

Logical Operators: Theory and Acquisition

The workshop *Logical Operators: Theory and Acquisition* will be held as part of the 8th edition of *The Bucharest Colloquium of Language Acquisition (BUCLA 2023)*.

The workshop is dedicated to logical operators in natural language, both from a theoretical perspective as well as from a language acquisition perspective. Typical examples of operators involve negation, conjunction, disjunction, implication, quantification, modality. While these operators have received attention in logic as early as Aristotle, in linguistics there has been an increased interest in the natural language correspondents of such operators ever since the seminal work of Horn (1972) and Grice (1975, 1989), who approached them from a semantic as well as a pragmatic perspective. For instance, a sentence such as *John ate an apple or a pear yesterday* can be understood in two ways: semantically, as *John ate an apple or a pear or possibly both* (inclusive reading), or pragmatically, as *John ate an apple or a pear, but not both* (exclusive reading). There has been a lot of debate concerning the source of the second reading, with some (Horn, 1972, Gazdar, 1979, Grice 1975, 1989, Levinson, 2000)) claiming that it is derived by observing maxims of cooperativeness in communication, and others (Chierchia 2004, Chierchia, Fox & Spector 2012, a.o.) claiming that it is derived grammatically via processes such as exhaustification, which involves strengthening meaning by negating the stronger Hornian alternative with 'and' (*John ate an apple and a pear*). We are interested in such theoretical discussion for scales such as *<and, or>*, *<all, some>*, *<must, might>*, a.o..

Additionally, we are interested in how these logical operators are acquired by children. Noveck's (2001) seminal work on implicatures argues that children start off with a semantic interpretation and later on develop a pragmatic ability to interpret sentences. However, some have argued that children can even start off with a completely different semantics from adults, taking, for instance, disjunction to be ambiguous between conjunction and disjunction (Tieu et al. 2017, Sauerland & Yatsushiro 2018), or double negation in standard English to be an instance of negative concord rather than an instance of semantic negation (Thornton et al. 2016).

We welcome experimental papers employing various methodologies (act-out tasks, truth value judgment tasks, eye-tracking, story-telling, a.o.) to investigate logical operators in natural language (first and second language acquisition, language processing, online and offline methodological issues, a.o.). We also welcome corpus and theoretical work which provides new insights into the interpretation of logical operators.

We invite abstracts for 30-minute talks (with a 10-minute discussion included). Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words in a font size no less than 12pt, with an additional page including examples, figures and references. Abstracts should be anonymous. Contact details (author's name and affiliation) and the title of the presentation should be included in the accompanying email.

Please send your abstract (in pdf format) to bucla8@lils.unibuc.ro

Important Dates:

Deadline for submissions: 31 July 2023

Notification of acceptance: 15 September 2023

Workshop: November 17-18, 2023

Invited speakers

Anton Benz (ZAS Berlin)

Lyn Tieu (University of Toronto)

Organizing committee/Scientific committee

Adina Camelia Bleotu (University of Bucharest)

Gabriela Bilbîie (University of Bucharest)

Monica Casa (University of Bucharest)

Rodica Ivan (Acuity Insights)

Andreea Nicolae (ZAS Berlin)

Mara Panaitescu (University of Bucharest)

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