

19-22 November 2012

## **Workshop on “Cognitive and linguistic mechanisms of anaphoric reference in literary and non-literary text”**

**Courant Research Centre “Text Structures”, University of Göttingen**

When speakers and addressees engage in coherent discourse, they need to encode what and who is currently talked about. This is achieved by a range of anaphoric expressions which are used to e.g. signal referent introduction and maintenance or topic-maintenance and topic-shift (Carroll et al., 2008). Anaphors are particularly well suited for the investigation of reference-, coherence-, and inference processes in text comprehension: On the one hand, anaphors substantiate textuality in that they evoke text-referential structures through the interaction with their referents in the text. Here, grammatical components of all levels are systematically involved. On the other hand, anaphors control cognitive processes of text comprehension. Therefore, the investigation of the conditions for the evaluation of anaphoric relations is not only linguistically but also with regard to cognitive psychology of great research interest (Holler & Irmen, 2007).

In production, speakers need to make a choice about which referential form to use, while comprehenders need to keep track of who and what is talked about. The choice for an anaphoric expression may interact with other discourse cohesive means, such as connectives and semantic discourse relations (e.g. Bosch & Umbach, 2007; Järvikivi, 2005; Kaiser & Trueswell, 2008). Although some linguistic theories claim that the anaphoric choice follows universal principles (e.g. Ariel, 2001), languages may differ with regard to their anaphoric forms and usage (Hemforth et al. 2010; Von Stutterheim & Carroll, 2005; see Roberts et al. 2008 for learner questions), and the text genre under investigation may influence anaphoric usage differently; i.e. literary texts may differ from non-literary texts for narrative reasons (Fabricius-Hansen, 2009).

The planned workshop aims to provide an opportunity to discuss the broad topic of anaphoric reference in discourse from a theoretical and empirical perspective. We especially encourage the presentation of papers focusing on the following aspects:

- anaphoric reference in text production and text comprehension
- factors influencing anaphoric reference
- anaphoric reference in literary and non-literary text
- anaphors and other discourse cohesive means
- cross-linguistic and SLA differences in anaphoric reference

### **Organizing Committee:**

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