



PROGRAM & BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

LANGUAGE CONTACT AND LANGUAGE CHANGE IN WESTERN ASIA

A Multilingual Conference Organized by GRADE in Cooperation with the Goethe University of Frankfurt

As Part of the Program

“Contact Linguistics in Cross-Border Kurdistan”

(CLICK)



10-18 March 2017

Goethe University of Frankfurt
Campus Westend
Hörsaalzentrum (3rd floor),
Rooms 10-16



REPORT

The conference “Language Contact and Language Change in Western Asia” focused on multilingualism in Western Asia. Within Western Asia, the aim was at focusing the Kurdish-populated areas in the regions of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and the neighboring countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. In this area, several Indo-European varieties are spoken, including Armenian, Kurdish varieties, and Persian. A number of non-Indo-European languages are spoken as well, such as Azeri Turkic, Neo-Aramaic, and Turkish. Finally, Georgian and other Caucasian languages are also spoken in the region. Most of the above-mentioned languages exhibit a suprastratum of Semitic, Iranian and Turkic languages due to their close contact for centuries.

The conference explored the use of corpus methods in descriptive and theoretical analysis of word order change of natural languages in a multilingual area like Western Asia. Focal areas of interest included, but were not limited to language contact and language change in word order, information structure, and prosody. Furthermore, several other theoretical and methodological were issued pertaining to corpus-oriented research in language contact, i.e. tools, methods, and techniques in corpus assembly, annotation and analysis, the interaction between corpus linguistics and computational linguistics, the relevance of corpus linguistics and linguistic theory, the use of statistical and quantitative methods in detecting patterns of language change, as well as the impact of corpus-based vs. corpus-driven approaches on our view and understanding of morphosyntactic change in languages.

The conference was organized via DocAG Humanities and Linguistics by the support of GRADE and the department of Empirical and Comparative Linguistics at the Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main. The organizer of the conference was *Hiwa Asadpour the chair of DocAG Humanities and Linguistics at GRADE (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main)*. There was a scientific committee including several professors from different universities who reviewed the conference submissions:

PD Dr. Agnes Korn (CNRS, UMR Mondes iraniens et indiens, Paris, France), **Prof. Dr. Eleanor Coghill** (Uppsala University, Sweden), **Prof. Dr. Geoffrey Haig** (University of Bamberg, Germany), **PD Dr. Irina Nevskaya** (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany), **Dr. Mojtaba Monshizadeh** (Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran), **Dr. Thomas Jügel** (Labex EFL, Inalco, Paris, France), **Dr. Zahra Abolhassani Chimeh** (Research Center, SAMT, Iran).

The conference took place at the Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main, Campus Westend in the 3rd floor of the building called **Hörsaalzentrum**. The program of the conference was organized in three intensive days [Friday 10 March, Saturday 11 March and Sunday 12 March] and participants were from:

Armenia: Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies; The Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts; Yerevan State University/ **Austria:** University Salzburg/ **Canada:** Carleton University/ **Cyprus:** University of Cyprus/ **Czech Republic:** Charles University/ **France:** CNRS, UMR Mondes iraniens et indiens; EPHE; INALCO; Labex EFL, Inalco, SeDyL; Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3/ **Germany:** Goethe University of Frankfurt, Justus Liebig University Giessen; Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz; MPI-SHH Jena & Leipzig University; University of Bamberg/ **Iran:** Allame Tabataba'i University; Cultural Heritage; Karaj Azad University; Payam-e Noor University ; Research Center, SAMT; Shahr-e Kord University/ **Sweden:** Uppsala University/ **the Netherlands:** University of Amsterdam/ **UK:** Manchester University; SOAS; the University of Sheffield; University of Cambridge/ **USA:** California State University San Diego; California State University Long Beach; Library of

Congress, Washington D.C.; University of California, Berkeley. 70 individuals participated in the conference and in second day on Saturday 11 March 150 guests participated in the cultural event. Different oriental folklore, music, and cultural event have been organized in the second day.

conference website: <http://titus.fkidg1.uni-frankfurt.de/click/fourthAct.html>

SPRING SCHOOL (13-18 MARCH, 2017)

The spring school following the conference “Language Contact and Language Change in Western Asia” takes place at the old Bockenheimer Campus in the building Juridicum, 9th floor, and provides interactive workshops related to multilingualism in Western Asia, morphosyntax in Western Asian languages, and language change in general. The presenters were experts in the topics that they presented to the audience, and each session offered for about 80 minutes, while longer presentations were offered within two consecutive sessions. The program of the spring school can be seen below.

AGNES KORN (CNRS, UMR Mondes iranien et indien, Paris, France):

A) Isoglosses and subdivisions of Iranian and B) Some points of historical morphology of Iranian

ARMIN HOENEN (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany):

Crawling the web for resources in low resource languages of Western Asia

BAHMAN ROSTAMI-TABAR (Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, UK):

Range of methods using R software

BERNHARD KÖHLER (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany):

A) Basic word order typology and B) Complex sentences, including converbs, other subordinate verb forms, syntax of various kinds of phrases etc.

CÉCILE MEIER (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany):

A) Problems in defining definiteness (with respect to English), B) Types of semantic analysis for definite descriptions and C) Linguistic variation in expressing definiteness

DANIEL KRAUZE AND SILVIE STRAUß (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany):

An overview of morphosyntax of Eastern Armenian

HÉLÈNE GÉRARDIN (INALCO Paris-UMR 7192, France):

An overview of morphosyntax of Georgian

HIWA ASADPOUR (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany):

An overview of morphosyntax of Sorani Mukri

MURAD SULEYMANOV (EPHE Paris-UMR 7192, France):

An overview of morphosyntax of Azeri

NICOLAOS NEOCLEOUS (University of Cambridge, UK):

Word order and information structure in Romeyka: Continuity, contact and change

THOMAS JÜGEL (Labex EFL, Inalco, Paris, France):

A) The development of the ergative construction in Iranian languages and B) The history of enclitic pronouns in Iranian languages

SPONSORS

Several institutions have supported the conference:



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and also a kind donor donated a money to the conference:

Mr. Naser Sharifi