Introduction to the Proceedings of the 2015 University of Utah Student Conference in Linguistics

Andrew Lee Zupon
Conference Chair, UUSCIL 2015

The University of Utah

This volume represents the final stage of the 2015 University of Utah Student Conference in Linguistics (UUSCIL 2015), hosted by the Department of Linguistics at the University of Utah on April 17, 2015. This volume is the culmination of all the hard work from conference organizers, presenters, and volunteers, as well as from students, faculty, and staff. One goal of UUSCIL 2015 was to probe beyond the boundaries of “core” linguistics, exploring interdisciplinary fields where linguistics plays a supporting role. We were fortunate to welcome a number of presenters representing a variety of academic disciplines outside of linguistics proper to complement the strictly linguistics presenters.

While my name appears at the top of the page, the true credit for UUSCIL 2015 goes to the volunteers who helped plan, organize, set up, take down, and everything in between. On the UUSCIL organizing committee, thanks are due to student volunteers Taylor Anne Barriuso, Stepan Hatting, Jemina Keller, Miranda McCarvel, Rachel Miller, and Jeff
Pynes; faculty liaisons Aniko Csirmaz, Aaron Kaplan, and Ed Rubin; and department staff
Kacey Campbell and Shantel de Arraiz. Credit is also due to the legions of miscellaneous
volunteers who helped at every stage of the process; thanks to everyone who helped hang
announcement posters, reviewed abstracts, checked people in during the conference, chaired
conference sessions, and helped with setup and cleanup of the conference.

In addition to those who helped make the conference run smoothly, I need to thank
the people who helped make it financially possible. First, the University of Utah Department
of Linguistics, which year after year provides funding and support. Additionally, the Tanner
Humanities Center and ASUU, whose generous support this year helped us put on the best
conference possible.

A conference is nothing without the presenters. This year, we were fortunate to wel-
come presenters from a wide variety of linguistic subfields and related disciplines, as well as
host a distinguished guest speaker. Our invited speaker this year was Professor Beth Levin,
from Stanford University. She gave her keynote talk on The ingredients of nonsubcategorized
NP resultatives. The student presentations covered myriad topics and languages. Below is
a list of those presentations and posters that were written up for inclusion in this volume
(alphabetical by author):

1. *Rethinking Raddoppiamento Sintattico*
   
   Mykel Loren Brinkerhoff
   
   (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

2. *An Optimality Theoretic Approach to Child Language Acquisition*
   
   Colette Feehan
   
   (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

3. *Sociolinguistics’ Attitudes Towards Valencian and Spanish in Agost, Spain*
   
   José M. Hernández
   
   (Brigham Young University)
4. *Our Primate Roots and Sex Differences in Communication*
   Megan Mullineaux
   (University of Utah)

5. *Evidence on wh-head movement for Mandarin predicate cleft*
   Mengqi Wang
   (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

6. *Icelandic Quirky Agreement Restrictions*
   Andrew Lee Zupon
   (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

Not every presentation or poster presented at UUSCIL 2015 is included in this volume. Below is a list of those presentations and posters that are not included here (alphabetical by author):

- *Grammar for ELLs: Online Platform*
  Maria Alexeeva
  (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

- *The influence of grammar and pronunciation on comprehensibility*
  Taylor Anne Barriuso
  (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

- *Amending Verb Sensitivity: Evidence from Hindi/Urdu and English*
  Cole Brendel
  (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

- *Complex Pre-Determiners in English*
  Cole Brendel
  (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)
• *The influence of visual input in second language phonological acquisition and novel word learning*
  Kristie Durham
  (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

• *Patterns of English Article Usage by a Japanese L1 Speaker*
  Andrew Hayes
  (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)

• *Tongan Vowel Devoicing*
  Lisa Johnson
  (University of Utah, Department of Anthropology)

• *Perceived emotion in clear speech for individuals with hearing loss*
  Shae Morgan & Sarah Hargus Ferguson
  (University of Utah, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders)

• *Tol Word Order, Noun Suffixation, and Information Structure*
  Jeff Pynes & Steffen Haurholm-Larsen
  (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics & Universität Bern)

• *Kashmiri Word Order(*s): V1, V2, V3, V4, and VF*
  Andrew Lee Zupon
  (University of Utah, Department of Linguistics)