Abstract

Intonation and Prosodic Phrasing in Categorial Syntax                                   Christian Wurm

In this talk, I try to shed some light on the interaction of prosody, syntax and semantics in the framework of categorial grammar. At the outline, I will point out the main differences of the type-logical approach and canonical generative grammars, which roughly result from the facts that in the logical approach, grammars are systems of signs, and syntax can be handled quite flexibly. This results in a different concept of the syntax-prosody interaction: prosodic phrasing is determined directly through syntactic derivation steps, and not by a mapping from complete derivation trees.
I will briefly introduce the basic idea of categorial grammars, and two elaborations of this idea: Combinatory Categorial Grammars (CCG) and the Lambek-calculus (L). I will then show how the interaction of syntax and prosody can be modelled by these formalisms, as it has been outlined by Steedman (1991) for CCG and by Morrill (1994) for L. As we will see, semantics often plays a crucial role in determining possible phrasings, and categorial grammars easily implement this idea. If time is sufficient, I will briefly present a third approach to intonation in categorial grammars, where intonation is an essential part of linguistic signs. As an interesting corollary, I (hopefully) can show that in this approach, intonation is capable of enhancing the overall expressive power of the grammar.