3e Conférence Internationale de l'Association de Linguistique Cognitive du Royaume-Uni (UK-CLC): « Language, Mind and Reality »
6-8 Juillet 2010, Université de Hertfordshire, R.-U.

Florent Perek – Compte-rendu

1 La conférence

UK-CLA (United Kingdom Cognitive Linguistics Association) est l'association britannique de linguistique cognitive. Ses objectifs centraux sont de développer et promouvoir le champ pluri-disciplinaire de la linguistique cognitive au Royaume-Uni, ainsi que de contribuer à la synergie croissante entre pays européens et de soutenir les initiatives et échanges au niveau international. A cette fin, l'association organise un colloque bisannuel, à l'instar de ses consoeurs européennes, servant de rassemblement officiel aux membres de l'association mais aussi de plate-forme de discussion pour les chercheurs de tous pays travaillant dans le cadre de la linguistique cognitive. La troisième édition de ce colloque a été organisée à l'université de Hertfordshire (à proximité de Londres) sous l'égide de Christopher Hart, Vyvyan Evans et Stéphanie Pourcel.

2 Programme

Conférences plénières:

- Bill Croft – *Grammar and verbalization: Exemplar Semantics*
- Eva Dąbrowska – *From linguists' grammar to speakers' grammar*
- John A. Lucy – *Language Diversity and the development of mind*
- Peter Stockwell – *What cognitive poetics can do for you*
- Gabriella Vogliocco – *Toward a theory of meaning representation*

Sessions générales et thématiques:

Le programme complet de la conférence ainsi que l'ensemble des résumés peuvent être consultés à l'adresse suivante: http://uk-clc3.org/materials.htm. J'ai personnellement assisté aux communications listées ci-dessous:

Jager & Cleland – *Polysemy advantage*

Siebenborn – *Schematization and generalization in novel construction learning (L1)*

Kania – *The roles of non-canonical input and discourse function in L1-acquisition of question constructions*

Athanasopoulos & Bylund – *Motion events in language, memory and cognition*

Engemann et al. - *Expressing caused motion in English and French*

Ochsenbauer et al. - *Universal and language-specific determinants in child language*

Cristofaro – *Linguistic evidence and mental representation – the case of semantic maps*

Glynn – *Corpus-driven methods and cognitive semantics*

Blumenthal – *Usage frequency and morphological entrenchment in the minds of spe*akers

Bierwiaczonek – *Metonymy meets brain studies*

Levshina et al. - *A multifactorial usage-based construction grammar*

Almeida & Ferrari – Subjectivity, Inter-subjectivity and epistemic complementation constructions

Gorokhova – *Frequency effects in lexical retrieval*

Ibbotson et al. - *Prototypical semantics of the transitive construction*

L'Hôte – *Myths about Labour of old*

Petriashvili – *Cognitive and pragmatic perspective on the use of metaphor in political discourse*

Gutiérrez Pérez – *The ICM of the heart as the seat of emotions*

Parisse & Morgenstern – *Constructing " basic " verbal constructions*

Morgenstern et al. - *Constructing the future*

Fontaine & Aldridge – *Insights into electronic language production through keystroke logging*

Kuzar – *That-clauses and the-fact-that-clauses: a cognitive-constructionist view*

Gamerschlag and Petersen – *An analysis of the evidential use of German perception verbs*

Lowenadler – *Refining the cognitive approach to island effects*

3 Contribution: « Reappraising the role of alternations in construction grammar: the case of the conative construction »

Résumé de la communication (en anglais):

In construction grammar, syntactic alternations have no theoretical status: constructions are seen as symbolic structures that receive their meaning from surface generalizations (Goldberg 2002) independently of other constructions that exist in the grammar. This paper aims to reappraise the role of alternations through a study of the conative construction (*John kicked at the ball*) *vs.* the transitive construction (*John kicked the ball*).

In construction grammar, the meaning of argument structure is usually described as an event type (cf. Goldberg 1995, 2006). In case of event type mismatch between verb and construction, the meaning of the verb is integrated in the event denoted by the construction, such that all instances of a construction denote the same event type, a phenomenon we refer to as event shifting.

On the basis of a corpus of examples drawn from narratives in the BNC, we show that the semantics of the conative is not easily captured by event shifting. It appears that the choice of the conative over the transitive is motivated by the absence of various kinds of implicatures normally associated to the transitive variant, albeit according to the situation of utterance. In lieu of event shifting, we suggest that the conative should be better viewed as a *profile* shifting construction whose instances acquire much of their meaning with reference to the transitive variant.

Our case study shows that, in some cases, linguistic constructs receive their meaning not only from generalizations over surface forms, but also most likely from contrast with the meaning of paradigmatically related forms. This analysis echoes the basic insight that language users pay attention to the choices of speakers and attribute semantic contrasts to them, which we suggest should be made more explicit in construction grammar.

References

Goldberg, A. (1995). *Constructions: a construction grammar approach to argument structure*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Goldberg, A. (2002). Surface generalizations: An alternative to alternations. *Cognitive Linguistics* 13.4, 327–356.

Goldberg, A. (2006). *Constructions at Work: The Nature of Generalization in Language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

4 Bilan

UK-CLC est l'un des rassemblements de la linguistique cognitive les plus importants en Europe, et est fréquenté par des chercheurs du monde entier. Cette troisième édition ne fit pas entorse à la réputation de l'évènement, puisqu'elle fut un grand succès. Les conférences plénières étaient d'une grande qualité, et ont chacune témoigné d'une contribution véritable à des questions actuelles en linguistique cognitive ainsi qu'au nouveaux horizons qu'offre la discipline.

D'un point de vue personnel, la conférence a été pour moi l'occasion de rencontrer pour la première fois des chercheurs avec qui j'ai pris contact, et d'en croiser d'autres déjà connus des cercles de Freiburg, de Lille, ou de la linguistique cognitive européenne en général. Les retours reçus lors de ma communication ont été d'une aide précieuse.