

LingedIn October 28, 2016

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Speaker: Giuseppe Ricciardi

Title : The non-temporal use of the Italian future morphology

It is a well-known fact the Italian future morphology can be employed in an utterance about an event not occurring at a future time ('non-temporal use') as shown in (1).

(1) Adesso saranno le tre

'Now it will be 3 o'clock'

In this talk I attempt to give answer to the following two questions: (I) what is the interpretation of utterances like (1)? (II) What is the relationship between the non-tense future and the tense future in Italian? More specifically, concerning the first question I show that the widely held hypothesis in the literature that the non-temporal use of the future denotes an epistemic modal quantifier (see Bertinetto, 1979, 1991; Del Prete 2015; Giannakidou & Mari, 2016a-b) is not supported by the evidence. Instead, the evidence seems to support Frana & Menéndez-Benito (2015a)'s proposal that the use of the non-temporal future signals that the speaker is not committing himself to an assertion but is presenting his claim as an hypothesis. Concerning the second question, I show that the non-temporal use is implied by the temporal use of the Italian future morphology.