Construction morphology and the architecture of grammar

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This talk will focus on the insights that Construction Morphology (Booij 2010) can offer concerning the architecture of grammar. First, I will argue that the Parallel Architecture of grammar as proposed by (Jackendoff 2002) is supported by the observation that a proper analysis of morphological constructions requires the simultaneous availability of phonological, morphosyntactic and semantic / pragmatic information. I will show this by discussing a number of facts concerning the interface of morphology with phonology and semantics.

A second insight concerning the architecture of grammar is the idea that constructions with different degrees of abstraction form a hierarchical network. In addition, we need second order constructional schemas that express systematic paradigmatic relationships between syntactic and morphological constructions. Thus, the grammar of natural languages can be characterized as a multi-dimensional network of relations between constructions and their instantiations.

In the third part of my talk, I will discuss how syntactic and morphological constructions interact. Syntactic constructions can form part of words, which excludes an architecture in which morphology ‘precedes’ syntax. Secondly, the use of morphological constructions may be triggered by specific syntactic constructions. Thus, there is a mutual feeding relationship between syntax and morphology.

References