

Linguistics
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Experimental Studies
in Linguistics 1

Introduction

This is the first issue of a series in which affiliates of the Institute of Linguistics report the results of their experimental work. Generative linguists usually rely on the method of native speaker judgements in order to gather data with which they test their hypotheses. If a hypothesis rules out a set of sentences, linguistics can ask native speakers whether they feel these sentences are indeed ungrammatical in their language. There are, however, circumstances where this method is unreliable. In such cases more elaborate methods to test a hypothesis are called for. All papers in this series, and hence, all papers in this volume deal with issues that cannot be reliably tested with native speaker judgements.

This volume contains 7 papers, all using different methods and finding answers to very different questions. This heterogeneity, by the way, reflects the various interests and research programs of the institute. The first paper, by Kügler, deals with the realization of question intonation in two German dialects. The second and the third paper by Schlesewsky, Fanselow and Frisch and Schlesewsky and Frisch respectively, deal with the role of case in processing German sentences. The nature of partitive case is the topic of the paper by Fischer. The fifth paper, by Vogel and Frisch, deals with resolving case conflicts, as does the sixth paper by Vogel and Zugck. The final paper, by Trutkowski Zugck, Blaszcak, Fanselow, Fischer and Vogel deals with superiority in 10 Indo-European languages.

The methodology used in these papers ranges from phonetic measure-

ments (first paper) over Event Related Potentials (papers two and three), reaction time experiments (paper five), corpus studies (paper six) to using a questionnaire (the fourth and seventh paper).

We hope that you enjoy reading the papers!

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