

SHORT SCIENTIFIC REPORT

COST-STSM-ECOST-STSM-IC1207-140216-071114

HOST INSTITUTION

Department of Language and Linguistics at the University of Essex, England

TIMEFRAME

14 February 2016 – 28 February 2016

PURPOSE

The purpose of this STSM was to discuss Doug Arnold's analysis of non-restrictive relative clauses (NRCs) as syntactically fully integrated (subordinated) units as well as my semantic representation (SR) account of semantically decomposable idioms (SDIs) like *pull strings* and to combine the two into an analysis of SDIs in NRCs formulated within Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar (HPSG).

WORK CARRIED OUT

As indicated in the work plan, Doug and I spent the first week of the STSM discussing his NRC- and my SDI-account, so as to confirm that we both understood and accepted the details of each other's approaches. We met on a daily basis and reviewed the relevant papers line by line.

In the second week, we dealt with sentences as the one in (1) and started integrating our approaches to get to a formal syntactic and semantic representation for such strings.

- (1) Tom pulled (some) strings, which were political.

We achieved to produce several variants of such a formal representation. These already come close to but nevertheless do not yet reach the level of full-fledged analyses. The necessary steps to get there will be taken in the near future.

On top of those core activities, I also attended the weekly departmental meetings, where I heard a talk on "Prominent possessors in the Tibeto-Burman area" by Oliver Bond (University of Surrey) and Sandy Richie (School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London) as well as a talk by Kobin Kendrick (MPI Nijmegen) on "Sequence organization: A universal infrastructure for action." After the talks, I had the chance to discuss the topics with the presenters and their respective hosts/chairs: Nancy Kula and Rebecca Clift. I asked the latter many fundamental questions about Conversation Analysis, and she gave me a short introduction to the field.

Within the context of an HPSG seminar taught by Doug Arnold and Bob Borsley, I met with a small group of graduate students who were interested in learning (more) about SDIs and answered their questions concerning my proposal.

And in the LFG Research Group led by Louisa Sadler, I participated in discussions of PhD students' dissertation projects and contributed to offering potential solutions to some of the challenges they had encountered therein.

RESULTS

I gained a far deeper understanding of Doug's approach to NRCs – just as he did of my SR-account of SDIs – and we came to preliminary formal representations for sentences in which the nominal part of a VP-SDI is modified by an NRC.

In addition, I learned about Conversation Analysis and hope to have been of help to the graduate and PhD students I talked to and worked with.

ONGOING COLLABORATION WITH THE HOST INSTITUTION

As Doug Arnold, Bob Borsley, Louisa Sadler, and I have a strong interest for each other's research topics, the collaboration did not terminate with the end of my stay. Doug and I are planning more mutual visits and are currently working on a joint paper summarizing the challenges and solutions involved in the fusion of our analyses, which will be expanded into a poster to be presented at a PARSEME general meeting and a paper to be submitted to the *Journal of Linguistics*.

CONFIRMATION BY THE HOST INSTITUTION

I confirm the successful execution of Sascha Bargmann's STSM at the Department of Language and Linguistics, University of Essex in February 2016. The activities Sascha undertook are as described above. As the report indicates, the goals of the STSM were achieved: The stay was successful both in allowing Sascha to benefit from local competence on syntax and semantics, and in consolidating the collaboration between Language and Linguistics at Essex and IEAS at the Goethe University in Frankfurt. I have a much clearer idea of Sascha's framework and concerns, which is what I hoped to gain. In fact, from my point of view, we achieved more than I expected. In particular, I was impressed and pleased at the way Sascha joined in with a wide range of activities. He was an active and very helpful presence in all the seminars he attended, to the advantage of the students and colleagues here.

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Frankfurt and Colchester, 23 March 2016