Kata Balogh (HHU/CRC991)

Title: Additive particles in Hungarian and focus sensitivity

Abstract: The work presented in this talk is part of an experimental study of additive sentences (sentences containing the particle 'also') in Hungarian, Lakhota and Tagalog targeting the main objectives of the project D04 on the interaction of information structure and discourse context and the representation via frames. In this talk, I will present the analysis of additive particles in Hungarian capturing the main insights on the syntax-semantics-pragmatics interface and the current results from a theoretical and a representational point of view.

According to the generally accepted semantic view, the interpretation of additive sentences is dependent on the focus marking, hence the information structure of the utterance (focus sensitivity). In Hungarian, a discourse-configurational language, sentence structure is driven by the discourse-semantic notions *topic* and *focus*, as designated syntactic position are determined by these concepts. Hence, the expectation arises that in such languages the explicit morphosyntactic focus marking determines the interpretation of additive sentences. In my talk, I will show that this is not the case, nevertheless Hungarian additive particles are focus sensitive.

This talk will address the issues and the findings based on the Hungarian study with respect to the main question of how morphosyntax, context and common ground interact. The main questions to be targeted are: (1) how to capture the focus sensitivity without reference to the structural focus marking, (2) what focus structures are available, hence what interpretational variants are present (3) how context can disambiguate between the available interpretations and (4) which information structural notions need to be represented in and how they can be best modeled using frames.

As a result of the findings in Hungarian, I will argue for the following: (1) at least a representation of the distinctions of focus-background and topic-comment need to be given in the grammar component capturing the interface between syntax and information structure; concepts like contrast, identification, aboutness should be represented on the interface with the Common Ground, leading to a more fine-grained representation of the notions like identification focus, contrastive topic etc. and (2) in order to capture the role of discourse context in the selection among the interpretational variants, in the modelling of discourse structure we need to refer to the questions under discussion as well as to the coherence relations.