ALS 2019 Main conference themed panel

Call for Papers: Grammatical Relations in Australian Languages

Organisers: Thomas Ennever & Mitchell Browne (University of Queensland)

Grammatical relations (GRs) are one of the fundamental tools used in describing the world's languages. They are used to define the relationship a predicate has with its arguments, including commonly-used relations such as 'subject', 'object' and 'indirect object' (Andrews, 2007). Despite their near-universal application as a tool of linguistic analysis, GRs have been claimed to be fundamentally language-specific concepts (Dryer, 1997), and not to exist in some languages. In some theoretical frameworks they are treated as primitives while in others they are derived from either more fundamental constituent properties or structural relations. The criteria used for determining GRs are of great importance to both descriptive and typological work.

Grammatical relations in Australian languages have long been a focus of descriptive and theoretical attention (Blake, 1977; Dixon, 1976; Nordlinger, 1998, 2014; Simpson, 1991, inter alia.), perhaps most notably in the domain of split-case marking (Goddard, 1982; Silverstein, 1976). However, GR phenomena that have received more recent attention—such as optional and alternating case marking (Chappell & Verstraete, 2019)—have not yet received a widespread consensus in terms of their descriptive or theoretical treatment. Analyses of Australian languages can benefit from further consideration of the criteria used to identify GRs given our increasing knowledge of these languages. A renewed approach is timely given recent global interest in GR typology in both *canonical* (Forker, 2014) and *multivariate* (Bickel, 2011; Witzlack-Makarevich, 2011; Witzlack-Makarevich & Bickel, 2019) frameworks.

We invite abstracts for 30-minute oral presentations focusing on descriptive, typological or theoretical issues relating to grammatical relations. Questions of interest include—but are not limited to:

- What is full the range of morphosyntactic criteria that are utilised in definitions of GRs in grammatical descriptions?
- What criteria can/should be used to distinguish 'arguments' and 'adjuncts'?
- What kinds of non-canonical arguments and non-canonical adjuncts are found?
- How can various syntactic phenomena such as anaphora be recruited in the definition of GRs?
- How can/should thematic roles be distinguished from GRs?
- How can variation in predicate argument structure inform definitions of GRs?
- How should various 'split systems' (e.g. split ergativity or differential object marking') be understood with respect to GRs?

Confirmed speakers:

Mary Laughren (University of Queensland)
Jane Simpson (Australian National University)

Any queries regarding the workshop should be directed to Tom thomas.ennever@uqconnect.edu.au or Mitch mitchell.browne@uq.edu.au.

Abstracts should be submitted through Easychair (https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=als2019) before Sunday 4th August, ensuring the appropriate workshop has been selected during the submission process. Each abstract must be a maximum of 1 A4 page of text including title. The

abstract may also include 1 additional A4 page of examples, figures, references etc. Please prepare your abstract in Word (as a single .doc or .docx file), or pdf, in Times New Roman 12 point font, with 2cm on all margins. On the additional page, references only may appear in 10 point font. Examples, figures, tables must appear in 12 point font.