The Development of Progressive Constructions in Germanic and Romance Languages

Open Questions and Current Research

Online workshop organised by Alessandro Carlucci and Jerzy Nykiel
University of Bergen (UiB)
- - -24 September 2021- - -

9.00 Room opens

9.15 Welcome and short introduction

Chair: Dagmar Haumann (UiB)

9.30 Teresa Fanego (University of Santiago de Compostela), English progressive(s) and the typological shift from bounded to unbounded discourse

10.00 Gjertrud Stenbrenden (Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences), Progressive aspect in English: Developments in early Middle English

10.30 Rebecka Nordenlöw (Jesus College, University of Cambridge), The loss of being + V-ing

11.00 Coffee break

Chair: Alessandro Carlucci (UiB)

11.20 Jerzy Nykiel (UiB), Factors behind the incipient grammaticalization of the progressive constructions alternative to be + V-ing in English

11.50 Leela Azorin (Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris-Saclay) and Laure Lansari (University of Paris), How progressive is the new construction gonna + progressive infinitive?

12.20 Paula Rautionaho (Tampere University), Revisiting the myth of stative progressives in world Englishes

12.50-14.00 Lunch break
Chair: Kari Kinn (UiB)

14.00 **Koenraad De Smedt** (UiB), Progressive aspect in Norwegian: A preliminary corpus study

14.30 **Christopher Pountain** (Queen Mary, University of London), The Spanish progressives: Linguistic exploitation of a maverick category?

15.00 Short break

Chair: Koenraad De Smedt (UiB)

15.15 **Stefano Ondelli** (University of Trieste), The progressive construction *stare* + gerund in the Italian novel 1800-2000

15.45 **Lorella Viola** (University of Luxembourg), “I’m just feeling like it”. On the relationship between the use of the progressive and sentiment polarity in Italian

16.15-17.00 General discussion

*The organisers*

**Alessandro Carlucci** (PhD) is a Research Fellow at the University of Bergen and an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford. He is also a consultant to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. His articles have appeared in *Language Sciences*, *Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie*, *Cahiers Ferdinand de Saussure*, *Modern Language Review*, *Lingua Nostra* and many other journals. He is the author of *The Impact of the English Language in Italy: Linguistic Outcomes and Political Implications* (Lincom, 2018) and *Gramsci and Languages: Unification, Diversity, Hegemony* (Brill, 2013; Haymarket, 2015).

**Jerzy Nykiel** holds a PhD in English Linguistics from the University of Silesia and is an Associate Professor at the University of Bergen. His main research interests are historical morphosyntax, grammaticalization and linguistic cycles. He has investigated the grammaticalization of purpose clause subordinators across the history of English. He has argued for analogy motivated grammaticalization and incipient grammaticalization with adverbial clause subordinators. He has also combined formal and functionalist approaches in his work on the definiteness cycle in the history of English.
The speakers

Leela Azorin is a student at the Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris-Saclay. She wrote her master’s thesis on “a case-study of grammaticalization: gonna in a web-based corpus” at the University of Paris. She has recently obtained a PhD grant entitled “From be going to to gonna: a comparison between a web-based corpus and a spoken corpus” at Aix-Marseille University and the University of Paris, under the supervision of Prof. Sophie Herment and Dr Laure Lansari.

Koenraad De Smedt is Professor of Computational Linguistics at the University of Bergen. He studied linguistics at the University of Antwerpen, received his PhD from the University of Nijmegen and also worked at Leiden University before moving to Bergen in 1995. He is currently the national coordinator of CLARINO, the Norwegian infrastructure for language resources and technology. Besides his involvement in research infrastructure and in researcher training networks, his professional interests are in language technology, grammar, corpus linguistics, treebanking and psycholinguistics (for more information, see https://www.uib.no/en/persons/desmedt).

Teresa Fanego has been Full Professor of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Santiago de Compostela since 1990, where she directs the Research Unit Variation, Linguistic Change and Grammaticalization. Her work examines processes of language change from the perspective of cognitive and constructional models of grammar, focusing in particular on Shakespeare’s English, sentential complement constructions, the expression of motion events, the emergence of new periphrases of aspect and modality and developments in legal discourse. The most recent publications in these fields include, among others, “A construction of independent means: the history of the Way construction revisited” (English Language and Linguistics 23, 2019), Corpus-based Research on Variation in English Legal Discourse (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2019), “On the history of the English progressive construction Jane came whistling down the street” (Journal of English Linguistics 48, 2020) and “Don’t go getting into trouble again!: the emergence and diachrony of the English Go VPing construction” (Journal of Historical Pragmatics 22, 2021).

Laure Lansari is an Associate Professor at the University of Paris. Her areas of expertise are tense, aspect, modality and evidentiality in English and French from a semantic-pragmatic perspective. She has recently published a monograph on discourse markers derived from be going to and aller + infinitive in English and French.

Rebecka Nordenlöw is originally from Stockholm. She completed her BA of English literature, with electives in linguistics, at the University of Cambridge (2017-2020) before starting her MPhil in the autumn of 2020. Rebecka’s paper is based on her thesis for the Master of Philosophy in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at the University of Cambridge, Jesus College.

Stefano Ondelli is Professor of Italian Linguistics at the University of Trieste, Italy (sondelli@units.it). He has published on L2 Italian and Italian for special purposes: the language of the law and public administration, political communication, newspapers, European Union, translators and interpreters. His main methodological approaches include corpus linguistics and the automatic analysis of textual data. He is currently involved in an EU COST Action on Distant Reading for European Literary History.
Christopher J. Pountain is Emeritus Professor of Spanish Linguistics at Queen Mary, University of London, and also a Life Fellow of Queens’ College, University of Cambridge. He has published over 50 articles in the field of the history of the Romance languages and is the author of A History of the Spanish Language through Texts (London: Routledge, 2001) and Exploring the Spanish Language (second edition, London: Arnold, 2016), as well as being co-author of several Spanish pedagogical works. Together with Bozena Wislocka Breit, he has recently edited New Worlds for Old Words: The Impact of Cultured Borrowing on the Languages of Western Europe (Wilmington and Malaga: Vernon Press, 2021).

Paula Rautionaho (PhD) is interested in grammatical variation in world Englishes, especially the progressive construction, from the point of view of variationist corpus linguistics. She has published several articles and book chapters on the progressive vs. non-progressive alternation, which are listed on her homepage at https://sites.google.com/view/paula-rautionaho/.

Gjertrud F. Stenbrenden is Professor of English Language at the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences; she previously worked for 15 years at the University of Oslo. She is a historical phonologist, who has published on the Great Vowel Shift and other phonological changes in the history of English, as well as on the relationship between spelling and sound, and on cross-linguistic differences between laterals in modern English, Norwegian and German. She has taught a wide variety of courses in English Language.

Lorella Viola holds a PhD in Language and Communication Studies from the University of East Anglia, UK and she is currently Research Associate in Linguistics and Digital Humanities at the University of Luxembourg. Her research focusses on the development of critical, data-driven methodologies that can assist researchers to explore large textual repositories. She is interested in the relationship between language, media and society, processes of migration and migrants’ representation, and language change through the lens of pragmatics and discourse. She also researches how software can enable critical digital humanities practice by embedding the active role of the researcher in the process of knowledge production in a digital environment.

The chairpersons

Dagmar Haumann is Professor of English Linguistics at the Department of Foreign Languages, University of Bergen (https://www.uib.no/en/persons/Dagmar.Haumann).

Kari Kinn is an Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies at the University of Bergen (https://www.uib.no/en/persons/Kari.Kinn).