AG 13: Anaphoric uses of demonstrative expressions

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In many languages, demonstrative expressions such as German *der, dieser, jener* and English *this* and *that* have – in addition to their familiar deictic uses – anaphoric uses, on which they refer to objects introduced not in the utterance situation, but rather in the preceding discourse. In recent years increasing attention has been paid to these "anaphoric demonstratives" by formal, functional, computational and corpus linguistic researchers. In this workshop we propose to bring these researchers together to investigate the properties of anaphoric demonstratives in a cross-linguistic and interdisciplinary setting, comparing them with other more prototypically anaphoric expressions, such as pronouns, reflexives, definite noun phrases and logophoric expressions and cataloguing their unique properties.

Like pronouns, anaphoric demonstratives can be both coreferential and bound (King 2001). But anaphoric demonstratives have been shown to evidence subtle interpretive differences with respect to pronouns. While earlier work emphasized the specific referential status of anaphoric demonstratives and their role in discourse processing (e.g., Ehlich 1982 and Gundel et al. 1993), recent studies have focussed on grammatical properties of the antecedents (Kaiser & Trueswell 2005; Bosch et. al. 2003), showing that cross-linguistically demonstratives have a preference for non-subject antecedents (as illustrated in (1)).

(1) $Paul_1$ wollte mit $Peter_2$ laufen gehen. Aber {$er_{1/2}$ / $der_{*1/2}$ } war erkältet.

Demonstratives are also highly preferred over pronouns to refer anaphorically to facts or propositions introduced in a discourse.

(2) Paul bestellte einen Schnaps. {Das / ??Es} ärgerte Peter.

(3) Paul ordered a schnapps. {That / ??It} bothered Peter.

We expect that discussion of these and other contrasts, in the context of a focussed study of anaphoric demonstratives, will shed significant light on general processes of anaphoric reference, anaphora resolution, and the cross-linguistic variation in these processes. We are particularly interested in submissions in which studies of usage and psycholinguistic experimentation play a role, in addition to more traditional work on the syntax and semantics of anaphoric demonstratives, such as their binding properties and the relationship to deictic uses, as well as in typological study.

References:
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