

Seminar Series “Grammatical Adaptation - Strategies and Methods”

For almost two decades now researchers on language typology, sociolinguistics, creole and pidgin studies, and language evolution have proposed that languages may change in systematic and predictable ways as a response to the sociohistorical environment in which they are, and have been, learned and used. These kinds of changes are examples of how language may adapt to its wider ecology, in this case, sociolinguistic ecology.

In the ERC-funded project Linguistic Adaptation (GramAdapt, PI Kaius Sinnemäki) at the University of Helsinki our goal is to advance this research programme to a new level. One of our aims is to develop methodologies for comparing sociolinguistic environments and linguistic structures to one another, and to produce new analyses that will enable researching linguistic adaptation in principled ways.

To discuss and co-develop these themes we are organizing a series of three seminars in November-December 2020. The invited speakers represent a wide range of fields working on language typology, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, and language learning. The seminars include talks by invited speakers and the project members as well as an extended panel discussion.

The seminars are held online in Zoom on the following dates:

- 5 November 2.00-4.30pm (Finnish time, UTC+2)
Mechanisms of language change under different sociolinguistic conditions
- 19 November 2.00-4.30pm (Finnish time, UTC+2)
Sampling, data collection, and comparison in comparative sociolinguistic research
- 10 December 6.00-8.30pm (Finnish time, UTC+2)
Investigating language ecologies: from fieldwork to sociolinguistic questionnaire

Below is a more detailed description of the programme.

Organizers:

Francesca Di Garbo

Eri Kashima

Leena Manninen

Janne Loisa

Ricardo Napoleão de Souza

Kaius Sinnemäki (Chair)

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Mechanisms of language change under different sociolinguistic conditions

Date: 5 November 2020

Time: 2.00 - 4.30 pm (Finnish time, UCT+2)

Chair: **Eri Kashima** (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

Programme

1.30 - 2.00pm Logging in to Zoom session

Technical problems dealt by Janne Loisa (janne.loisa@helsinki.fi)

2.00 - 2.10 *Welcome and introduction to the GramAdapt project*

Kaius Sinnemäki (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

2.10 - 2.35 *Morphological complexity in comprehension and production*

Vera Kempe (Psychology and Language Learning, Abertay University)

2.40 - 3.05 *Radical analyticity and radical pro-drop—scenarios of diachronic change in East and mainland Southeast Asia, West Africa and Pidgins & Creoles*

Walter Bisang (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz)

3.10 - 3.15 Break

3.15 - 3.35 *Mechanisms of language change under different contact situations*

Ricardo Napoleão de Souza (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

3.40 - 4.30 *General discussion*

Chair: **Eri Kashima**. Questions in chat.

Sampling, data collection, and comparison in comparative sociolinguistic research

Date: 19 November 2002

Time: 2.00 - 4.30 pm (Finnish time, UCT+2)

Chair: **Ricardo Napoleão de Souza** (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

Programme

1.30 - 2.00pm Logging in to Zoom session

Technical problems dealt by Janne Loisa (janne.loisa@helsinki.fi)

2.00 - 2.05 *Welcome and introduction to the GramAdapt project*

Kaius Sinnemäki (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

2.05 - 2.30 *Daghestanian speech communities: parameters of variation across linguistic ecologies*

Nina Dobrushina (Linguistic Convergence Laboratory, HSE Moscow)

2.35 - 3.00 *From qualitative to quantitative in the sociolinguistics of multilingualism*

Pierpaolo Di Carlo (University of Buffalo, The State University of New York)

3.05 - 3.10 Break

3.10 - 3.30 *Sampling for contact*

Francesca Di Garbo (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

3.30 - 3.45 *A typological approach to comparative sociolinguistics*

Kaius Sinnemäki (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

3.45 - 4.30 *General discussion*

Chair: **Ricardo Napoleão de Souza**. Questions in chat.

Investigating language ecologies: from fieldwork to sociolinguistic questionnaire

Date: 10 December, 2002

Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm (Finnish time, UCT+2)

Chair: **Francesca Di Garbo** (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

Programme

5.30 - 6.00pm Logging in to Zoom session

Technical problems dealt by Janne Loisa (janne.loisa@helsinki.fi)

6.00 - 6.05 *Welcome and introduction to the GramAdapt project*

Kaius Sinnemäki (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

6.05 - 6.30 *Documentary fieldwork in contact situations: case studies from the Amazon*

Rosa Vallejos (University of New Mexico)

6.35 - 7.00 *Understanding the dynamics of language contact: insights from new speakers*

Itxaso Rodríguez-Ordonez (California State University, Long Beach)

7.05 - 7.10 Break

7.10 - 7.35 *The GramAdapt Sociolinguistic Questionnaire*

Eri Kashima (GramAdapt, University of Helsinki)

7.40 - 8.30 *General discussion*

Chair: **Francesca Di Garbo**. Questions in chat.