

Annual report 2015 of ACLC research group: *Talking about Learners*

Coordinator: Enoch O. Aboh

Web page: <http://aclc.uva.nl/research/groups/content/talking-about-learners/talking-about-learners.html>

Current external funding:

None

Participants in 2014:

Prof. A. Baker

Prof. E.M. van den Bogaerde

Dr. M. Dorleijn

Prof. O. Fischer

Prof. F. Gobbo

Prof. P. C. Hengeveld

Prof. H. J. Honing

Prof. A. C. J. Hulk

Dr. R. Pfau

Prof. J. C. Schaeffer

Dr. M. Scorretti

Dr. A. P. Sleeman

Dr. J. K. Szymanik

Dr. N. Smith (Associate member)

Description of the research group:

This project seeks to investigate the emergence of linguistic competence in multi-language contexts and how knowledge of language changes overtime. Our working hypothesis is that language learners are internally multilingual: that is, they learn to master different domains of the language, which they combine to various degrees while speaking. This view leads to the radical conclusion that there is no qualitative difference between a child learning her/his language in multilingual community where many languages are spoken interchangeably on a daily basis (e.g., communities where pidgins and creoles emerged) and a child raised in a (nearly) monolingual community with one major language (e.g., France). In both situations, children learn to bring together a coherent language of their own based on different variants or varieties used in the community. This is because acquisition results from contact.

Research highlights in 2015:

Because researchers within the ACLC have the possibility to participate in several research groups TaL-related activities mainly consist in organising workshops and working toward publications. 2015 mainly served to complete the volume on linguistic complexity which was submitted to Language Sciences in the fall. All the papers have now been externally reviewed and several have already been revised and resubmitted. The volume is expected to be published this coming fall.

Most participants of TaL also contribute to other research groups to which they have already sent their research activities. To avoid, doubling the same information, what follows only includes activities that were not reported elsewhere.

Enoch O. Aboh

- As a member of the SMART organising committee, he co-organises the SMART lectures in 2015: <http://smartcs.humanities.uva.nl/>

- He co-organised the 2015 SMART Cognitive Science Conference held at the University of Amsterdam, March 25th-28th, jointly with Prof. Henkjan Honing, dr. Jakub Szymanik, and dr. Jelle Zuidema. <http://smartcs.humanities.uva.nl/>

- Organised a workshop in the context of the international network on [The Structure, Emergence and Evolution of Pidgin and Creole Languages](#) (SEEPiCLa) at the UvA on December 14th-15th

In addition to these activities, Enoch focused on the emergence of hybrid grammars the theme of his 2015 Cambridge University Press book. While the book argued for hybrid grammars as a consequence of both L1 and L2 acquisition, the question arises how hybrid grammars are constrained: what varies cross-linguistically and what remains constant across human languages. This research has been at the core of several conference presentations and plenary talks, as well as publications of journal articles and book chapters.

Federico Gobbo gave several talks

1. Symposium "Economics, Linguistic Justice and Language Policy", Humboldt University, Berlin, 2-3 March 2015. Co-authored with Gabriele Iannàccaro (Stockholms) and Vittorio Dell'Aquila (CELE). Presented by Dell'Aquila. Proceedings are expected in 2016, published with Springer. In English.
2. First Worldwide Congress for Language Rights. University of Teramo, Italy, 19-23 May 2015. Co-authored with Emanuele Miola (Milano-Bicocca). Presented by Gobbo. Proceedings are expected in 2016, published with Aracne. In Italian.
3. Talk in the International Congress Conference within the World Esperanto Congress in Lille (France). Proceedings expected in 2016. In Esperanto.
4. Invited talk at Mathesis, the association of Turinese mathematicians, on the language(s) of science. University of Torino. 19 november 2015. Proceedings expected in 2016. In Italian.
5. Invited talk at SEEPiCLa meeting. UvA 14 december 2015.

He also participated in several events:

- EU-FP7 project MIME (Mobility and Inclusion in Multilingual Europe) in collaboration with UvA colleagues from ARTES Laszlo Maracz and Virginie Mamadouh and the research unit at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy), on the topics of multilingualism in education.

- Participation at the study day on language policy and multilingualism with the guest speaker Tom Recent (Calgary). 29 January 2015, PCH, UvA.

Valorisation

Enoch O. Aboh taught a four weeks course on the Emergence of Hybrid Grammars at the SLA at the University of Chicago, from July 6 - 31, 2015.

Federico Gobbo's inaugural lecture (Oratie) was mentioned in several national media (newspapers and radio) in several languages.

Federico gave several popularizing lectures

A journey into Tolkien's fascination for words and languages: Event organized by ACE of Etcetera, the English Studies student association at the UvA. Public library, Doelenzaal, 18 June 2015. In English.

A talk on the Prize "Giorgio Canuto" for the best MA on Interlinguistics in Italy. University of Parma (Italy). 20 October 2015. In Italian.

A Talk on Esperanto in the Drongo Language Festival in Utrecht. 25 Sep 2015. In Esperanto.

A talk in Spui25 on Esperanto as a mean for an alternative globalization. In English.

Chronicle with Michele Gazzola (Humboldt) and Davide Astori (Parma) on the congress of Termano in Interlinguistische Informationen. In German.

Series of "popular science" (populair wetenschappelijk, stated in METIS) on Interlinguistics. In Esperanto.