

Mission « Re-Thinking Synonymy », Helsinki, Finlande, 28-30 octobre 2010

« Re-Thinking Synonymy » était le thème du colloque annuel organisé par SKY (Association Linguistique de Finlande). C'est un colloque international qui avait pour but de rassembler des chercheurs travaillant sur la synonymie dans les domaines de la sémantique, le lexique, la syntaxe, la morphologie...

J'ai proposé une communication en collaboration avec Céline Corteel (EA 4521 Grammatica, Université d'Artois, membre associée de STL) intitulée *Autre – différent vs. other – different: A contrastive approach*. Notre contribution, dont le résumé se trouve ci-dessous, a été bien reçue et nous avons pu profiter des questions et des remarques des collègues dans l'assistance.

Using constructed and attested examples, we describe the semantic and referential properties of *autre* and *différent* on the basis of the different possibilities for syntactically encoding their arguments. More specifically, it is shown that *différent* functions as a symmetrical adjective with a reciprocal sense whose base meaning allows it to act as a determiner. *Autre*, on the other hand, appears to function more as a comparative than as a typical adjective. It has a negative meaning in that it excludes a given referent as a potential referent for the phrase in which it appears.

These conclusions are then compared with the data concerning the English adjectives *other* and *different*. While superficially similar, both semantically and syntactically, the uses of the English adjectives do not line up perfectly with the French data, as shown in (1):

(1) J'ai choisi un autre sac que toi.

*I have chosen another purse than you.

Thus, in English, it appears that the distribution of *other* is more restrained than in French, revealing that the terms are not synonymous cross-linguistically.