

Title of the course: Super Linguistics

Teacher: Masha Esipova

Contact

Affiliation: University of Oslo

Email address: maria.yesipova@gmail.com

Website: <https://esipova.net/>

Course info

Level: Advanced: the target group is RM2 students who have previously written a paper on the topic or PhD students whose research relates to the topic.

Course prerequisites:

Students should have enough background in formal linguistics that will allow them to understand at least the gist of the formalisms in the course readings.

Course description:

This course is an overview of some recent work within the Super Linguistics research program (from Latin *super* 'beyond'), which aims to apply formal linguistic methodology to various non-standard objects, including aspects of human communication that have been traditionally overlooked in formal linguistics such as different types of gesture; non-linguistic systems, such as pictorial representations, music, dance, etc.; and animal communication.

Day-to-day programme:

Monday: Intro. Gesture: different types of gesture and different types of content.

Tuesday: Pictures: possible world semantics of pictures; syntax of pictorial narratives; (not-)at-issueness in pictures.

Wednesday: Written communication: emoji; text modifications. Music: grouping in music; inference-based semantics of music.

Thursday: Dance: grouping in dance; semantics of narrative dance. Athletic movement: universal architectural properties of regularized purposeful action.

Friday: Animal communication: semantics/pragmatics of monkey alarm calls; affect and intent in non-human primate communication. Wrap-up.

Reading list

Note: All readings for the course will be made available to the students via a shared folder.

Course readings:

Class 1:

Obligatory:

- Esipova, Maria. 2019. Towards a uniform super-linguistic theory of projection. In Schlöder, Julian J., Dean McHugh & Floris Roelofsen (eds.), *Proceedings of the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*, pp. 553–562.

http://events.illc.uva.nl/AC/AC2019/uploaded_files/inlineitem/Esipova_Towards_a_uniform_super-linguistic_theory_o.pdf

Optional/further:

- Esipova, Maria. 2019. Composition and projection of co-speech gestures. In Blake, Katherine, Forrest Davis, Kaelyn Lamp & Joseph Rhyne (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 29*, pp. 117–137. <https://doi.org/10.3765/salt.v29i0.4600>

Class 2:

Obligatory:

- Patel-Grosz, Pritty, Salvador Mascarenhas, Emmanuel Chemla & Philippe Schlenker. 2021. Super Linguistics: an introduction. Ms. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005242>. Section 6.1.
- Esipova, Maria. 2021. On not-at-issueness in pictures. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 6(1), 83. <https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.1314>

Optional/further:

- Abusch, Dorit. 2019. Possible-worlds semantics for pictures. In Daniel Gutzmann, Lisa Matthewson, Cécile Meier, Hotze Rullmann & Thomas Ede Zimmermann (eds.), *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Semantics*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118788516.sem003>
- Cohn, Neil. 2020. Visual narrative comprehension: Universal or not? *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review* 2(27). 266–285. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-019-01670-1>

Class 3:

Obligatory:

- Grosz, Patrick Georg, Elsi Kaiser & Francesco Pierini. 2021. Discourse anaphoricity and first-person indexicality in emoji resolution. In Grosz, Patrick Georg, Luisa Martí, Hazel Pearson, Yasutada Sudo & Sarah Zobel (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn Und Bedeutung*, 25, 340–357. <https://doi.org/10.18148/sub/2021.v25i0.941>
- Patel-Grosz, Pritty, Salvador Mascarenhas, Emmanuel Chemla & Philippe Schlenker. 2021. Super Linguistics: an introduction. Ms. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005242>. Section 6.2.

Optional/further:

- Esipova, Maria. 2021. Composure and composition. Ms. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005003>. Section 4.2.
- Schlenker, Philippe. 2021. Musical meaning within Super Semantics. *Linguistics and Philosophy*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10988-021-09329-8>

Class 4:

Obligatory:

- Patel-Grosz, Pritty, Salvador Mascarenhas, Emmanuel Chemla & Philippe Schlenker. 2021. Super Linguistics: an introduction. Ms. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005242>. Sections 6.3–6.4.
- Esipova, Maria. 2021. Reps and representations: a warm-up to a grammar of lifting. Ms. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005908>

Optional/further:

- Charnavel, Isabelle. 2019. Steps toward a universal grammar of dance: Local grouping structure in basic human movement perception. *Frontiers in Psychology* 10. 1364. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01364>

- Patel-Grosz, Pritty, Patrick Georg Grosz, Tejaswinee Kelkar & Alexander Refsum Jensenius. 2018. Coreference and disjoint reference in the semantics of narrative dance. In Uli Sauerland & Stephanie Solt (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 22*, 199–216. <https://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/GE4MWWiN/Patel-Grosz.pdf>

Class 5:

Obligatory:

- Patel-Grosz, Pritty, Salvador Mascarenhas, Emmanuel Chemla & Philippe Schlenker. 2021. Super Linguistics: an introduction. Ms. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005242>. Section 3.

Optional/further:

- Heesen, Raphaela M., Christine Sievers, Thibaud Gruber & Zanna Clay. In press. Primate communication: Affective, intentional, or both? In Bennett L. Schwartz & Michael J. Beran (eds.), *Primate Cognitive Studies*, Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/g5zse>
- Schlenker, Philippe, Emmanuel Chemla, Anne M. Schel, James Fuller, Jean-Pierre Gautier, Jeremy Kuhn, Dunja Veselinović, Kate Arnold, Cristiane Cäsar, Sumir Keenan, Alban Lemasson, Karim Ouattara, Robin Ryder & Klaus Zuberbühler. 2016. Formal monkey linguistics. *Theoretical Linguistics* 42(1-2). 1–90. <https://doi.org/10.1515/tl-2016-0001>