Department of Linguistics
University of Mumbai
presents
A Special Lecture Series on

Topics in the Interface between Syntax, Semantics & Pragmatics:
Asserting, Asking & Answering

Expert Faculty: **Prof. Veneeta Dayal, Rutgers University, USA**

3rd - 13th January, 2018
Venue: **Virtual Classroom, Pherozeshah Mehta Bhavan**

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

GIAN (January 3rd-13th, 2018)

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Topics in the Interface between Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics: Asserting, Asking and Answering

The Department of Linguistics, University of Mumbai is organizing a course under the GIAN programme on "Topics in the Interface between Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics: Asserting, Asking and Answering". This course focuses on the relationship between syntactic form, semantic interpretation and pragmatic functions and develops a theory of speech acts, especially acts of asserting, asking questions and answering.

The interface between syntax, semantics, pragmatics and phonology constitutes a major thrust area in current research in Linguistics. However, very little is known about how these subsystems of linguistic structures interact with each other in South Asian Languages such as Assamese, Bangla, Hindi-Urdu, Konkani, Marathi, Punjabi (Indo-Aryan languages), Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil (Dravidian), Angami, Ao, Kokborok (Sino-Tibetan), Santhali, Kurux (Austro-Asiatic) etc. Even lesser is known about the languages like Warli, Bhili, Kolami etc. Research which will initiate a theoretically grounded empirical inquiry into these languages will help in better understanding of the linguistic interfaces, thereby helping in building an integrated theory of linguistic phenomena. Such a research programme would have a wide range of applications in Cognitive Studies, Computational Linguistics and other applications of Natural Language Processing as well as in Communication Studies. This course seeks to initiate such a research programme in India.

This course has two distinct but related foci:

a. Although the primary language from which data and motivation for theoretical claims is provided is often (though not always) English, effort is made to place the core insights within a broader cross-linguistic framework. For this reason, in this course, data from South Asian languages will be presented. Participants will be encouraged to test hypotheses and predictions in their own languages.

b. The second focus has to do with the syntax-semantics map. The syntactic framework adopted in this course utilizes the level of syntax known as Logical Form. A model-theoretic, truth conditional semantics interprets these disambiguated structures. The essential features of the mapping from one to the other, however, are shown to hold across theoretical systems that eschew the notion of Logical Form.

The faculty

Prof. Veneeta Dayal
(Guest Faculty)

Prof. Veneeta Dayal is currently working as Professor in the Department of Linguistics, Rutgers University, USA. She is one of the few linguists who consistently pursued research in Syntax-Semantics-Pragmatics interface especially in South Asian languages such as Hindi-Urdu and Bangla. Her recent book "Questions: Studies in semantics and pragmatics" exhibits her long-term interest in and expertise on the topic of the proposed Course. Her areas of expertise include relative and correlative clauses, syntax-semantics of bare noun phrases and (in)definiteness, scope and quantification among others.

Dr. Avinash Pandey
(Host Faculty and
the Programme
Coordinator)

Dr. Avinash Pandey is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Linguistics, University of Mumbai. As the Programme Coordinator, his contact details are as follows:

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Programme Schedule

Day	Time	Module
Day 1 3rd January	10.00am- 12.00noon	**Lecture: The Syntax-Semantics-Pragmatics Interface & Cross-linguistic Variation**
	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: Identifying areas exhibiting syntax-semantics-pragmatics interface in Indian languages
	2.00pm- 4.00pm	**Lecture: The Role of Logical Form in the Map between Syntax and Semantics**
	4.00pm- 5.30pm	**Practical**: Identifying areas exhibiting syntax-semantics-pragmatics interface in Indian languages
Day 2 4th January	09.30am- 11.30am	**Lecture: Number Morphology and Interpretation**
	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on the number morphology in the languages of the participants
	2.00pm- 4.00pm	**Lecture: Scope Marking/Partial Wh Movement/Expletive Wh Construction**
	4.00pm- 5.30pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on the Wh-movement and its scope in the languages of the participants
Day 3 5th January	09.30am- 11.30am	**Lecture: Complementation: Predicates and Clause Types**
	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on predicates and clause types in the languages of the participants
	2.00pm- 5.30pm	**Practical Session- Data Analysis**: Every participant will select one phenomenon from among the topics discussed previously in the Series to work on in this lecture series. Participants will begin the analysis of the data gathered in previous sessions on the selected phenomenon. At the end of the session, the participants should arrive at the initial generalizations from the data.
Day 4	09.30am- 11.30am	**Lecture: Functional and Pair-list**

		readings
6th January	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on the pragmatics of pair-list readings in the languages of the participants
	2.00pm- 4.00pm	**Lecture: Weak Islands**
	4.00pm- 5.30pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on the island effects and identification of weak islands in the languages of the participants
Day 5 8th January	09.30am- 11.30am	**Lecture: Pied Piping**
	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation to examine the relevance of pied-piping phenomenon in the languages of the participants
	2.00pm- 5.30pm	**Practical Session, Data Analysis**: Participants will work further on the analysis of the data in their selected phenomenon. At the end of the session, the participants will have analysis of the data using a current theoretical framework and arrive at the problem areas/ issues.
Day 6 9th January	09.30am- 11.30am	**Lecture: Long Distance Lists**
	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on the long distance lists in the languages of the participants
	2.00pm- 4.00pm	**Lecture: Mention-All vs. Mention-Some Answers**
	4.00pm- 5.30pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on Mention-All and Mention-Some answers to questions in the languages of the participants
Day 7 10th January	09.30am- 11.30am	**Lecture: The Role of Prosody in Interpretation**
	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation to examine the role of prosody in the interpretation in the languages of the participants
	2.00pm- 5.30pm	**Practical Session, Data Analysis:** Participants will try to resolve the problem areas/ issues identified in the earlier data analysis session. At the end of the session, the participants should have worked out at least a tentative analysis of some aspect of the selected phenomenon using a current theoretical framework.

Day 8 11th January	09.30am- 11.30am	**Lecture: Q-Morphemes, Polar and Alternative Questions**
	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on Q-morphemes, polar and alternative questions in the languages of the participants
	2.00pm-4.00pm	**Lecture: Non-Canonical Questions: Bias, Echo, Directives**
	4.00pm- 5.30pm	**Practical**: Data Elicitation on the non-canonical questions in the languages of the participants
Day 9 12th January	09.30am- 11.30am	**Lecture: The Big Picture: Form, Meaning, Function Triptych**
	12.00noon- 1.00pm	**Practical**: The participants will continue to work on their analyses and consolidate the observations and generalizations.
	2.00pm- 5.30pm	**Assessment:** Class Presentations by participants on their analysis of a selected phenomenon in their language
Day 10 13th January	10.00am- 1.00pm	**Assessment:** Class Presentations by participants on their analysis of a selected phenomenon in their language
	2.00pm- 5.30pm	**Assessment:** Class Presentations by participants on their analysis of a selected phenomenon in their language