Linguistic creativity in (Morpho-)Syntax
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Abstract

In this course we discuss linguistic creativity in syntax and morpho-syntax. Two criteria are decisive in Linguistic Creativity in (morpho-)syntax: a form is non-conventional and it is successful in a given discourse-situation, i.e. it successfully expresses a proposition and/or speech act, is accepted by interlocutors etc. We start out with a general classification of relevant phenomena, then consider grammatical gaps and conflicts, where linguistic creativity is necessary to occur. Our test case are various phenomena from the morphosyntax of German verbal complexes. Then we continue with a range of phenomena, where analogical reasoning gives rise to non-conventional forms: here we look at prepositional object clauses in German, long-distance extraction in German and other languages. Part of this discussion will be a closer look at the concept of analogy and how it can be of use in generative frameworks of syntax. The course will provide the opportunity for students to bring in data from their own work for which linguistic creativity might be a relevant concept.