

Société de Linguistique de Paris
École Pratique des Hautes Études, IV^e section
45-47 rue des Écoles - 75005 PARIS

La séance aura lieu à l'ÉCOLE PRATIQUE DES HAUTES ÉTUDES, IV^e SECTION
75005 PARIS
Salle Gaston Paris

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(17h - 19h)

Linear coding means: beyond word order

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In contemporary linguistic theories, word order is considered a major characteristic of any language. It is studied as an object in itself and, since Greenberg 1966, as a potential predictor of other components of language structure. The present study demonstrates that instead of permutations of S, V, and O, languages use several fine-grained linear means for coding various functions and that one needs to take these means into consideration to understand constraints that apply in various languages. The following linear means were found to exist in various languages, and sometimes in the same language:

- (1) Default word order, which is not a means of coding any particular function but simply represents the default order of constituents (e.g. clause-final position of the verb in Japanese and Korean, clause-initial position of the verb in some Chadic languages).
- (2) Marking by position with respect to a constituent of different category (e.g. post-verbal position in English, pre-verbal position in French)
- (3) Marking by alternation with respect to (1) and (2) (Japanese, English, French).
- (4) Marking by relative order of constituents belonging to the same category, whereby the first constituent has a different function from the second constituent, regardless of any constituents that separate them (Polish).

In the present study I analyze different requirements and different consequences of these coding means and how they allow us to explain a number of hitherto unexplained differences among languages.

Séances scientifiques ultérieures de la Société de Linguistique de Paris (SLP) pour l'année 2010

- **19 juin 2010:** Paulo DE CARVALHO. *Au croisement du genre et du nombre: du "neutre" latin au "féminin" roman*
- **20 novembre 2010:** Guillaume JACQUES. *L'origine des alternances vocaliques dans le système vocalique du tangoute*
- **11 décembre 2010:** C. Greville CORBETT. *Words and their complexity*