

EDITORIAL TO RIL 11:3

The present issue of Research in Language includes papers focused on the interface of semantics and pragmatics, which have been inspired by the discussions during the annual international conference “Meaning, Context & Cognition” (MCC), held in University of Lodz, Poland.

The opening paper, “A concept of general meaning and selected theories in comparison to selected semantic and pragmatic theories”, by **Roman Kalisz**, discusses the concept of general meaning indicating some developments of the account. The discussion of the theoretical stance of general meaning includes rich references to semantic and pragmatic theories whose tenets are in some respects compatible with the concept. These include, *inter alia*, axiological semantics and classical pragmatic theories such as speech act theory, Gricean theory of conversational implicature, and relevance theory.

The next paper, **Jonathan R. White**’s “Ellipsis as a marker of interaction in spoken discourse”, presents a discussion of strategies for interaction in spoken discourse, focusing on ellipsis phenomena in English. The data, which comes from the VOICE corpus of English as a Lingua Franca, includes records of seminar and workshop discussions, working group meetings, interviews and conversations. It is claimed that the main functions that ellipsis performs in the analysed corpus include Intersubjectivity, where participants develop and maintain an understanding in discourse; Continuers, which are examples of back channel support; Correction, both self- and other-initiated; Repetition; and Comments, which are similar to Continuers but do not have a back channel support function. It is indicated in the conclusions that the use of ellipsis is a strong marker of interaction in spoken discourse, as evidenced in the study.

“The role of syntactic stylistic means in expressing the emotion term *love*”, authored by **Nataliya Panasenko**, is a cognitive-linguistic analysis of the concept “love” and, especially, its nature in Czech and Slovak as evidenced in the corpus inspired by the GRID project, which involved analysis of 24 emotion terms in 35 languages. As indicated in the title, the author’s focus is lexical and syntactic means through which “love” is expressed in Czech and Slovak vis-à-vis English.

In the next text, “Biracial – black? A survey of language use and language attitudes in Poland and Germany”, **Hanna Pulaczewska** analyses the construction of race from the perspective of cognitive sociolinguistics. Her focus is on the perception of mixed-race people of black and white heritage in Poland and Germany compared to that of the USA. The analysis puts emphasis on how perception finds its reflection in language. The study clarifies in how far a socially-marked perception of biracial people applies in the countries with relatively small population of black ancestry. As an illustration, the data from the first presidential campaign of Barack Obama is used to investigate the occurrence in both countries of mental colouring of biracial people. The paper also makes references to the issues of political correctness sparked off by Obama’s

presidential campaign and its media coverage, trying to expose both the arguments posed by proponents of various solutions with regard to referring to biracial people, and the race issue-related paradoxes revealed in contexts where language use meets ideological positions.

Ewa Walaszewska's paper, "*Like* in similes – a relevance-theoretic view", reopens a relevance–theoretic perspective to examine the meaning of *like* as used in similes. Acknowledging the fact that similes are close to metaphors, the author suggests that *like* in similes is different from *like* employed in literal comparisons. In particular, it is claimed that, contrary to the current relevance-theoretic position on the issue, *like* in similes introduces an *ad hoc* concept. *Like* conceived of in this way is seen as both conceptual and procedural and, as such, as distinct from both the conceptual *like* used in literal comparisons and the procedural *like* functioning as a pragmatic marker. It is further claimed that the proposed model allows to efficiently account for the similarities and differences between similes, metaphors and literal comparisons.

The last paper in the present issue, "Performing anaphora in Modern Greek: a neo-Gricean pragmatic analysis" by **Michael Chiou**, addresses the problem of interpreting anaphoric NPs in Modern Greek. It includes a proposal of analysis based on the systematic interaction of the neo-Gricean pragmatic principles of communication, which should result in a neat and elegant approach to NP-anaphora resolution. The author suggests that the study provides evidence for an account of NP-anaphora in terms of the division of labour between syntax and pragmatics and with reference to the neo-Gricean pragmatic principles.

IWONA WITCZAK-PLISIECKA
University of Łódź
wipiw@uni.lodz.pl