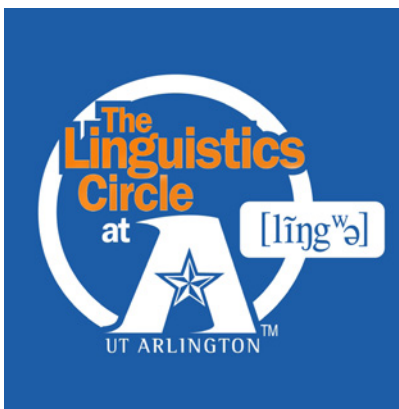


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Case System in Jhangar-Kurux

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Jhangar-Kurux is the only member of Dravidian language family spoken in Nepal. Its existence in areas as far north as Nepal is an enigma, considering that Dravidian languages are spoken exclusively in the south of Indian peninsula. Jhangar is struggling for survival in an environment dominated by the Indo Aryan languages such as Nepali, Hindi and Maithili. Jhangar-Kurux is basically of the SOV type, head final and left branching. However, the basic constituent order may undergo variations to focus or topicalize an element of the sentence. This paper attempts to describe case system of this extremely understudied language. Case is generally described as a morphosyntactic linguistic property that identifies a noun phrase's function or grammatical relation in a sentence. In terms of its case relation, Jhangar is nominative/accusative. Jhangar NPs involve a rich case system. They encode three types of case markings: zero- markings, clitics/morphs and postpositions. Jhangar does not appear to have ergative case marking. Nominative cases are zero-marked. There seem to exist at least nine types of case realizations in this language: nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, instrumental, locative, ablative, allative and commutative. Accusative NPs have usually morphological case markings but there are instances in which they have also been found zero-marked. The common bound morphs or suffixes employed by Jhangar to indicate case markings in different case situations and phonological environments are [-Ø] (nominative), [-in, -ən, -un, -on, -Ø] (accusative), [-gage/ge] (dative), [-hae/hi] (genitive), [-leke/ləke/ʈuru] (instrumental), [-məia, -nu(b^hiʈri)], [-ula] (locative), [-ʈi] (ablative), [-ʈərə] (allative) and [-səŋge] (commutative or associative).

The data was collected by the author during his linguistic field trip in spring 2008. The information about Jhangar-Kurux and its case system is exclusively based on the analysis of a collection of data developed from tape recorded and hand written elicitations produced by several native speakers of Jhangar.

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The Interpersonal Meaning in Newspaper Editorials: A Corpus Analysis Within Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

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The function of language in interaction has been studied in terms of transactional/ interactional function. Transactional function is a process which involves transferring the message whereas interactional function involves the process of expressing social meanings (Brown & Yule, 1983). Unlike Brown and Yule (1983)'s view, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) views the interactions from the semantic perspective. In the SFL framework, the meanings of interaction are construed through three strands of meaning: ideational, interpersonal, and textual meaning. Specifically, interpersonal meaning represents the relationship between the speaker and the hearer as well as the speaker's attitude towards the subject matter. Furthermore, the interpersonal meaning applies even to the context where a hearer/audience is not present such as written media. In this sense, exploring the grammatical and lexical choices the writers make in the newspaper editorials contributes to the understanding of interpersonal meaning. (Eggins, 2004; Halliday, 2003).

Using corpus analysis, this study explores modality and linguistic choices in English newspaper editorials written in two different contexts: English used as a native language (ENL) and used as a foreign language (EFL). More specifically, this study deals with how different modal choices in newspaper editorials construct the writers' position to persuade readers. The corpus is based on data excerpted from 10 newspaper editorials (five from the U.S. and five from Korea) and is analyzed in terms of frequency and lexical choices within an SFL perspective. The results show that the authors of newspaper editorials used in different contexts express their opinions through both finite modal operators and modal adjuncts; however, the authors choose divergent linguistic strategies. The authors in ENL contexts express modality through modulation, whereas the authors in EFL contexts express modality through a mixed form of modalization and modulation as well as modal adjuncts.

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**A Sociolinguistic Analysis for Variable Word-Final [U]-Deletion in Faialense Portuguese:
Perspectives from the Azorean Diaspora in Montreal**

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Using Labovian, sociolinguistic methodology for data collection and analysis, this paper examines the variable phenomenon of word-final [u] deletion (e.g., (gat/u/ => gat_ 'cat'; u-deletion henceforth) in the variety of Portuguese spoken in the Horta, Feteira and Capelo regions of Faial, in the archipelago of the Azores. This linguistic variable is considered a marker (Labov, 1972) and, as such, is a potent carrier of social information (e.g., Silva, 2005; Bulhões & Cardoso, 2007).

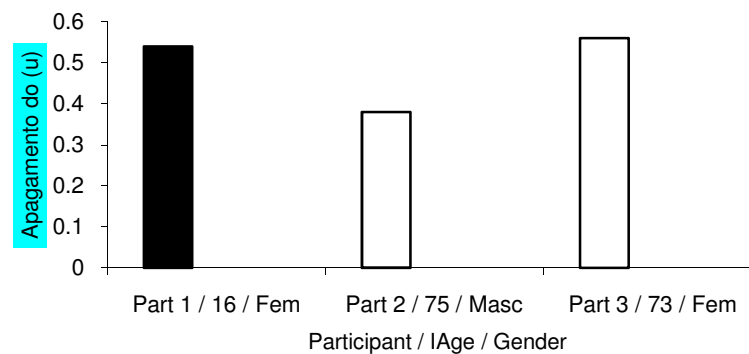
In this study, native speakers of Faialense Portuguese (FP) currently living in Montreal (Canada) completed a series of audio-recorded interviews that followed standard sociolinguistic protocols to obtain a wide range of stylistic variation. The interviews included reading lists of words and sentences aloud, picture naming, and a free-style informal conversation with one the investigators, a native speaker of FP. The statistical results (via Goldvarb X) indicate that FP speakers are more likely to delete word-final [u] when engaged in less formal tasks (e.g., in free-style interviews), as is commonly attested in the sociolinguistic literature for stigmatized phenomena such as u-deletion. Surprisingly, the results also indicate that gender plays a significant role in determining the outcome of this variable phenomenon: women tend to delete more often than men, a pattern that is most commonly found when the novel form is a more prestigious variant (e.g., Smith 1979, Coates, 1993). In the context of FP speakers living in Montreal, we interpret these results to mean that women hold a stronger group affiliation to their mother tongue than men. Other factors that played a significant role in u-deletion include linguistic variables such as the following phonological environment, and the stress status of the u-final syllable.

Charts and Graphs

/u/ Deletion: Analysis results via Goldvarb X – Probabilities

Groups	Factors		
Phonological Context	Vowel	Pause	Consoanant
	.42	.45	.56
Level of Formality	Formal	Informal	
	.35	.62	
Participants (Age,gender)	1 (16, Fem)	2 (75, Masc)	3 (73, Fem)
	.54	.38	.56

Probability for (u) deletion by participant / age / gender



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**FOCUSing on Gothic Syntax: How Lexical-Functional Grammar Can Explain NP
Anomalies in Gothic**

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This poster focuses on the Gothic nominal phrase (NP), the elements of which occasionally deviate from the typical Germanic pattern (D)eterminer (A)djective (N)oun. The Gothic translation of the Greek Bible constituted a milestone for the language, but linguists debate which constructions reflect true Gothic syntax and which are direct translations from Greek. The NP *fram attin izwaramma þamma in himinam* exemplifies this marked word order:

(1)	fram	attin.dat.sg	izwaramma.dat.sg	þamma.dat.sg	in	himinam.dat.pl
	παρὰ	τῷ.dat.sg	πατρὶ.dat.sg	ὑμῶν.gen.pl	τῷ.dat.sg	ἐν τοῖς.dat.pl οὐρανοῖς.dat.pl
	Gothic:	from	father	yours	the	in heavens
	Greek:	from	the father	of yours	the	in the heavens
	‘from the father of yours in heaven’					

The head noun *attin* precedes the determiner *þamma*, while the Greek determiners *τῷ* and *τοῖς* have been left out. Additionally, the Greek genitive plural pronoun *ὑμῶν* has been inflected in Gothic as a dative singular. The absence of these Greek articles indicates a conscious effort of the translator to render the Greek into good Gothic. Since the Gothic translation was meant for a Gothic audience, we must consider the syntax of even marked forms to have been at least grammatically acceptable. We must also be able to account for the existence of unexpected formulations.

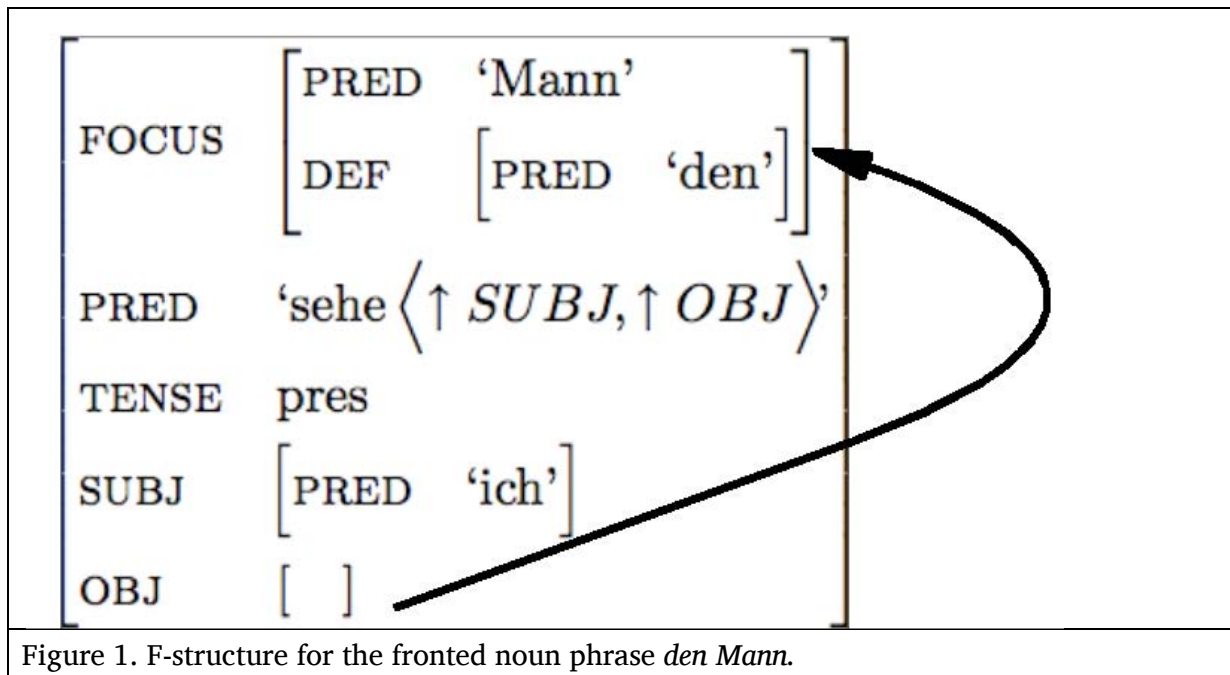
Using the theory of Lexical-Functional Grammar, we explain such a noun-determiner construction by extending the use of the FOCUS feature. FOCUS has previously been used only in clausal domains (the inflectional phrase (IP) and complementizer phrase (CP)). In German, this feature has been used to map fronted elements from the lexicon to spec,CP in the constituent-structure tree. The modern German sentence *den Mann sehe ich* demonstrates this use of FOCUS:

(2)	den	mann	sehe	ich
	the.acc.sg	man.acc.sg	see.1sg	I.nom.sg
	‘I see the man.’			

The phrase *den Mann* has been moved out of its unmarked position following the verb to a position immediately preceding the verb. The functional structure (f-structure) of this

phrase is given in Figure 1. Important to note is the fact that this traditional use of FOCUS therefore highlights only phrasal and supra-phrasal elements and cannot account for syntactic phenomena occurring within nominal phrases.

We propose a FOCUS feature within the NP analogous to FOCUS in the CP. We argue further that FOCUS within the NP allows the head noun to map to spec,DP (akin to spec,CP), producing the observed word order in examples such as the aforementioned phrase *attin...þamma*. Seen in this light, the correspondence between the Greek and the Gothic is not actually a case of borrowed syntax, but an instance of over-application of the FOCUS feature. This analysis can also be extended to the grammar of original works in other old Germanic languages such as Old Norse. Additionally, this study continues recent work in syntax that seeks out similarities between nominal and verbal projections.



Sonoran O'otam: Some Ethnographic Views on its Current Sociolinguistic Situation

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As a result of an incipient research on Sonoran O'otam (henceforth SO), a Tepiman language belonging to the Uto-Aztecan family, in this work I present some fieldwork-based perspectives on such language. SO is a bi-national language spoken in the northern area of the state of Sonora, Mexico and southern Arizona in the U.S.A. Most speakers live in Arizona and they call themselves Tohono O'odham (people from the desert). Sonoran speakers are the minority, and they prefer to call themselves O'otam. In Mexico, this language is perceived as endangered due to factors such as its low number of speakers, its territorial dispersal, and speaker's international mobility. For such reason, among others, this research also seeks to collaborate in a process of revitalization of the SO.

There has been little descriptive work on the language as spoken in the Mexican side. An exception is the current work by David Shaul who has been working with native speakers of SO. There is also a documentary work by non-linguists (cf. Baez 1991). This situation poses the need for more descriptive and documentary work, but in a way that necessarily includes a sociolinguistic assessment of the state of vitality of the language, given the historic processes that have led to a split of groups of speakers after colonial times.

In this sense, I will provide here (i) an estimate of people who recognize themselves as O'otam, (ii) an assessment of their level of linguistics competence (fluent O'otam monolingual and bilingual speakers, semi-speakers, and Spanish monolinguals), (iii) views on seasonal migration patterns, and (iv) some ideas on the intensity of linguistic contact with the languages surrounding them. With regard to the geographical situation of SO, I will also map the location of the communities to see how the speakers are scattered along the Sonoran desert side.

The information presented will help us to understand how the current situation, about some sociolinguistic aspects on SO is. Exploring the sociolinguistic situation in parallel to the descriptive job will give us a basic backup that might allow for a program to revitalize this language. This last project requires, of course, the active participation of SO speakers and the interest of people who are, now, non fluent speakers.

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Perception Study of Taiwanese SFP oo

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Taiwanese sentence final particles (SFPs) are commonly known as voice helper in the language. Some Taiwanese SFPs have grammatical function and others carry pragmatic function as discourse particles that help express speaker's attitudes and emotion. They play a crucial role in the communication of the speech community. Their toneless yet meaningful feature in functions interacting with the overall intonation in the speech stream presents an intriguing prosodic study. The interaction between tone and intonation is analogous to small ripples on large waves (Chao, 1968) and the result is often an algebraic sum. Although Taiwanese SFPs may not have tones, they have pitch which is still part of the interaction. This paper will present the functions of SFP oo, one of the most commonly used SFPs in Taiwanese, and a perception survey of the relationship between its pitch and functions.

Sentences with or without the SFP have different meanings. When using the SFP, the sentence can further be interpreted into two meanings according to its functions manifested in pitch. Perceptually, a pragmatic function is indicated through [H] (speech act of reminding) or [L] (surprise) pitch while a grammatical function (question formation) only through [L] pitch. The [H] and [L] is a relative pitch value that needs to be defined. Therefore, this paper is designed to study the perception of [H] and [L] pitch by using speech analysis approach of pitch manipulation tool in PRAAT to find what [H] and [L] are and their boundary.

Two original phrases without the SFP ending with tone 5 and tone 7 will be recorded first by a male native Taiwanese speaker. Then by functions four template phrases with the SFP will be recorded: each with [H] and [L] pitch. The four templates will be transported to the pitch manipulation in PRAAT. Each template will produce eight synthesized phrases by consecutively decreasing and increasing an interval of 10 hz. The 4x9 sound files then will be presented to 15 native Taiwanese speakers. A questionnaire with different interpretations for the phrases will be presented to them. They will be asked to choose one best answer to describe the phrases.

The preliminary result showed a fuzzy boundary of [H] and [L] pitch at 30~40 hz. That means, the phrase with [H] is interpreted as [L] when the pitch decreases over 40 hz and the phrase with [L] is interpreted as [H] when the pitch increases over 40 hz. The present study will further validate the result and see how the pitch of the SFP plays a meaningful role in communication.

The Speech Timing Pattern of Choctaw: A Preliminary Study

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A current focus in the area of natural speech prosody is the study of speech timing patterns (speech rhythm). There is some debate over which methodology will best account for the perceived division of languages that children can discern from infancy (Yang 2006). Yang points to studies where children suckle at a faster rate when presented with a “voice” from their native tongue, indicating that they can perceive a difference in rhythm (between English and French). Pike (1946) and Abercrombie (1967) first suggested the typology of stress-timed (e.g., English) vs. syllable-timed languages (e.g., Spanish); more recently, mora-timing, a third rhythm typology has been suggested for pitch accent languages like Japanese (Bloch 1942 & Han 1962 – as cited in Grabe and Low 2002; Port et al. 1987). A significant number of the world’s languages, especially those previously unstudied have yet to be classified even impressionistically.

Other parts of the debate focus on how we can test, measure, and divide language rhythms in a quantitative way. The focus of the current research is to use a previously established methodology and apply it to Choctaw, a Muskogean language spoken in the south central US (Haag and Willis 2001 & Broadwell 2006). The calculation of the Pairwise Variability Indices (PVI) (Grabe and Low 2002) is one of several methods that have been used to show the distinction of *previous [perceptually] classified languages* as well as quantify where an *unclassified language* would fit in the range of possible rhythm typologies. This paper argues for a tentative rhythm classification of Choctaw (previously unclassified).

Choctaw is a pitch-accent language (Broadwell 2006) which suggests that it is likely to be mora-timed. This would result in a rhythm more akin to syllable-timed languages. According to Broadwell, the minimal Choctaw word must be bi-moraic (i.e. "it must either contain two short vowels or one long vowel"). A word that may be shorter than this in the underlying form will appear with an epenthetic vowel at the beginning (e.g. [bi] 'to kill' surfaces as [abi-h] but not as [*bi-h] (p. 20-21)).

The present study digitally recorded native Choctaw speakers reading and/or telling traditional stories including *Nitushi micha Konushi (The Bearcub and the Baby Skunk)* and *Nvnih Waiya* (Proper name believed to be the location where life began)². Using PRAAT, the CV durations were manually segmented, extracted, and then analyzed using the PVI methodology

² Not all speakers recorded all stories (for these two: 1 M and 1 F were recorded in both Choctaw and English).

(Grabe and Low 2002). The results of this preliminary analysis argue that Choctaw patterns more like stress-timed languages such as English rather than Spanish or Japanese. However, as Benton et al. (2007, 2008) noted, there can be considerable variation in speech rhythm between speakers of the same language. Such a small group of speakers may not be adequate to make a final conclusion about a language's rhythm, thus much more data collection and analysis needs to be done before definite conclusions can be drawn.

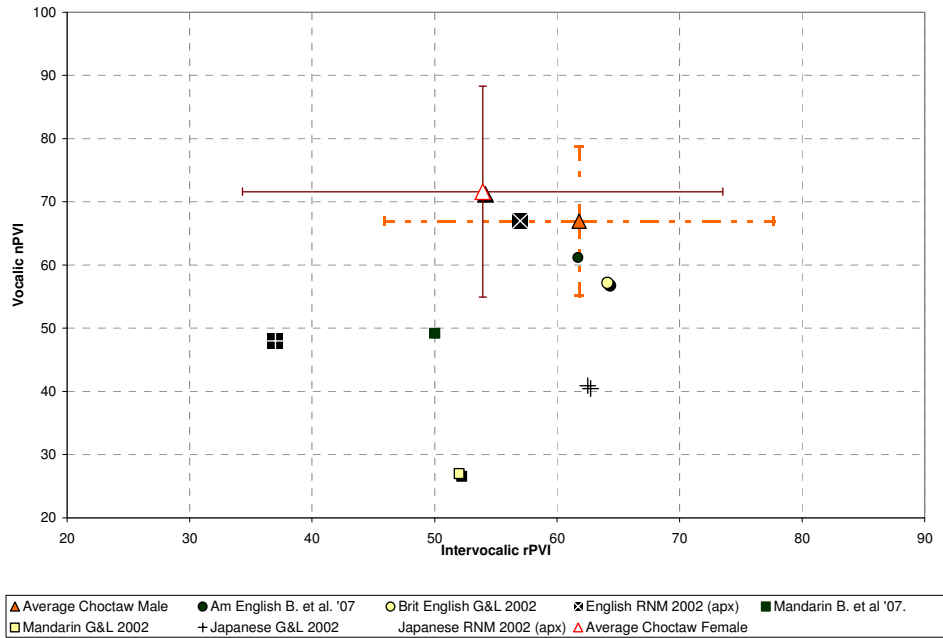


Figure 1: Shows the mean and range of the PVI rhythm calculation for Choctaw (Bear and Baby Skunk for one male and one female) compared with means of English, Chinese, and Japanese from previous studies.

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Gradient Wellformedness in German I-Truncations

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This study provides evidence for gradient wellformedness of phonotactic restrictions (cf. Coetzee (2004, 2006, 2008), Berent et al. (2007), Berent & Lennertz (2008)). We investigated syllable contact restrictions in German i-truncations. In German, i-truncation nicknames are formed by shortening a name and adding the suffix [-i], as in *Kathi* for *Katharina*. These i-truncations do not allow syllable contact sequences of rising sonority although German phonology does not usually restrict the type of syllable contact sequences allowed. The i-truncation for a name like *Gabriele*, for example, cannot retain the word-medial [br] sequence: *Gabriele* can only be shortened to *Gabi*, but not to **Gabri* (Itô & Mester 1997). **Gabri* is argued to be ungrammatical because it contains a consonant sequence with rising sonority in syllable contact position, [b.r]/[p.r]. An alternative syllabification of this impossible form, *[ga.bri], is shown to be ruled out by an emergent constraint against complex syllable margins in word-medial position. These syllable contact restrictions are accounted for by the emergence of a universal markedness scale that ranks all potential syllable contact cases on a hierarchy of strata from least marked to most marked with language-specific cut-off points (Gouskova 2004).

A grammaticality judgment task with nonce i-truncations was conducted to test the hypothesis that the degree of syllable contact markedness affects the degree of acceptability. It was predicted that the relative position on the syllable contact scale, i.e. the relative degree of markedness of one ungrammatical syllable contact sequence (e.g., *[s.n]) with respect to another ungrammatical but less marked syllable contact sequence (e.g., *[n.l]) would be reflected in acceptability judgments of nonce i-truncations. It was further predicted that the relative markedness of one grammatical syllable contact sequence (e.g., [n.s]) with respect to another grammatical but more marked syllable contact sequence (e.g., [l.n]) would be reflected in acceptability judgments of nonce i-truncations.

36 native speakers of German participated in a web-based study. The participants rated the acceptability of 56 i-truncations on a scale from 1 to 10, “1” being “very good” and “10” being “very bad”. The i-truncation stimuli (e.g., *Valni* and **Vanli*) as well as their corresponding full names (e.g., *Valnenke* and *Vanlenke*) were nonce words.

The results of this study support the hypothesis: The results for the five ungrammatical strata show a steady five-step trend of increasing rejection that epitomizes the five levels of increasing syllable contact markedness in the stimuli. The grammaticality judgments for stimuli in the four grammatical strata show a three-step trend of decreasing acceptance that epitomizes

three of the four levels of increasing syllable contact markedness in the stimuli. A Spearman rank-order coefficient ($r_s = 0.87$) confirms that the trend throughout these ten strata of testable syllable contact sequences is significant at the $< .01$ level.

This study provides evidence for gradient wellformedness in German i-truncations. We further show that speakers could not have inferred knowledge about the degree of markedness from their grammar or lexicon. This suggests that speakers have inherent knowledge about the degree of markedness of consonant sequences in syllable contact position.

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Learner Strategies in L2 Spanish Compliment Responses

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The areas of Pragmatics and Second Language Acquisition have existed separately in the field of Linguistics for some time. Their connection, however, has more recently seen a great deal of study by researchers like Fraser (1978), Scarcella and Brunak (1981), Rintell (1981), Brown and Levinson (1987), Koike (1992, 1996), Saito, Beecken (1997), Félix-Brasdefer (2003, 2006) and Huth (2006). A common thread in these studies is the effect of language transfer or cross-linguistic influence that the first language has while learners are attempting to acquire the pragmatic and politeness principles that are central to the target language and culture. One speech act that is particularly of interest to researchers is compliment responses because they require a great deal of pragmatic insight by the speaker and therefore are often rich with data. The present study attempts to bring together the research that has been done on this speech act and clarify it using data from American learners of Spanish in a foreign language classroom at the university level. Although collecting data from learners is not a new concept, this cross-sectional study of learners at various (beginner, beginner-intermediate, intermediate, advanced) stages of learning will help to fill a void in the research that exists on the role of language transfer in pragmatic acquisition, as well as the correlation between grammatical competence and pragmatic competence.

Results from a compliment response survey administered to American native English-speaking learners of Spanish at Louisiana State University from varying levels will be analyzed and compared to control data from native English and Spanish speakers. My research will illustrate that in the second language classroom, pragmatic accuracy in the second language often does not simply emerge with grammatical instruction. Instead, these data will show that explicit instruction might be a better tool for pragmatic accuracy in compliment responses. Results will indicate that with more Spanish instruction, students will be able to produce more grammatically correct compliment responses, but there will be little variation in their pragmatic content through the levels. These results have pedagogical implications since pragmatic competence largely remains an overlooked aspect of second language acquisition in the language classroom. Although comparative speech act-focused research has been done between English and non-Western languages, the results of this study show the need for more comparative research on the cultural ramifications of English and Romance language speech acts.

The present study will also attempt to clarify the how pragmatic language transfer from the first language affects these speech acts in the second language. This topic has been explored

a great deal, but its connection to pragmatics needs further illustration. My data will show that the native language plays a major role in the pragmatic forms used in the second language and that these new forms often incorrectly mimic compliment responses in the native language. Using a larger corpus of informants than has been seen in studies of this type, my data will help disambiguate key aspects of pragmatic acquisition.

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Evidence for British and Southern White Vernacular English Influence on Grandmama's Speech

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Research on African American Vernacular English (AAVE) has been an ongoing debate between dialectologists and creolists. Although it is the most studied variety of English, there is little consensus among linguists on its origins or its evolutionary trajectory. Some scholars have suggested that there has been an undue emphasis placed on basilectal features and not enough on the structural similarities of AAVE with other English varieties (Wolfram 2001; Mufwene 2001). There has also been concern that the extant AAVE research does not reflect southern, older black speakers, especially since they are the core of the black speech communities (Bailey 2001). Most research has been done in inner cities, where researchers have lived and worked.

This study was an ethnographic inquiry into the speech of my grandmother, an elderly black lady from rural Georgia. I examine some phonological features; e.g. as in example (1) post-vocalic r-lessness, as well as the realization of /æ/ as /e/ as in (2) of her speech. I also look at certain lexical items as in (3) and examine them in the light of language contact with Southern White Vernacular English (SWVE) and British English.

(1) I know I had a [xɑ:d] (hard) life back in them days.

(2) They could have [men ʔənz] (mansions) down there

(3) You could see the moon and stars, the whole **element** up there.

Some period specific lexical items, like this usage of *element*, according to *Oxford English Dictionary*, reflect a direct correlation to 18th and 19th century British speech, now lost in mainstream varieties of English. There is also evidence of analogy of forms based on a coexisting variety, Southern White Vernacular English (SWVE). For example, the pronunciation of words like [flo] for *floor* in AAVE, is not simply post-vocalic /r/ deletion (e.g. floor→[flo]), but is an extension of the SWVE /r/-less [fló-wə]. This is some evidence for AAVE being patterned from a co-existing variety, namely, SWVE, since, according to Bybee (1985), analogy is likelier to take place with a higher type frequency of more similar words, I argue that this patterning is a result of analogy of forms with high type frequency.

Sociocultural and historical evidence is provided to situate AAVE in a language contact environment with poor southern white speakers and linguistic evidence shows that my grandmother's variety of speech has been in some ways patterned from white varieties at least along these dimensions. Whereas much research has been done on phonological features as well as grammatical features of AAVE, only a few have taken into consideration language contact situations with their white neighbors. This study intends to make a contribution to the ongoing debate about AAVE's origins and evolutionary trajectory in comparison with contact white varieties.

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Analysis on Korean Topic-Constructions at the Syntax and Pragmatics Interface

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The pragmatic domain such as evidentiality and logophoricity has been traditionally considered to be peripheral to the syntactic component of Grammar. There have been recently a variety of proposals for syntactic projections that encode pragmatic properties. Rizzi (1997) has proposed that “there is Speech Act projection (henceforth SAP) or Force projection whose head encodes illocutionary force, which is at the top of the clausal structure: the fine structure of the CP” (an articulated array of X-projections which constitute the structure of the left periphery). Cinque (1999) has also proposed that “sentences include numerous projections (abstract functional projections) “above” the sentence (IP): [Speech Act Mood [Evaluative Mood [Evidential Mood [Epistemological Mode]]]]. Speas (2004) and Tenny (2002) suggests that there is an implicit argument which is associated with each functional category: evidentiality projection (henceforth EvidP) has an evidential argument.

Following the proposals above, in this paper I intend to describe Korean Topic-constructions by means of SAP and EvidP. The topic-constructions have been mainly treated within discourse or pragmatic domain, but I attempt to show syntactic computation of such pragmatic feature. In Korean, a topicalized NP is marked in terms of the post-nominal marker –(n)un, which is language-specific property. The reading of the –(n)un marked NP is generally determined by means of the syntactic environment in which it occurs: Thematic, Contrastive-focus, and Contrastive-Topic reading. All of the types of –(n)un marked NP is closely associated with modality, which is largely divided into epistemic and deontic modality. In other words, the thematic and contrastive –(n)un marker cannot be allowed in a subordinate clause not carrying modality markers such as –ta, -ra, and –chi in Korean. However, the presence of the –(n)un marked NP within a matrix or non-matrix clause in which modality markers occur never influences the grammaticality of the sentence. In the case of the contrastive –(n)un, the interpretation of the sentence can be obtained in terms of the notion of scalar implicature: [John-nun] chayk-lul ilk-ess-ta (TOP book ACC read-PAST-DEC ‘John read a book’ (Implicature: ‘No other people than John read a book)).

The topic-constructions can be argued to be represented syntactically using SAP and EvidP due to those two properties of the topic marker: its relation to modality and scalar implicature. We can consider a topic-construction as the projection of evidentiality from the fact that modality reflects a speaker’s judgement and attitude for the proposition which (s)he utters (i.e. there is close connection between modality and evidentiality). Implicatures induced by contrastive topic marker also give evidence for the existence of evidential arguments and

projections, i.e. this implicature can be evidence for the uttered statement (Hara 2006). In the pragmatic predicate phrases (SAP and EvidP), the features of the discourse roles (arguments) are checked through movement. To sum up, this paper provides the formal justification of syntactic computation for pragmatic features of topic-constructions.

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Coping Laughter: Why Who Laughs First Is Important

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Humor has long been known to stave off or end conflict. It would seem natural, then, that laughter by itself could also serve the same function (Norrick and Spitz, 2008). This is the basis of the concept of *coping laughter*: laughter that attempts to remedy, correct, reframe, or distract from something that is undesirable in a conversation. The present study will explore the variable of who initiates coping laughter and how this affects the outcome of a situation.

When conflict arises in conversation, one or more participants may use coping laughter to remedy the situation. However, it makes a difference who initiates the laughter. If it is instigator of conflict that laughs, then coping laughter becomes an attempt to *mitigate a face threat in progress* and reframe it as less serious. This will be referred to as IN-laughter for initiator-laughter. If it is the responder to the conflict that laughs, then coping laughter becomes an attempt to deal with *a loss of face that has already happened* as a result of the conflict. In this case, coping laughter works to *conceal* face loss instead of prevent it. This will be referred to as RE-laughter for responder-laughter.

Each of the two types of coping laughter serve different functions. The function of IN-laughter is (a) to mitigate the force of an FTA (Edelmann, 1997), while the two functions of RE-laughter are (b) to conceal face loss as a result of conflict (Chapman, 1983), and (c) to serve as a transition - either away from the conflict topic to a safer topic or from a serious to a playful frame (Coates, 2007).

The dataset analyzed in this study consists of three excerpts from recordings of seven college-age male and female participants playing board and card games. In each excerpt presented, conflict is immediately followed by coping laughter. The first dialogue contains both IN-laughter and RE-laughter. Melaney, the instigator of the conflict, uses coping laughter to downplay the disagreement between Shelley and herself and to enact as serious-to-playful frame switch (Edelmann, 1994). As well, Shelley uses coping laughter to conceal her loss of face as a result of the disagreement (Graham, Papa, & Brooks, 1992). In the second dialogue, only IN-laughter is used. As in the first dialogue, Melaney is again the initiator of the conflict. She uses coping laughter to downplay the harshness of her defensive question and to align herself with the preceding playful frame. The third dialogue shows only RE-laughter. In this dialogue, Josh uses coping laughter to conceal his face loss due to a sarcastic comment from Melaney. It also serves as a response to Melaney's sarcasm and allows him to transition to another, safer topic.

Many researchers have noted that laughter can be used as a coping mechanism, but few have explored how this actually happens in naturally occurring data. By studying original data, laughter is shown (rather than assumed) to serve as a coping mechanism that imports the positive associations of laughter with humor into a conflict situation.

Imitation and Repetition in a Mandarin-Speaking Child's Conversation

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The present study aims to determine the frequency of use of repeated utterances and their communicative functions or implications about children's language acquisition in conversation of Mandarin-speaking children. Previous studies have probed children's reproductions based on different definitions of imitations and repetitions. Some studies have shown that imitations can be produced in various forms, either a complete copy or a partial copy of the adult model utterance, and can occur either immediately after the model or within five utterances of the model (Bloom et al., 1974; Folger & Chapman, 1978; Snow, 1981). Several researchers have reported that imitations should be distinguished from repetitions since repetitions have communicative intents involved (Keenan, 1977; McTear, 1978; Réger, 1986). However, there is little known about the frequency of use of these reproductions and their implications in Mandarin-speaking children's conversations.

In the present study, from the daily conversations of a 35-month-old Mandarin-speaking boy with his family members, all the child's repeated utterances were analyzed based on Keenan's taxonomy (1977) of repetition functions. Moreover, the present study adopted the idea of separating imitation and repetition (Keenan, 1977; McTear, 1978; Réger, 1986), regarding imitation as a type of repetition.

In the findings, imitation was responsible for 29.63% of the total tokens. Such imitations do not contain communicative intents. The child practiced a new term or sentence by imitating, which lends support to previous studies (Snow, 1981; Clark, 2002). Among tokens of repetition, the results indicated that communicative functions of answering, self-informing/displaying knowledge, and agreeing were most used, respectively accounting for 36.84%, 21.05%, and 21.05% of the total repetitions. The high frequencies may be related to the complexity of the adult's previous utterance, the child's confirmation or agreement to the adult's proposition, and the preferred strategy in a conversation.

In terms of the function of answering, it can be explained by assuming that answering may be the easiest way for the child to participate in the conversation. Adults tend to pose structurally simple questions to the child, questions that can be answered simply by repeating the previous utterance with intonation change accompanied by particle addition or deletion. As for self-informing/displaying knowledge, this function implies that the child is likely to ratify what the adult proposes through repetition. Regarding the function of agreeing, it may be the strategy that the child chooses to use in order to show his participation in the conversation. By agreeing, the child prefers to repeat to avoid arguments that might take him much effort to

achieve. With the implications and functions about a Mandarin-speaking child's repetition, children's possible strategies or tendency for reproductions in conversations are therefore understood.

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