

Harvard University GSAS Linguistic Circle Workshop

Isabelle Charneval (Harvard University)

Friday, October 5, 3:30-5pm

Emerson Hall 108

Title: Being a judge in your own c(l)ause: Perspectival effects in causal clauses

Logophors (such as logophoric pronouns or exempt anaphors) are typically assumed to require attitude holders as antecedents. Yet they can occur in adjunct clauses (expressing a variety of interpretive relations such as cause, concession, purpose, consequence, condition, etc), which superficially lack attitude predicates.

This talk presents preliminary results of an ongoing cross-linguistic investigation of adjunct clauses exploring the structural underpinnings of their interpretation by leveraging (i) the fact that such clauses can routinely host logophors, and (ii) the complex interpretive perspectival effects they give rise to.

Using the case study of English causal clauses introduced by *because* or *since*, I show that:

(i) adjunct clauses can be oriented towards superordinate referents such as an event participant, the speaker or an attitude holder;

(ii) the interpretation of perspectival elements contained in adjunct clauses finely depends on the level of attachment of these clauses.

I will propose an explanation of these observations in two steps.

First, a *because*- or *since*-clause expresses a causal relation that must by definition be claimed by a reasoning individual, a causal judge. To explain the constraints on who this causal judge can be, I motivate the hypothesis that causal subordinators like *because* are relativized to a syntactically expressed (causal) judge, which must be locally bound.

Second, an examination of the referential constraints on logophoric (and other perspectival) elements within the adjunct clause shows that just like clausal complements of attitude verbs, such causal adjuncts contain a syntactically represented logophoric operator in their left periphery, which constrains the referential options of logophors (and other perspectival elements) in the adjunct clause, and which is in turn referentially dependent on the causal judge.

The case of *because*- and *since*-clauses thus illustrates how perspectival effects can shed light on the rich syntactic and interpretive structure of adjunct clauses.