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

Overview

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.

Such a course would be useful for researchers interested in the study of Syntax-Semantics-Pragmatics interface, especially in the languages of South Asia.

Dates	3rd January – 13th January, 2018
Topics to be covered	The Syntax-Semantics-Pragmatics Interface & Cross-linguistic Variation; Logical Form; Number Morphology and Interpretation; Complementation: Predicates and Clause Types; Scope Marking/Partial Wh- Movement/ Expletive Wh-Construction; Functional and Pair-list readings; Weak Islands; Pied Piping; Long Distance Lists; Mention-All vs. Mention-Some Answers; The Role of Prosody in Interpretation; Q-Morphemes, Polar and Alternative Questions; Non-Canonical Questions; Form, Meaning, Function Triptych
Who should attend	❖ MA, M. Phil and Ph.D. students working in the area of interfaces between syntax, semantics and pragmatics of languages. ❖ Young faculty in Linguistics. ❖ Independent Researchers in Linguistics.

Fee structure	**For those who do not require accommodation facility**	Indian students (without JRF/SRF)	Rs. 3000
		Indian students (with JRF/SRF)	Rs. 4000
		Faculty, Independent Researchers and Foreign students	Rs. 5000
	For those who require accommodation facility	Indian students (without JRF/SRF)	Rs. 5000
		Indian students (with JRF/SRF)	Rs. 7000
		Faculty, Independent Researchers and Foreign students	Rs. 10000
	Concession may be given to students without JRF/SRF on recommendation of their Department/Institution.		

How to apply for the course?

All aspiring participants must submit a statement of purpose for participating in this course in utmost 800-1000 words (excluding the references). This statement must be submitted by e-mail to avinash@linguistics.mu.ac.in on or before **15th of November, 2017.** The selected participants will be intimated on or before **20th of November, 2017.**

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:

Mobile: +91 99699 57246
E-mail: avinash@linguistics.mu.ac.in