
CALL FOR PAPERS

An international cognitive linguistic conference

**Cognitive Linguistics
between Universality and Variation**

**Dubrovnik (Croatia)
September 30 - October 1, 2008**

organized by

**University of Zagreb
University of Osijek**

KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS

Antonio Barcelona
(University of Murcia)

Hubert Cuyckens
(Catholic University of Leuven)

Zoltán Kövecses
(Loránd Eötvös University, Budapest)

Ronald Langacker
(University of California at San Diego)

Klaus-Uwe Panther
(University of Hamburg)

Günter Radden
(University of Hamburg)

Francisco José Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez
(University of La Rioja)

Linda Thornburg
(University of Hamburg)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Milena Žic Fuchs
(University of Zagreb)

Mario Brdar
(University of Osijek)

Hubert Cuyckens
(Catholic University of Leuven)

Zoltán Kövecses
(Loránd Eötvös University, Budapest)

Ronald Langacker
(University of California at San Diego)

Klaus-Uwe Panther
(University of Hamburg)

Günter Radden
(University of Hamburg)

Linda Thornburg
(University of Hamburg)

THE SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

One of the core assumptions of cognitive linguistics is that large areas of language are motivated by the facts of human embodiment (physical, cognitive and social), i.e. by how these are reflected in cognitive structures, primarily through mechanisms such as conceptual metaphors and metonymies. So far, cognitive linguists have “naturally” exhibited more interest in demonstrating cross-linguistic similarities. If much of what we consider to be the central facts of human embodiment is shared by humans, and is therefore universal, we should expect human languages to be, if not the same, then at least extremely similar. In actual fact, the cognitive linguistic success in uncovering all that “hidden” systematicity and universality was long (and often still is) advertised as one of its major comparative advantages over other approaches. It seems that this bias towards stressing the universal aspects of language, often based on conscious introspection and decontextualized data, may have been necessary while the cognitive linguistic movement was profiling itself against the background of the formal-generative framework from which it emerged and emancipating itself from the then prevalent objectivist philosophical atmosphere in and around linguistics. However, it has now gradually come to be felt that this bias is a potential obstacle to the development of cognitive linguistics. Attempts to readress this situation, heralded by the rise of usage-based models as envisaged by Langacker, are now becoming more and more conspicuous. Witness thus the theme session at ICLC 2001 organized by Panther and Thornburg (*How universal are conceptual metonymies?*), which resulted in a special issue of the journal *Jezikoslovlje* in 2003; or the special issue of the *International Journal of English Studies* (edited by Rojo & Valenzuela) in 2003, devoted to the interaction between cognitive linguistics and contrastive linguistics; or Kövecses’s 2005 monograph entitled *Metaphor and Culture, Universality and Variation*. Similarly, cognitive linguistics undergoes a test by fire as it now meets corpus linguistics and sociolinguistics (cf. theme sessions at ICLC in Logroño 2003, and Krakow 2007).

Conference talks are expected to focus on various points on the continuum in the cognitive linguistic agenda, ranging from the study of the universal to the study of variation in space and time, between the individual and the society.

The organizers invite papers reporting substantial, original, and unpublished research in the following areas:

- cognitive corpus linguistics

- usage-based and constructional approaches to linguistic phenomena
- cognitive approach to language contrasts and contacts (and linguistic typology)
- cognitive sociolinguistics and discourse analysis
- diachronic cognitive linguistics

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Apart from the key-note speeches, the conference programme will consist of 20-minute papers followed by a 10-minute question-and-answer session. The organizers invite proposals addressing issues within the scope of the conference. The deadline for submitting abstracts (maximum 500 words) is *April 15th, 2008*. Abstracts should be submitted online using the online submission system, available at <http://www.ffzg.hr/cogling/>. All abstracts will be subject to a blind refereeing process.

REGISTRATION, CONFERENCE FEES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The conference fee will be € 50. Modes of payment to be announced. The fee includes:

- conference pack
- coffee break refreshments
- welcoming party

The second circular, which will contain further information on the conference venue, accommodation, transportation, as well as the provisional program of the conference, will be sent out by mid July 2008.

For further information please contact one of the conference secretaries:

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IMPORTANT DATES

April 15, 2008

June 15, 2008

September 30 - October 1, 2008

abstract submission

notification of acceptance

conference