



PROGRAM

Illinois Language and Linguistics Society 2: Novel Technologies and Methodologies in Linguistics Research

May 28-30, 2010
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Welcome to ILLS 2!

On behalf of the Conference Committee, the Linguistics Student Organization, and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, welcome to the second annual meeting of Illinois Language and Linguistics Society. We hope to emulate the success seen in the first year of this student-run conference. This year, we continue to work with ATLAS to stream the conference live over the internet, making it possible for scholars to participate from anywhere in the world. Without their expertise, the very nature of this conference would not be possible.

We would also like thank the members of the Linguistics Student Organization who offered up their time in helping to make this conference run smoothly. We appreciate the support and advice provided by faculty of the Linguistics Department.

Financially, this conference would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors: The School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics (SLCL), Asian American Studies Program, The Center for African Studies (US Department of Education Title VI grant), The Center for Translation Studies, The Cognitive Science/Artificial Intelligence Committee, The College of Education, The Departments of Classics, English, Linguistics, Psychology, Slavic Languages and Literatures, The European Union Center (US Department of Education Title VI grant), French@Illinois, The Neuroscience Program, Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE), and the Student Organization Resource Fee (SORF).

And finally, of course this conference would not be possible without our invited speakers, presenters, and conference participants. We hope that all will find this as an opportunity for enrichment and a forum for the sharing of ideas.

Tim Mahrt, Megan Osfar, Vandana Puri, and Kevin Stillwell, co-organizers

ILLS 2 Conference Committee:

Tania Ionin (faculty advisor)
Jennifer Cramer
Matt Garley
Jill Hallett
Amanda Huensch
Eunah Kim
Karen Lichtman
Liam Moran
Lisa Pierce
Erin Rusaw
Benjamin Slade

Schedule of Events

Please note that all times listed are in Central Daylight Time (CDT).

Friday, May 28

8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration

Pastries from Pekara Bakery

9:00 - 9:15 AM Opening Remarks

9:15 - 10:15 AM Invited Lecture

Computational methods for inferring evolutionary histories of languages

Dr. Tandy Warnow, University of Texas at Austin

10:15 - 10:30 AM Break

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Session 1: Phonology 1

Articulatory Phonetics Workshop: Aerodynamics and EPG

Dr. Ryan Shosted, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Computing Potential Feeding and Bleeding Relations

Nicholas Williams, University of Wisconsin at Madison

Towards quantifying lenition in Ondarroan Basque

Eman Saadah, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch

Lunchboxes from Michael's Catering at the conference site.

1:00 - 2:30 PM Session 2: Syntax

Optionality in Cairene Arabic wh-questions between the Minimalist Program and Optimality Theory

Kariema El-Touny, Women College, Ein Shams University

Mathematical transformations in syntactic theory

Rebecca Santini, California State University, Northridge

Measuring cognitive load in sentence processing by analyzing postural sway

John Jang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2:30 - 2:45 PM Break

2:45 - 3:45 PM **Session 2: Syntax**

Repurposing Bible translations for grammar sketches

*Paul M. Heider, Adam Hatfield, and Jennifer Wilson, State University
of New York at Buffalo*

Acquisition of wh-question formation by Korean-English bilingual children:

The role of person

Sunny K. Park, Purdue University

3:45 - 4:00 PM Break

4:00 - 5:00 PM **Invited Lecture**

Finding the edge of Merge: The nature of judgments and their role in biolinguistics

Dr. Wayne Cowart, University of Southern Maine

5:30 - 8:00 PM Dinner

Reception at the Bread Company.

Saturday, May 29

8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration

Pastries from Mirabelle Fine Pastry.

9:00 - 10:00 AM Invited Lecture

Interpretation tasks in the investigation of native and interlanguage grammars

Dr. Tania Ionin, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

10:00 - 10:15 AM Break

10:15 - 11:45 AM Session 4: Computational Linguistics

Studying human interactions in user generated on-line data

Dr. Roxana Girju and Chen Li, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Methods for automatically identifying anglicisms in a German-language internet forum corpus

Matt Garley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Students' achievement on impromptu writing test versus interactive writing assessment through feedback exchange

Fakhri Shariati, Islamic Azad University Najafabad

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Lunch

ALAI (Ayudando a Latinos a Aprender Ingles) Mexican Buffet at the conference site

12:45 - 2:45 PM Session 5: Phonology 2: EMA

EMA workshop

Dr. Chilin Shih, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

An articulatory study of the Mandarin low vowel [a] Comparing native and non-native speech

Chen-huei Wu and Dr. Chilin Shih, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Lip rounding as an enhancing gesture in Taiwan Mandarin retroflexes

Shawn Yung-hsiang Chang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Testing articulatory phonology: Variation in gestures for coda /t/

Karen Lichtman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2:45 - 3:00 PM Break

3:00 - 5:00 PM **Session 6: Applied Linguistics**

Can blogging promote language learners' autonomy?

Nurenzia Yannuar, Ohio University

Differential object marking in L2 Spanish learners with and without prior
DOM knowledge

Alyssa Martoccio, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The effect of Iranian EFL learners' cultural knowledge on their performance on
cloze tests

*Fereshteh Sharafi, Najaf Abad University and Dr. Hossein Barati,
Isfahan University*

Separating truth from felicity in a study on scalar implicatures

Andrew Hinderlinter, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

5:30 - 8:00 PM Dinner

Reception buffet at Basil Thai

Sunday, May 30

8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration

Pastries from Panara Bread.

9:00 - 10:00 AM Invited Lecture

Interlocution, individuality and the emergence of linguistic structure

Dr. Bryan Gick, University of British Columbia

10:00 - 10:15 AM Break

10:15 - 11:15 AM Session 7: Sociolinguistics

Language and social interaction in the virtual space of World of Warcraft

Erin Rusaw, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Political argumentation in media: A critical discourse analysis of politeness in the

Iranian Left vs. Right wing political encounter in the wake of 2009 presidential elections

Dr. Keivan Zahedi and Mahboubeh Taghizadeh, Shahid Beheshti University

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Lunch

Lunch from Classic Events at the conference site.

12:15 - 2:45 PM Session 8: Phonology 3

Asymmetries between production and perception of consonant length

Olga Dmitrieva, Stanford University

Ultrasound Workshop

Dr. Bryan Gick, University of British Columbia

What's up with that name? The effect of vowel height on perception of character likability

Jonas Wittke, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Cross-derivational feeding is epiphenomenal

Kyle Gorman and Josef Fruehwald, University of Pennsylvania

Web-based perceptual training for novel phonemes

Lisa Pierce and Tim Mahrt, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2:45 PM Conference End

Keynote Presenters

Finding the edge of merge: The nature of judgments and their role in biolinguistics

Wayne Cowart, University of Southern Maine

One way to see a biological approach to the study of natural language is to look at it as a contribution to the study of the broader human conceptual system. This talk begins with a brief sketch of that system, considers how the study of language might benefit from being seen in relation to that system, and how formal experimental assessment of linguistic intuitions might contribute to such an effort. Some applications of experimental approaches to judgments in two areas are considered: the analysis of coordinate structures, and the assessment of processing contributions to judged acceptability. This leads to a consideration of the means by which speakers form judgments and the role of this capacity in the ordinary acquisition, maintenance, and use of the linguistic system.

Wayne Cowart is a Professor of Linguistics at the Southern University of Maine, as well as the Linguistics department chair. His research interests include the psychology and biology of language and the philosophy of mind. He is well published in top Linguistics journals and is the author of *Experimental Syntax: Applying objective methods to sentence judgments* (Sage, 1997), the authoritative text on this important and evolving subject. He is a reviewer for the National Science Foundation.

Interlocution, individuality and the emergence of linguistic structure

Bryan Gick, University of British Columbia

This talk will cover a range of topics ranging from tactile speech perception to physiological constraints on speech motor behavior, all demonstrating the individuality with which we approach and create language through interlocution. Phonological representation will be described in terms of emergent abstract categories that are continually updated throughout a speaker's lifetime, defining the phonetics-phonology interface via a process referred to as reemergence. Experimental data from an ultrasound study of English flap/tap allophones will show continual categorical decision-making during production of everyday words. Uncertainty will be discussed as an important factor in the updating of categories (strategy shift). Finally, individual variation is identified as an essential area of empirical investigation providing a window into this process of interaction between the real and the abstract in language.

Bryan Gick is an Associate Professor in Linguistics at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He conducts research within the areas of phonetics and phonology, with a particular focus on the development of techniques of inquiry using various technologies. His thesis explored the use of Electromagnetic Articulography(EMA) and his publications since then have used a wide variety array of tools including EMA, MRI, X-ray, and electropalatography, with a focus on ultrasound in recent years. He is the co-author of *Articulatory Phonetics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

Interpretation tasks in the investigation of native and interlanguage grammars

Tania Ionin, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

This talk gives an overview of interpretation task methodologies commonly used in experimental research on phenomena at the syntax/semantics interface. Particular attention is given to truth-value judgment tasks; other tasks discussed include context-based acceptability judgment tasks, picture-matching tasks, and act-out tasks. While many interpretation tasks originate in research with child first language learners (Gordon 1996, Gerken & Shady 1996, Crain & Thornton 1998, Schmitt & Miller in press), this talk focuses on how these tasks are used in research with adults, both native speakers and second language learners. I discuss the rationale behind each task, the advantages and disadvantages of each task, and the possible applications of each task. I also show how each task format has been used to investigate article semantics in native and interlanguage grammars. The following examples are discussed: use of truth-value judgment tasks to investigate the interpretation of English definite plurals as generic vs. specific (Ionin and Montrul 2009, in press), as well as to investigate the availability of long-distance scope readings of English indefinites (Ionin, in press); use of context-based acceptability judgment tasks to investigate the conditions on the use of singular definite and indefinite generics in English (Ionin, Montrul, Kim and Philippov, under review); use of picture-matching tasks to investigate the preferred interpretation of articles in possession constructions, in English and Spanish (Montrul and Ionin, in press); and use of act-out drawing tasks to investigate the differences in the interpretation of definite and demonstrative descriptions (Ionin, Baek, Kim, Ko and Wexler 2010). It is shown that all tasks have their advantages as well as limitations, and that the same phenomena (such as interpretation of definite determiners) can be approached using different interpretation methodologies, depending on the research question.

Tania Ionin is an Associate Professor in Linguistics at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Her focus is on Second Language Acquisition and the interface between semantics and syntax. Her widely-cited work on the acquisition of article semantics uses rigorous experimental methods to examine learners' intuitions, and connects these findings to semantic universals and linguistic theories. Prof. Ionin promotes the use of experimental syntax through her courses on research design for language study and child-adult comparisons in SLA.

Computational methods for inferring evolutionary histories of languages

Tandy Warnow, University of Texas at Austin

Languages evolve through what is called "genetic descent", but also through lateral transfer, and distinguishing between the two can be difficult. In this talk I will describe the work that our group is doing modeling language evolution so as to be able to estimate exchange between languages in contact, and the methods we have developed for inferring evolutionary histories including borrowing. I will also describe our analysis of Indo-European using our new methods. We pose a stochastic model of language evolution in which characters evolve with genetic descent and borrowing, but without back mutation or parallel evolution, and develop a computational method ("Perfect Phylogenetic Networks") to estimate evolutionary histories under this model. Our analysis of Indo-European shows distinctly different patterns of evolutionary history than have been estimated using other techniques, and indicates that Indo-European evolved in a fairly treelike fashion, but with three borrowing events.

This is joint work with Donald Ringe (University of Pennsylvania), Luay Nakhleh (Rice University), and Steven Evans (University of California at Berkeley). The talk will mostly draw upon material published in the following publications:

1) A comparison of phylogenetic reconstruction methods on an IE dataset, L. Nakhleh et al., *Transactions of the Philological Society*, 2005.

2) Perfect phylogenetic networks: a new methodology for reconstructing the evolutionary history of natural languages. L. Nakhleh, et al. *Language*, 2005.

Tandy Warnow is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research interests include evolutionary history methodology and algorithms which entails the use of machine learning techniques to produce the evolutionary history of natural phenomena—including the evolution of language. As director of the Cyber-Infrastructure for Phylogenetic Research (CIPR), she is a leader in this area of research. She has over ninety publications to her name under the domain of mathematics, algorithms, and phylogenetics.

Presentation Abstracts

Lip rounding as an enhancing gesture in Taiwan Mandarin retroflexes

Shawn Yung-hsiang Chang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Some Taiwan Mandarin speakers are thought to compromise between the tongue configurations of dental/alveolar sibilants (/s, ts, ts^h/) and their retroflex counterparts (/ʂ, tʂ, tʂ^h/). However, acoustic studies of Taiwan Mandarin sibilants show a significant contrast between the subjects' retroflex and non-retroflex productions. Since the acoustic pattern of retroflexion can be similarly achieved by lip rounding, this paper proposes that lip rounding may be used as an enhancing gesture in case of less retroflex articulations or simply to enhance the acoustic properties of retroflexion.

This paper examines the articulatory data obtained from four Taiwan Mandarin native speakers with Electromagnetic Articulography (EMA). The results show that two subjects had statistically significant difference between the retroflex and non-retroflex articulations in terms of lip rounding. This place contrast was reflected in the acoustic measurement as well. Therefore, Steven et al's (2004) claim that lip rounding as an enhancing gesture in Mandarin alveolar-retroflex contrast is avoided is not supported in this study. In addition, we also found that enhancement was not implemented in all vowel contexts in which the retroflex feature occurs, as additional rounding in the production of a retroflex followed by a rounded vowel may not be perceptually salient.

Asymmetries between production and perception of consonant length

Olga Dmitrieva, Stanford University

In this study consonant length is examined from the point of view of the asymmetries between their production and perception and what these asymmetries can tell us about possible reasons for the tendencies in the crosslinguistic distribution of long consonants.

Across languages long consonants are preferred in certain positions over others: predominantly intervocalically and after stressed vowels. In the experiment with speakers of Russian, American English, and Italian the perceptual boundary between long and short consonants was identified for consonants in pre-stress, post-stress, and no-stress positions, as well as intervocalic vs. preconsonantal and word-initial vs. word-final.

Average duration of the singletons and geminates in these positions was also measured for these languages. The results showed that in the phonetic environments favored crosslinguistically for consonant length contrast (e.g. intervocalic, post-stress) perceptual boundary between singletons and geminates tended to occur earlier on the durational continuum relative to the average consonant duration in the corresponding position. The observed differences between the languages with and without phonemic consonant length suggest an effect of language experience on the categorization of the stimuli. Possible explanations for this perceptual phenomenon are discussed, together with the implications for the stability of consonant length contrast in different phonetic environments.

Optionality in Cairene Arabic wh-questions between the Minimalist Program and Optimality Theory

Kariema El-Touny, Women College, Ein Shams University

WH- questions in Cairene Arabic (CA) have two distinct constructions for asking the same question: one with the wh- phrase In- situ and the other with the wh- phrase In- Spec- CP. This Optionality is dealt with distinctly by two competing approaches: the Minimalist Program (MP) and Optimality Theory (OT). MP claims that wh- movement occurs to check uninterpretable features; while OT claims that the optimal candidate incurs as few violations as possible with the higher- ranked constraints satisfied.

In a number of other languages such as Iraqi Arabic (Wahba 1991) and Hindi (Simpson 2000), MP's approach is purely syntactic where the WH- phrases carry a WH- feature which is checked in any position m- commanded by a +Q Comp. I'm proposing an OT analysis where it relies on incorporating both Syntactic and Discourse- related constraints to account for optional word order (Samek- Lodovici 1998 and 2005, Costa 2001). This talk investigates CA as an In- situ and In- Spec-CP language and argues that OT fails to account for this phenomenon on purely syntactic grounds.

Ultrasound workshop

Dr. Bryan Gick, University of British Columbia

Ultrasound imaging provides a powerful tool for field and laboratory research of speech production. Some strengths and weaknesses of ultrasound will be discussed, as will practical and theoretical issues concerning its applications to phonetics and phonology. Participants will have the opportunity to see and use a SonoSite Titan portable ultrasound machine.

Methods for automatically identifying anglicisms in a German-language internet forum corpus

Matt Garley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In this presentation, I cover ongoing quantitative diachronic and synchronic analyses of anglicisms (English borrowings or loanwords) in a 15 million word corpus from the German-language hip hop Internet forums at MZEE.com. While I am studying sociolinguistic factors by pairing this analysis with a real-life ethnography of German hip hop fans, the primary challenges I discuss here are the production of a classifier that can automatically identify anglicisms in large corpora, and the development of methods for testing the efficacy of such a classifier.

Anglicisms, which I define here as single- or multi-word borrowings from English, are intuitively easy to identify for a bilingual human tagger. However, there are a great number of challenges to overcome in the production of a machine classifier, which is necessary for the analysis of large amounts of data. These difficulties are compounded in relatively noisy and typo-prone forum data, and one of the major challenges is the treatment of borrowings which are compounded with German words like *Rapvollpfosten*, ‘rap dumbass’ or have gained German morphology like *batteln* ‘to battle’, *realste* ‘realst/most real’, and *verpoppung* ‘becoming pop (pop music)’.

Studying human interactions in user generated on-line data

Dr. Roxana Girju and Chen Li, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Reciprocity is a relation of mutual dependence, action or influence (cf. WordNet (Fellbaum 1998)), which is a potential source of deep analysis of interactions in a social network. In this study, we extend our previous work (Paul, Girju, Li, 2009 CoNLL), addressing the automatic linguistic reciprocity based analysis of social interactions in dynamic on-line data sources conceptually based on linguistic reciprocity, in the context of graph based study of on-line social network.

In the previous study, we devised a method for reliably locating reciprocities, using simple and high-precision pronoun templates, and ranked through a novel, recursively defined scoring system. Here, testing on crawled on-line datasets, we extend this method to locate reciprocities within discourse contexts, using more diverse and highly specific linguistic features. We automated the annotation of named entities, and performed co-reference resolution, both customized for the structure and writing style of web-forums, creating highly specific templates, hence increasing matching reliability. The higher reliability then allowed us to pair eventualities from distant parts of a discourse context with reasonable precision. These gave us more flexible and performant reciprocity discovery, which is useful in studying social networks in these on-line forums.

Cross-derivational feeding is epiphenomenal

Kyle Gorman and Josef Fruehwald, University of Pennsylvania

The following interaction is extremely common across the world's languages:

(1) Epenthesis occurs between "sufficiently similar" segments, segments which are identical except for some set of features F (2) There is surface-true assimilation of the features F, but it is bleb by epenthesis

This is observed, e.g., in the phonologically-general allomorphy of the English past tense /-d/ and noun plural /-z/ suffixes. Baković (2005, 2007, in press) argues that a rule-based account of this pattern (Reiss, 2003) misses a generalization, and proposes that the ultimate force in this pattern is geminate avoidance. Epenthesis occurs between non-identical consonants, however, because assimilation would cause them to become geminates. This is implemented in OT with NoGem, a constraint against geminates, and an Agree constraint forcing assimilation, both dominating the relevant faithfulness constraints.

We provide a simple extragrammatical account for this pattern. We also analyze data from English dialects, New Julfa Armenian, and Catalan, illustrating that this pattern is only a tendency, and therefore Baković's account undergenerates. Lastly, we consider variable epenthesis and assimilation in Polish. Pająk and Baković (in press) argue the variability provides evidence for grammatical linkage between the two proceses, but we demonstrate this is inconsistent with the quantitative data.

Repurposing Bible translations for grammar sketches

Paul M. Heider, Adam Hatfield, and Jennifer Wilson, State University of New York at Buffalo

With the number of languages expected to go extinct in the coming century, language documentation as a priority is gaining increasing support. We discuss an experimental method for augmenting the number and scope of available language descriptions. Unlike traditional language descriptions, this work is largely based on translations of Bible verses with the accompanying English text used as a guide to the underlying semantics. Methodologically, our work sits at the intersection of three different approaches to language and linguistics: Classics studies of undeciphered languages, traditional field methods, and corpus linguistics.

We further motivate this methodology in section 1. Section 2 discusses related work in other areas of linguistics and computer science. Section 3 covers the traditional methodologies from which we extended our work. Section 4 describes some of the language-general challenges posed, both practical and philosophical. The final section includes short examples from four languages spoken in Papua New Guinea: Fologa, Mufian, Suki, and Urim.

Separating truth from felicity in a study on scalar implicatures

Andrew Hinderlinter, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

According to neo-Gricean analyses of scalar implicatures, the upper bounded meaning of some (at least some) is regarded as truth conditional and the upper bounded meaning (some but not all) is regarded as an implicature. According to Relevance Theory, the upper bounded meaning--when it arises--is part of the truth conditions. Previous studies investigating infelicitous uses of some--using some when all would be true--have used Truth Value Judgment Tasks (TVJT) and variations on this and have found mixed results, with many adults say they are true and many say they are false. The present study employs a new experimental paradigm--the Truth and Felicity Value Judgment Task (TFVJT)--which separates truth from felicity in the response set, giving participants four options rather than only two, and this is compared with a Truth Value Judgment Task for the same stimuli. Unexpectedly, in the TVJT condition, participants overwhelmingly said the infelicitous some items were true. In the TFVJT conditions they also overwhelmingly identified these items as true, usually identifying them as infelicitous, suggesting that, in general, people do not consider the upper bounded interpretation to be truth conditional, but rather consider it a non-truth conditional part of meaning. This corresponds to the neo-Gricean analysis and provides evidence against the Relevance Theoretic account.

Measuring cognitive load in sentence processing by analyzing postural sway

John Jang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The present study investigates how nonnative errors affect cognitive processing as native speakers internalize sentences containing them, by using the dual-task paradigm. The two tasks in the dual-task paradigm are standing and reading; subjects internalize sentences while their balance is measured as they stand. Literature report a connection between standing and cognition, in that changes in balance occur as a result of performing cognitive tasks with attentional demands; standing balance is typically measured using a device known as a Force Plate, and its outputted numerical data can be simple to compute and easy to interpret. It is possible that Force Plate measures may be used to objectively place error types in a rank order. In the present study, results from the Force Plate are compared to measures recorded from a sentence comprehensibility questionnaire. As a preliminary finding, Force Plate results succeed in ranking error-present sentences as being more severe than error-absent sentences, but discrepancies are seen when comparing the exact order of the ranking results to the comprehensibility task results. The present work is the first of its kind to successfully use the dual-task paradigm to link cognition and error-present sentence processing through physiological changes in human balance.

Testing articulatory phonology: Variation in gestures for coda /t/

Karen Lichtman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

As access to new speech imaging technologies, such as EMA (ElectroMagnetic Articulograph), becomes more widespread, opportunities arise to test existing accounts of speech production using new experimental stimuli. In the strong version of Articulatory Phonology (Browman & Goldstein), the basic phonological unit is simply a group of coordinated articulatory gestures. Browman & Goldstein claim that these gestures are always present, even if they are reduced in magnitude or produce no sound. In this paper, I test the hypothesis of persistent gestures against direct articulatory evidence, focusing on the realization of word-final /t/ as glottal stop in American English. Data was collected in two controlled experiments using EMA, with stimuli manipulating following sound, preceding vowel height, collocation frequency, and connected speech vs. word pair lists. Results show that all speakers pronounced some final /t/s without using any alveolar gesture. The frequency of non-alveolar realization varies between speakers and is affected by following sound. The possibility of non-alveolar /t/ articulation suggests that speakers must either have multiple gestural representations of /t/, or must have a non-gestural component—such as an acoustic component—as part of their underlying representations. Either of these explanations presents problems for the strong version of Articulatory Phonology.

Differential object marking in L2 Spanish learners with and without prior DOM knowledge

Alyssa Martoccio, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Differential object marking (DOM) is a phenomenon in which some direct objects are morphologically marked with a preposition to distinguish them from subjects (Comrie, 1979), as in ‘Juan ve a María’ (Juan sees PREP María). DOM is difficult for second language (L2) learners of Spanish (L1 English), with errors persisting after instructional intervention and feedback (Bowles & Montrul, 2008; Bowles & Montrul, in press; Farley & McCollam, 2004; Guijarro-Fuentes & Marinis, 2007; Wiebe, 2004). These studies considered learners with no prior DOM knowledge.

The current study includes 60 L2 learners of Spanish (L1 English), 30 with no prior DOM knowledge, and 30 with some prior DOM knowledge. Within each group, half of the learners completed instruction and the tasks, and half completed the tasks alone. The pretest, posttest and delayed posttests used an untimed grammaticality judgment task, a timed picture interpretation task, and a picture description task. Results showed that both instructed groups improved after instruction on all three tasks; uninstructed groups did not. The instructed group with previous DOM knowledge maintained these increases; the instructed group without prior knowledge did not. These results demonstrate that learners with some prior knowledge of a structure do benefit from instruction.

Acquisition of wh-question formation by Korean-English bilingual children: The role of person

Sunny K. Park, Purdue University

This study investigates the acquisition of wh-questions by Korean-English bilingual (K-E) children with the goal to identify the elements that predict the use of T-to-C movement in wh-questions and to provide a theoretical account of that alternation.

Seven K-E children (starting age 3;4 - 5;3) were observed over two years. Monthly 40-minute samples of spontaneous productions were transcribed and coded. The data revealed that the person feature [prs] appears to predict the lack or presence of T-to-C movement, such that utterances with third person subjects do not have movement, and those with first/second person subjects do have movement.

A consistent lack of T-to-C movement for third person indicates an effect of the [prs] feature in the children's grammars. For third person, we hypothesize there is no [prs] in T₀, leaving only [tns] in T₀. Consequently, [tns] alone may raise to C₀ without the need to pied-pipe any other element; thus, there appears to be no T-to-C movement. This contrasts with first/second person utterances, which have [prs] in T₀. Hence, moving only [tns] to C₀ would violate morphological integrity of the complex head T₀, and the entire head T (= [tns], [prs]) must move to C₀, as in adult grammars.

Web-based perceptual training for novel phonemes

Lisa Pierce and Tim Mahrt, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This research reports on the development and testing of two web-based applications designed to be delivery systems for perceptual category training. It is well established in the relevant literature that the L1 phonological system effects the perception of L2 phonemes and that L1 transfer effects can persist for years, despite what should constitute copious amounts of input. Researchers engaged in perception studies have successfully trained non-native adult learners of English to perceive phonemic contrasts ([l] and [r]) in controlled laboratory settings using multiple exemplar training. Building on their work, we developed an online web-based application, intended to be practical and accessible for any L2 learner.

The first study reports on the use of the web-based application to train Japanese and Korean ESL students to perceive [l] and [r]. Students in the experimental group who underwent exemplar training, made statistically significant gains in accurately identifying [l] [r]; there was a null effect of classroom teaching on their counterparts who did not undergo perception training. The second study reports on the use of the same application to train the tense-lax vowel distinction. Initial findings indicate a gain for L2 English learners in both perceptual and productive abilities for those who completed the training.

Language and social interaction in the virtual space of World of Warcraft

Erin Rusaw, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Virtual worlds such as the online multiplayer game World of Warcraft have become popular spaces for people all over the world to socialize and interact. As on the rest of the internet, language, specifically text chat, is the essential mode of social discourse in these worlds. Despite these types of virtual social spaces becoming more and more common (Yee 2002; Bashiok, Karune, and Nethaera n.d.), almost no studies have been done on the linguistic practices of these online communities. This paper offers a descriptive analysis of the sociolinguistic practices of a group of adult World of Warcraft players, and focuses especially on how discourse strategies identified in more traditional language interactions are applied by the players in the artificial environment and linguistic medium of the game.

Towards quantifying lenition in Ondarroan Basque

Eman Saadah, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This study investigates lenition of intervocalic /b,d,g/ in Ondarroan Basque. Previous work has suggested that intervocalic voiced stops in Spanish and other languages are produced with varying degrees of voicing, fricativization, or approximation. Based on this, voiced stops in Ondarroan Basque will be realized /β, ð, ɣ/ in a similar environment. Productions of intervocalic voiced stops are submitted to acoustic analysis considering three independent variables: speech style, place of articulation, and position in word, and three dependent variables: Voice Onset Time VOT or Consonant Duration, Root-Mean-Square RMS, and conservation of release bursts. The results show that speech style, place of articulation, and position in word are significant factors that place lenited phones in different positions along the lenition continuum. VOT measurements show that slow speech has higher mean VOT values than normal and fast speech, resulting in a longer temporal window in slower speech compared to faster one. Furthermore, RMS energy mean values decrease as the speech style becomes faster. Release bursts, however, were not present in the lenited allophonic variants due to the realization of voiced stops as fricatives intervocalically. In sum, lenition is a gradient process that is quantifiable through measuring certain acoustic correlates.

Mathematical transformations in syntactic theory

Rebecca Santini, California State University, Northridge

Inspired by evidence from speaker judgments regarding both paraphrase and ambiguity, LSLT worked to construct the most parsimonious theory, and thus one with an appropriately wide scope - a scope over the infinite set of sentences of a language. In an essential way, this more economical theory was achieved by developing the notion of grammatical transformation. An essential concept of set theory, the mathematical transformation maps members of one set onto another set. Grammatical transformations played the same role by mapping sets of sentences onto one another and made explicit the relationships among them. This presentation traces the blurring of the mathematical connection as generative syntax moved away from LSLT and Syntactic Structures, and argues that the development of the Minimalist Program (MP) is an explicit revival of this approach as well as of the definition and role of “transformation.”

The effect of Iranian EFL learners' cultural knowledge on their performance on cloze tests

Fereshteh Sharafi, Najaf Abad University and Dr. Hossein Barati, Isfahan University

This study explores the effect of schemata activated by culturally familiar texts on test takers' performance on cloze tests. It also investigates whether there is any difference in the performance of males and females on culturally familiar cloze tests. Eighty Iranian Pre-University students (male = 40 and female = 40) with the same level of English reading ability were selected. Three culturally familiar cloze tests and three culturally neutral ones were given to the participants in one session. Since the ultimate aim of this study was to help the Iranian students to have a better performance on Iran National University Entrance Examination (INUEE), all the cloze tests enjoyed the same characteristics as the INUEE's cloze tests. While the results demonstrated that males and females did not perform significantly different on culturally familiar cloze tests, it was found that the performance of participants on culturally familiar cloze tests was significantly better than their performance on culturally neutral cloze tests. The study, therefore, suggests that culturally familiar texts may help test takers show their true comprehension ability and in turn perform better on cloze tests. It also supports Oller's (1995) explanation that a properly made cloze test can tap higher-order processing abilities that can, in turn, form appropriate schemata if necessary.

Students' achievement on impromptu writing test versus interactive writing assessment through feedback exchange

Fakhri Shariati, Islamic Azad University Najafabad

There has been controversy as to whether the achievement of EFL learners would be better on interactive writing assessment or an impromptu writing test and relatively few studies have compared these two types of assessment. There is not much information about the attitudes of learners toward exchange of feedback when testing their writings as well. The current study intended to compare achievement of EFL learners on impromptu writing test with interactive writing assessment focusing on two types of peer and teacher feedback. It also considers the attitudes of learners to provide them with tasks and methods of assessment which are supposed to be more interesting. To this end, forty Iranian EFL learners were randomly divided into two groups: group A sitting for an impromptu writing test and group B first provided with a reading task and then during writing their essays with teacher and peer feedback and finally, they received a questionnaire to gather data about their attitudes toward feedback exchange when assessing writing. The results of the statistical analysis indicated that there was no significant difference between the achievement of students on impromptu writing test and interactive writing assessment through feedback exchange. However, learners had a positive attitude towards interactive writing assessment through peer/teacher feedback in comparison with writing test.

EMA workshop

Dr. Chilin Shih, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

EMA (Electromagnetic Articulography AG500) uses electromagnetic waves to estimate the positions of sensors. It is a powerful tool that allows us to "see" articulatory movements that are hidden from view. The current system can track the 3D positions of 12 sensors at the same time, allowing us to study the coordination of tongue, lips and jaw in speech production.

This mini workshop will give a brief overview of the EMA system and works done at the Speech Dynamics Lab housed at the Beckman Institute, including the comparison of fast and slow speech, and the patterns of foreign accents.

Articulatory phonetics workshop: Aerodynamics and EPG

Dr. Ryan Shosted, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The many-to-one mapping between articulation and acoustics is a well-known problem in the study of human speech. Various vocal tract configurations may be responsible for a single acoustic output or a group of similar acoustic outputs. For a variety of reasons, linguists have traditionally relied most heavily on acoustic signals to infer the properties of the dynamic vocal tract. Because of the many-to-one problem, however, it is not always possible to infer vocal tract configuration from the acoustics alone; this can lead to indeterminacy, ambiguity, and even inaccuracy in evaluating, modeling, and ultimately predicting the behavior of the vocal tract during speech. Because hypotheses relating to phonological patterns and their acquisition are routinely based on acoustic inference of vocal tract configuration, the gap between acoustics and articulation is clearly non-trivial. In this workshop I will present work by myself and my students that uses aerodynamics and EPG (electropalatography) to provide new insights into vocal tract dynamics. These studies approach a number of persistent questions of motor equivalence (intrinsic variability) in phonetics that cannot be resolved using acoustic inference alone. Online demonstrations of the EPG scanner will be offered during the workshop.

Computing potential feeding and bleeding relations

Nicholas Williams, University of Wisconsin at Madison

When analyzing phonological data, one often creates multiple context-sensitive rewrite rules which must be ordered to produce a desired output. Standard phonological systems often consist of only around 20 lexical items and a few rules. But what these phonologies aim towards is to model an entire language consisting of thousands of lexical items and, possibly, hundreds of phonological rules. To create such a model by hand would be inefficient and error-prone, requiring long hours to identify the necessary ordering of rules to produce the true phonetic output.

This paper describes algorithms and an implementation which identify potential feeding and bleeding relations between rules. Having a set of identified potential rule interactions allows one to focus on those rule orderings which are critical to producing desired output. The reduced search space of identified potentially-ordered rules could serve as the foundation for an automatic rule-ordering system which would match designated inputs and outputs to a set of ordered and unordered rules without needing to perform a brute-force search of all rule orderings. The algorithms presented are helpful because brute-force rule ordering is inefficient (for n rules, there are $n!$ orderings), and any reduction of the number of rules needing ordering greatly eases this combinatorial problem and brings us closer to the modeling of complete phonologies.

What's up with that name? The effect of vowel height on perception of character likability

Jonas Wittke, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

In this paper I examine the effect of vowel height on the listener's perception of imagined character names, specifically the likability of characters based on names alone. My findings suggest there is a statistically significant correlation between vowel height and perceived likability.

Masuda (2005), summarizing the results of different experiments from Sapir (1929), Newman (1933), Bentley and Varon (1933), Miron (1961), and Tarte (1982), states: "High front vowels and high tones tend to be associated with qualities such as smallness, sharpness, and brightness." Further, "the semantic scales which have significant correlation with vowels tend to be quantitative (e.g. small-large) rather than evaluative (e.g. beautiful-ugly)."

In the current study, respondents were asked to listen to a series of recorded names, scoring each of them in terms of likability. The respondents, in general, found characters with high-vowel names to be more likable than characters with low-vowel names; these valuations were based on name alone—and more specifically, vowel height alone. The results of two paired-samples tests showed statistically significant differences between the scores in the two conditions (high-vowel names vs. low- vowel names).

An articulography study of the Mandarin low vowel [a] Comparing native and non-native speech

Chen-huei Wu and Dr. Chilin Shih, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This paper reports on research using an Electromagnetic Articulograph AG500 (EMA) to track the tongue positions of Mandarin vowels and to compare the vowel production of Mandarin learners to that of native speakers. EMA is an apparatus that can track movement that is hidden from view, and provides temporal and spatial tracking of the movement of the tongue. EMA reveals the articulatory characteristics of speech production as well as how native and non-native speakers differently control the spatiotemporal organization of articulators.

This study investigates whether English learners of Mandarin can acquire the Mandarin low vowel [a] in context, such as [a] in [ba], [an], [aŋ], [aj] and [aw]. The analysis of the articulatory position of the tongue body reveals some discrepancies between native speakers and learners. The findings show that the distribution of [a] in context produced by native speakers has more variants, while the motor representation of [a] by learners is more fixed. Native speakers have multiple ways to produce [a]. This suggests that non-native speakers have not yet acquired the native-like motor control and have not learned to accommodate sounds by context in a second language. Knowing the production patterns of learners may be helpful for us to design teaching methods to address such problem.

Can blogging promote language learners' autonomy?

Nurenzia Yannuar, Ohio University

Teachers have always been challenged to integrate technology and teaching; with the emergence of Web 2.0, they are allowed to make use of collaborative technologies such as moodles, wikis, and blogs in their language classrooms (Bloch, 2007; Ducate & Lomicka, 2008; Kessler, 2009; Kessler & Bikowski, 2010). Most previous research on the blogosphere discourse was conducted in either face-to-face classroom or blended course environment. However, this research focuses on a blog that was established independently and not as part of any language classroom, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Language Learning Blog. This study examines the interaction between teachers and learners of English as they discuss language questions that are posted by learners into the comment section of the blog. Having analyzed learners' language questions and teachers' responses, the study suggested that learners have basically displayed two elements of Littlewood's (1996) autonomy (ability and willingness). Nevertheless, learners' autonomy can be promoted better had the teachers put more efforts in responding to learners' questions as well as exploring the advantages of the blogging medium and incorporating other multiblogging activities.

Political argumentation in media: A critical discourse analysis of politeness in the Iranian Left vs. Right wing political encounter in the wake of 2009 presidential elections

Dr. Keivan Zahedi and Mahboubeh Taghizadeh, Shahid Beheshti University

Political argumentation analyses have been growing under Discourse Analysis (DA) in recent years. The aim of the present paper is twofold: at the descriptive level, it portrays how politeness principles are employed between recognized politicians following recent Iranian presidential election debates; at a more theoretical level, it examines the linguistic mechanisms regarding the exercise and establishment of power, legitimation, ideology, hegemony and identity by the Iranian opposing media analysts and politicians. The present research uses Brown & Levinson's (1997) Politeness Principle, Geoffrey Leech's (1993) Politeness Principle and Grice's Cooperative Principle in a critical framework. Linguistic data are analyzed within a variety of political Discourse Analysis frameworks. The data comprise one transcribed debate session of "Towards Tomorrow". Results indicate that politicians employ strategies of persuasion, manipulation, vagueness, evasiveness and equivocation in order to (re-)direct and manage people's opinions and inclinations to their own support whilst manufacturing firstly persuasion leading to legitimation and then dominance and hegemony. The analysis also reveals that politicians seek to present the best 'face', and when 'face' is at risk, not only do they adopt politeness strategies to minimize face threats but they also deploy a legitimizing strategy to subvert the repressive or coercive discourse of superiors.

Social Events

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided for at the ILLS conference. If you are interested, please take this opportunity to socialize and find out more about the research of presenters and attendees. For dinner Friday and Saturday we will be walking to nearby restaurants.

Friday, 28 May: Bread Company (5:30 - 8:00):

After the final talk on Friday, there will be a reception at the Bread Company, one block east of the Foreign Language Building. Pizza and appetizers will be served. Wine and beer will be available, but will not be covered.

Saturday, 29 May (5:30 - 8:00):

After the final talk on Saturday, there will be a reception at Basil Thai, two blocks east of the Foreign Language Building. A Thai buffet will be available. Alcohol will not be available.

Local Guide

Here are a selection of relevant locations, close to the conference building.

Food:

The largest concentration of inexpensive restaurants is on Green Street west of the Illini Union (see map on back cover). Local favorites include Za's for pizza/salads/sandwiches, Zorba's for gyros, Murphy's Pub for burgers, Antonio's for cheap pizza, and Evo Chinese Restaurant (south off of Green to Sixth street). However, there are too many local and chain restaurants to name. To reach Green Street, cross the Quad diagonally from the FLB and continue past the Alma Mater (famous U of I statue)

Other possibilities include the mall-style food court in the basement of the Illini Union and a number of nearby restaurants located in the two blocks to the east of the FLB. (see map for more details)

Coffee:

Regional chain Espresso Royale dominates the campus coffee business here, much to Old Man Starbucks' chagrin, and the two closest franchises are a block east of the FLB, on the corner of Illinois and Goodwin, and a small but noteworthy shop in the tunnel linking the Main and Undergraduate Libraries.

Copying:

For copying, you may visit local business Notes & Quotes (M-F 9-5, Closed Sat, Sun.) (see map) or FedEx Kinko's, from Green Street north 1 block on Wright. The Main and Undergrad Libraries also provide copying services at 10 cents per page, but require the purchase of a copying card.



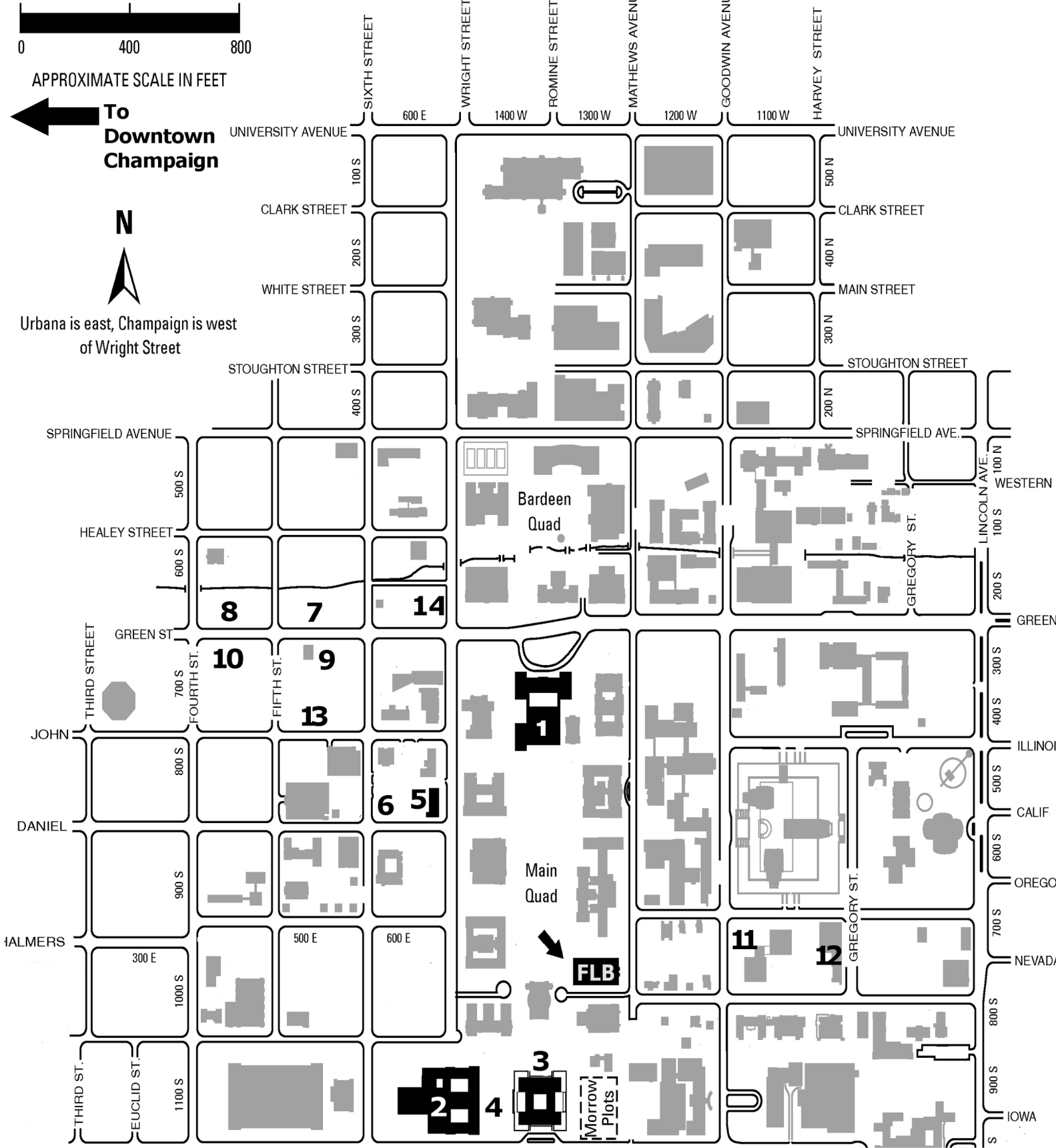
APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET

← **To
Downtown
Champaign**

N



Urbana is east, Champaign is west
of Wright Street



LEGEND:

- FLB - Foreign Language Building (Inverted Ziggurat)
- 1 - Illini Union (Hotel, Food Court, ATM)
- 2 - Main Library
- 3 - Undergraduate Library
- 4 - Espresso Royale (in library tunnel)
- 5 - Illini Union Bookstore
- 6 - Sub shops, Espresso Royale, ATM

- 7-10 - Green Street Restaurants & Bars (Campustown)
- 11 - Espresso Royale, Pizza, Convenience Store, Bread Company (Friday Reception), Timpones (Fine Dining)
- 12 - Rosatis, Subway, Basil Thai (Saturday Reception)
- 13 - Notes N' Quotes Copy Shop
- 14 - Kinkos