. *CatWPL*, 2000, vol. 8, p. 71-95, 53 ref.

This paper provides a lexical-syntactic account (Hale & Keyser (1993, 1999)) of why Romance languages do not have resultative sentences like *John hammered the metal flat* or *the dog barked the chickens awake*. It is argued that there is no principled way to account for this «gap» in terms of semantic and/or aspectual operations available in English but not in Romance. Rather, it is shown that the parametric issue involved in the resultative construction must be related to one empirical fact: the morphological properties associated with the lexical-syntactic element corresponding to the directional relation are not the same in English as in Romance. It is claimed that the parameterization of Talmy's (1985) 'conflation processes', of which the resultative construction is not but a particular instantiation, can be given explanatory power only when they are translated into lexical-syntactic terms. It is argued that the relevant 'lexical subordination process' involved in resultative constructions is carried out by means of a syntactic operation rather than a semantic one. This operation is shown to be possible in English because of its 'satellite-framed' nature (Talmy (1991)). By contrast, the 'verb-framed' nature of Romance languages prevents them from carrying out such an operation.

On the other hand, a crucial distinction between true/non-adverbial resultatives (e.g., *John hammered the metal flat*) vs. false/adverbial resultatives (e.g., *John cut the meat thin*) must be drawn. Both English and Romance have false/adverbial resultatives, but only English has true/non-adverbial resultati-

ves. Parametric variation in the lexical-syntactic domain appears to be only relevant to true resultatives.

Key words: resultative constructions, argument structure, lexical syntax, conflation processes.

97-128 **Rosselló, Joana** (Universitat de Barcelona. Departament de Lingüística General)

A Minimalist Approach to the Null Subject Parameter. *CatWPL*, 2000, vol. 8, p. 97-128, 31 ref.

Null Subject Romance Languages are languages in which the V feature of T is necessarily strong. Taking so much for granted, and given the morphological characteristics of this kind of languages, all their properties follow: V raising deposits at T a set of [– interpretable] ϕ -features that are erased through covert raising by the [+interpretable] ϕ -features of the subject DP, either phonetically realized or *pro* (*pro*: a notational abbreviation for a set of features composed by the categorial feature D and ϕ -features). Inverted subject (DP) and null subject (*pro*) are, therefore, *vP* internal subjects. The preverbal subject, in contrast, is a DP merged at T —therefore a non-argument— in a derivation with a *pro* as the internal subject. Starting from this basic proposal, the analysis of some new data points to the spurious character of Nominative Case in these languages and suggests that *pro* is only allowed in Spec, *vP*.

Key words: Null Subject Languages, [–interpretable] V-features, derivational approach, *pro*, Nominative.