Научный семинар
Школы лингвистики НИУ ВШЭ

с участием лингвистической лаборатории по корпусным технологиям и лаборатории языков Кавказа

Dirk Geerarts
профессор Лёвенского католического университета

Cognitive sociolinguistics and modularity

Modularity is a key concept in the debate between autonomous and non-autonomous conceptions of language (with Cognitive Linguistics clearly belonging to the latter): claims for autonomy - for the linguistic faculty as such, or for specific components of language - are often based on a strategy of compartmentalization. The assumption of an autonomous grammar, in particular, translates into the assertion that syntax constitutes a separate, discrete module of linguistic knowledge. Empirical evidence regarding modularity primarily comes from psychological research, in the form of interactions between different modes of cognition in human cognitive processing, or in the form of double dissociations between cognitive faculties. But could we also test modularity when we follow a corpus-based method of linguistic analysis? In this talk, I will explore the consequences of usage-based cognitive sociolinguistics (Kristiansen & Dirven 2008, Geeraerts et al. 2010) for an analysis of modularity in language behavior.

Four steps will be taken. First, starting from the idea that in the case of modularity, the different modules should exert their influence in an independent way (a feature sometimes referred to as 'encapsulation'), I will suggest that convincing evidence for non-encapsulation may take the methodological form of interaction effects in regression analyses (regression analysis being the dominant confirmatory technique in quantitative corpus-based cognitive sociolinguistics). Second, reviewing a number empirical studies using such regression techniques, I will present examples of non-modular effects that may be observed in the growing body of corpus-based cognitive sociolinguistics. Third, by way of theoretical discussion, I will analyze two problems arising from the overview: the question whether encapsulation is indeed a diagnostic feature of modularity (the point is

considerably debated in psychological research), and the question whether lectal factors may be legitimately included in the discussion of modularity, or whether they should rather be considered as defining different linguistic systems, each with their own (non-)modularity. Fourth, the shift towards non-modular conceptions of grammars and lects will be situated against the background of the history of linguistics.

Kristiansen, Gitte and René Dirven (eds.). 2008. Cognitive Sociolinguistics: Language Variation, Cultural Models, Social Systems. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
Geeraerts, Dirk, Gitte Kristiansen and Yves Peirsman (eds.). 2010. Advances in Cognitive Sociolinguistics. Berlin / New York: De Gruyter Mouton.

Старая Басманная 21/4, аудитория 506
11 ноября (пятница) в 10:30

Сайт семинара:
ling.hse.ru/SciSeminar