

Grammatical Interfaces

The modular view of grammar has spurred formal and informal research in various fields in linguistics. However, it has always been clear that modules need well-defined modes of interaction. One area of research which has revived interest in interface processes was the investigation of information structure where prosodic, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic facts are conjoined in a transmodular phenomenon. However, other areas of interaction between modules (phonology-morphology, morphology-syntax, syntax-pragmatics etc) are equally in focus of current research, as witnessed by Ramchand et al.'s *Handbook of Interfaces* (2006, Routledge). Most strikingly, the interface between syntax and semantics which can be considered as one of the best-investigated points of interaction is felt to be poorly prepared for the manifold phenomena that have been investigated in isolated studies in recent years. While each individual study usually builds on an elaborated interaction system between form and meaning, a merge of these different systems in one coherent and manageable syntax-semantics interface seems beyond reach. This is reflected by current studies on new overarching linguistic representation formats (Principles/Parameters, HPSG, LFG and others), novel proposals on lean interface formats, as well as ongoing conference activities like the workshop *Which Syntax Feeds Semantics* at the European Summer School in Language, Logic and Information 2008 and the special session *Linguistics at the Interfaces* as part of the 2008 annual conference of the North Eastern Linguistic Society NELS 39.

The linguistic departments at the University of Göttingen are currently forming a focal research area on grammatical interfaces from typological, diachronic and synchronic points of view. Typological case studies can help to understand the transmodular processes that can be observed in the languages of the world. Diachronic processes of language shift and change have often been proposed to show shifts in the division of labour between various levels of language structure. Studies in formal linguistics, finally, can help to develop a catalogue of interacting forces that need to be met by integrated theories of grammar.

Applicants to currently open positions in language history or synchronic linguistics at the Faculty of the Humanities, University of Göttingen are expected to be willing to contribute within this widely-taken spectrum of possible topics that pertain to grammatical interfaces.