Séance scientifique du laboratoire HTL

organisée par Otto Zwartjes (UP/ HTL)

Project : Revitalising Older Linguistic Documentation (ROLD)

21 mai 2021. 14h00-16h30 (Zoom)

La morphologie chez quelques grammairiens de langues non-européennes des 19ᵉ et 20ᵉ siècles : Quatre études de cas de trois continents : Afrique (wolof), les Amériques (tupí-guaraní, langues mésoaméricaines), et Asie (kiranti). Approaches to morphology in 19th and 20th century grammars of non-European languages. Four case studies from three continents: Africa (Wolof), the Americas (Tupi-Guarani, Mesoamerican languages) and Asia (Kiranti).

14h00- 14h05	Presentation (Otto Zwartjes, Université de Paris, HTL)
14h05- 14h35	**Maximilien Guérin** (CNRS/ HTL): "L'étude du système verbal en wolof : entre savoir cumulatif et oppositions théoriques". **Résumé** L'étude du système verbal en wolof : entre savoir cumulatif et oppositions théoriques Le wolof est une langue sénégambienne appartenant à la famille atlantique du phylum Niger-Congo. La bibliographie sur le wolof est relativement abondante, surtout en ce qui concerne la morphologie verbale et le système verbal en général. L'objectif de cette présentation est de faire un bilan critique de l'histoire des descriptions et des études du wolof, en se centrant sur l'un des aspects les plus étudiés : le système verbal. Cet état des lieux tend à présenter un panorama scientifique éclaté entre plusieurs écoles théoriques et traditions académiques.
14h35- 15h05	**Fernando Orphão de Carvalho** (Universidade Federal do Amapá, Brésil): "Traditions in the study of Tupi-Guarani languages: The 'relational morpheme' analysis of apophonic consonants" **Abstract** I will deal with differing (and changing) accounts of what could be described (in more neutral terms) as apophonic consonants in stem-initial position, a phenomenon found throughout Tupi-Guarani languages. I will discuss how the current orthodox account that analyses these elements as morphemes has taken shape, basically by incorporating the structuralist notion of *zero morpheme* within a previous approach more in line with traditional grammar. Although it can be described 'neutrally' in morpho-phonological terms, the apophonic consonants resemble Celtic consonant mutations in being somewhat grammaticalized and are related to the expression of verbal argument and to the functioning of the person-hierarchy for argument-indexing in Tupi-Guarani languages (to the extent that some authors have analyzed some of these consonants as 'inverse markers').
15h05-15h15	**Break**

15h15- 15h45	**Justin Case** (University of Ottawa) and **Otto Zwartjes** (UP, HTL): "A lively reaction to Eliot's "discovery" of animacy in grammar?: A comparative survey of treatments of animacy-related morphology in 19th-century grammars of Latin America". **Abstract** "Animacy" as a livelier topic in 19th-century Amerindian grammars than it might appear - A comparative vision of the treatments of grammatical animacy in the grammars of North and Meso-American native languages in the 19th century. In the prolific works of DuPonceau, he considers the description of grammatical animacy in the Massachusetts grammar of Eliot (1666) as a novel discovery in linguistic analysis. Both Eliot's conception of animacy along the lines of grammatical gender, at a par with the gender systems in various languages of Europe, and his terminology paved the path for typological inquiry into the role that animacy status has in many components of grammar which is still relevant to this day. It is curious however, that DuPonceau fails to acknowledge the treatment of animacy distinctions in the grammars of Meso-American indigenous languages, despite overly recognizing these grammars in other parts of his work. Our talk compares the North American conception and theorization of grammatical animacy with that of its lesser known counterpart in Meso-America: e.g., Mazahua, P'urépecha (Basalenque), Nahuatl, Zapotec (Córdoba).
15h45- 16h15	**Aimée Lahaussois** (CNRS/ HTL): "Descriptions of TAM in Kiranti languages 1850's-1980's". **Abstract** Grammatical descriptions and their rich verbal morphology begin in the mid-19th century with two sketches by Hodgson (1857a; 1857b; 1858), but there is little novel descriptive work for the following century: sketches in the Linguistic Survey of India (Grierson 1909) are largely based on Hodgson's data, those by Wolfenden (1933; 1934; 1935) are very brief and appear to be based on a single specimen text in each language. A period of more active descriptive work picks up in the late 1960's, with descriptions of Khaling (Toba 1973; Toba 1984), Thulung (Allen 1975), Limbu (van Driem 1987), Hayu (Michailovsky 1988), Dumi (van Driem 1993), then followed by a glut of work (much of it by students of van Driem) through the 1990's and 2000's. While the historical record on these languages is not particularly rich, the existence of grammars written over a 150-year time span nonetheless allows us to track the evolution of certain grammatical categories. This presentation focuses on the presentation of Tense, Aspect and Mood in these descriptions, looking at the terminology that is used and how similar material receives different treatment at different points over the time frame under discussion. I will begin with a presentation of how the TAM material is currently described for Kiranti languages, in order to provide a frame of reference, and then discuss how the same verbal morphology has been treated in the period from the 1850's until the 1980's.
16h15- 16h45	*Discussion*