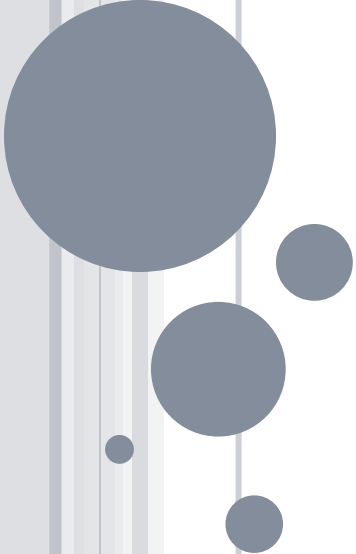




# **WORKSHOP ON CATEGORY CHANGE: INTRODUCTION**

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# OUTLINE

- Introduction to the subject
  - Types of category change
- Research questions
- Programme

# TYPES OF CATEGORY CHANGE (1)

## ○ Non-affixal derivation / conversion

- 1) *calme*<sub>A</sub> 'calm' > *calme*<sub>N</sub> 'calmness'
- 2) *daily*<sub>A</sub> *newspaper* > *daily*<sub>N</sub>

## ○ Context-internal conversion

- 3) *Elle est d'un calme* (lit. She is of a calm) 'She is very calm'
- Note: no strict boundary between these two!

## TYPES OF CATEGORY CHANGE (2)

### ○ Univerbation and/or structural change

- 1) *The life of a “beauty queen” is far from beautiful.*
- 2) *ne weiz wer* ‘I don’t know who’ > *neizwer*  
‘somebody’ [Middle High German]

### ○ “Slipstream” category change

- 3) a. *Samhället förändras **gradvis**<sub>ADV</sub>*. ‘Society changes gradually’
- b. *Den **gradvisa**<sub>ADJ</sub> förändringen av samhället.*  
‘The gradual change of society’ [Swedish]

# TYPES OF CATEGORY CHANGE (3)

## ○ Category change in (de)grammaticalization

- 1)
  - a. *I [am going to]<sub>MAIN V</sub> the train station.*
  - b. *I [am going to]<sub>AUX</sub> be a star.*
  
- 2)
  - a. *zůlo **něč'to**<sub>PRO</sub> 'something evil'*
  - b. *vsjako novo **nešto**<sub>N</sub> 'every new thing'*  
[Bulgarian]

# ABRUPT AND GRADUAL CHANGE

## ○ Abrupt conversion

- 1) *het was (de) absolute **top**<sub>N</sub> / het was absoluut **top**<sub>A</sub> 'lit. it was absolute(ly) top'*

## ○ Gradual conversion

- 2) *das war absolute **Spitze**<sub>N</sub> / das war absolute **spitze**<sub>N/A</sub> / das war absolut **Spitze**<sub>N/A</sub> / das war absolut **spitze**<sub>A</sub> 'lit. it was absolute(ly) top'*

# DIRECTIONALITY

- Directional preferences:
  - major to minor categories
  - free to bound morphemes
  
- Exceptions
  - degrammations: minor to major categories (e.g. Bulgarian *nešto* above)
  - bound to free morphemes, e.g. debonding of affixoids:
    - a. *Es ist einfach ein **Riesen**unterschied* ‘It is simply a huge difference’ (DECOW2012-03X\_5582569)
    - b. *bis man einen **riesen**<sub>?</sub> Unterschied bemerkt* ‘before one notices a huge difference’ (DECOW2012-03X\_19174269)
    - c. *Ein **rieses**<sub>ADJ</sub> Dankeschön nochmal* ‘A huge thank you, once more’ (DECOW2012-03X\_724419831)

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

**1:** What is the status of category change in a diachronic construction grammar framework (e.g. Traugott & Trousdale 2013) and how can the different types outlined above be accounted for? Are categories grammatical primitives, or the epiphenomenal result of constructions in the sense of Croft 2001?

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

**2:** How can the notions of gradualness and context-sensitivity be modelled in a constructional framework? Does the gradualness of some category shifts imply that categories synchronically form a “continuous spectrum” (Langacker 1987: 18) or does it merely mean that a given item may belong to two or more categories whereas “the categories in question can nevertheless be clearly delimited” (Aarts 2007: 242)

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

**3:** Is category change a change in form which together with a change in meaning constitutes a constructionalization change and if so, is it the shift itself or changes in morphosyntactic properties (e.g. decategorialization) that are associated with it?

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

**4:** How does the distinction between lexical and grammatical constructionalization link in to the different types of category change (abrupt vs gradual, morphological vs syntactic, context-independent vs context-sensitive, word-level vs construction-level)?

**5:** Which role can be assigned to the notion of “category” in constructional networks?

## PROGRAMME: THURSDAY MORNING

- **11:15: Paolo Ramat:** Transcategorization in deictic strategies
- **11:45: David Denison:** Why would anyone *take long*?
- **12:15: Peter Lauwers:** Category / function mismatch and constructional overrides. From category change to context-sensitive categorial hybridity effects
- **12:45:** lunch break

# PROGRAMME: THURSDAY AFTERNOON

- **14:00: Malte Battefeld and Gudrun Rawoens:** From Intensifying Prefixoid to Adjective. A Construction-Morphological, corpus-based view of German *Top*- and Swedish *topp(en)*
- **14:30: Lauren Fonteyn and Liesbet Heyvaert:** Category change and form-meaning mismatch: the history of English gerund constructions
- **15:00: Guro Fløgstad:** Subfunction variation and the expansion of the Rioplatense preterite category (cancelled)
- **15:30:** coffee break
- **16:00: Hiroshi Ohashi:** Category Change and Constructionalization in the Development of an English Intensifier Phrase
- **16:30: Torsten Leuschner:** Between Free Interrogative and Bound Protasis: Category Change as Constructional Change in V1-Conditionals in German and English
- **17:00: Peter Andersson:** Constructionalization of Swedish Concessives

## PROGRAMME: FRIDAY MORNING

- **11:30: Muriel Norde and Caroline Morris:**  
Category change and constructional schemas: the case of diminutive intensifying prefixoids in Dutch
- **12:00: Elnora Ten Wolde:** *A hell of a construction:* A Corpus Study of Category Change in a Subtype of the Binominal Noun Phrase Construction
- **12:30:** lunch break

## PROGRAMME: FRIDAY AFTERNOON

- **14:00: Kristel Van Goethem and Gudrun Vanderbauwhede:** Paths and degrees of constructionalization: a corpus-based study of the *far from X* construction in Dutch and French
- **14:30: Nikki Van de Pol and Hubert Cuyckens:** *Absolutely restless*: dual category change in the English absolute construction
- **15:00: Birgit Umbreit:** Romance Nominalized Infinitives from a Constructional Perspective
- **15:30:** coffee break
- **16:00: Nikos Koutsoukos:** The suffix *-idz(o)* in Griko: a case of constructional change from derivation to inflection
- **16:30-17:30: Graeme Trousdale:** Discussion