Loukia Taxitari

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Short Bio
Loukia is a psycholinguist and was born and raised in Limassol, Cyprus. She completed a BA in Greek Philology at the University of Athens, with a specialisation in Linguistics. She then continued with post-graduated studies at the University of Oxford, from where she obtained an M.Phil. in General Linguistics and a D.Phil. from the Oxford Babylab, having done research on language and cognitive development. Her interests lie in first language acquisition, that is the manner in which humans acquire language, especially at the early stages of this process. She focuses on lexical development, how words acquire their reference and how infants use general knowledge about the world to help in this task. Finally, in Cyprus she studies lexical and grammatical development in a bidialectal community, and how the co-existence of a regional dialect along with a standard language influences language development.

ILC Seminars
The Institute of Computational Linguistics “A. Zampolli” promotes study and dissemination activities of scientific research in the sectors of interest through a series of meetings with a prevailing interdisciplinary nature.

ILC Scientific Committee for Seminars organizes activities broken down into:

- **Study Days** Lessons held by external experts and internal short presentations, mainly connected to national and international projects ongoing at the Institute. These meetings are open to the public, but for practical reasons the notification of participation is necessary a couple of days earlier to the address seminari@ilc.cnr.it
- **Thematic Seminars** Seminars on specific themes, prevailingly interdisciplinary, and discussion of scientific papers
- **Webinars** Video-conferences with experts. Connection modalities will be described at the moment of the announcement of the events
- **Brown Bags** Informal internal seminars to discuss the critical points of ongoing works (talks, papers, MA and PhD theses, etc.)

**Home Page of the Seminars**
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**Scientific Committee**
- Federico Boschetti federico.boschetti@ilc.cnr.it
- Marcello Ferro marcello.ferro@ilc.cnr.it
- Valeria Quochi valeria.quochi@ilc.cnr.it

Gavagai!
Constraint-Guided Learning and Categorization During Early Lexical Development.

Loukia Taxitari
TheraLab, School of Health Sciences, Cyprus

October 23rd, 2019
3:00 pm

Pisa, Area della Ricerca CNR
Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale “A. Zampolli”
Seminar Room IBF SG 5
Programme

Pisa, Area della Ricerca CNR
Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale “A. Zampolli”
Seminar Room IBF SG 5
Via G. Moruzzi, 1 - 56124 PISA
October 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2019, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Introduction

\textit{Vito Pirrelli}, ILC-CNR (5’)

Gavagai! - Constraint-Guided Learning and Categorization During Early Lexical Development.

\textit{Loukia Taxitari}, TheraLab, School of Health Sciences, Cyprus (45’)

Discussion

(10’)

Abstract

In this presentation I will give an overview of what we know so far about the early development of the lexicon in the first year of life, i.e. how babies acquire their first words. Of special interest in this discussion is the existence of constraints that guide the word learning process, as well as the ability to form categories of objects. A series of experiments will be presented which investigate the matter and provide evidence about children’s (in)abilities at this stage in development.