Comparative Approaches to the Diachronic Morpho-Syntax of the Indigenous Languages of North and Central America

SECOND Call for Papers Workshop – 4 June 2019 – Arizona State University

The diachronic study of indigenous languages has been challenging because of the limitations of earlier material. However, a lot of work done in order to understand the synchrony of a construction has also informed diachrony. Comparative work on different languages in the same family has helped reconstruct earlier stages, for example, Kroeber’s (1999) and Davis’ (2005) work on negatives followed by clausal complements in Salish and Langacker’s (1977) reconstruction of Uto-Aztecan phenomena which uses comparative data to find earlier stages. Munro (1976) and Gordon (1986), while synchronic, provide many reconstructions for Yuman. Mithun (2016) is another illustration of how comparative data can shed light on changes in a variety of phenomena, such as negatives, pronominals, demonstratives, and distributives. Also, Rice (2008) applies a comparative approach to noun incorporation in Athabaskan. A somewhat different approach to the diachronic questions is to employ internal reconstruction, for example, Givón (2000) gives a possible diachrony of the Tolowa Athabaskan verb complex.

The purpose of the workshop is to show how synchronic or diachronic comparative research can inform the diachronic morpho-syntax of indigenous languages. With these languages, it is especially hard to separate syntax from morphology and, comparing languages in one family, the syntax is seen to ‘become’ morphology (Givón 1971). The theoretical framework for the workshop is open.

The workshop will be held on 4 June 2019 before the Diachronic Generative Syntax conference (5-7 June 2019) with which it will share a registration website.

Keynote speaker for the Workshop

Pamela Munro, UCLA

Abstracts for the workshop are invited for 30-minute presentations (followed by 10 minutes of discussion). Abstracts must not exceed two pages in length, including examples and references (12 pt font). Submission is limited to one single-authored and one co-authored abstract per author, or two co-
authored abstracts, whether for the main conference or for the workshop, or both. Abstracts must be anonymous.

Abstracts for the workshop should be sent to ellyvangelden@asu.edu.

Registration details: TBA
NEW deadline for submission: 18 February 2019
Organizing Committee: Elly van Gelderen, Johanna Wood, and Angela Schrader.

If you have questions or comments, please contact ellyvangelden@asu.edu

References