

Preface

At this Stanford Child Language Forum, our 32nd meeting, we focussed on a specific topic: ‘Constructions and Acquisition’. The presenters looked at whether and how the learning of constructions plays a role in children’s acquisition of syntactic structure, and the extent to which their learning of constructions is or isn’t closely bound to the acquisition of specific lexical items. The program began with a Panel of contrasting views of what counts as a construction, how to identify constructions as constructions, and the role these entities can play in linguistic theory, and was followed by a full day of papers and posters.

We owe special thanks this year to Ivan A. Sag (Stanford University), Adele E. Goldberg (Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and now at Princeton University), and Peter Culicover (Ohio State University) for participating in the Friday evening Panel, as well as to Arnold Zwicky (Stanford University) for moderating it. And finally, we thank all those presenting papers and posters: they came from many different countries — Japan, France, The Netherlands, Germany, and the UK, as well as the US — to contribute to the discussion, and to continue the international tradition at this meeting.

The 32nd Stanford Child Language Research Forum was ably organized with contributions from many people. The 2004 Organizing Committee — Max Abelev, Bruno Estigarribia, Florian Jaeger, Barbara F. Kelly, Jean-Philippe Marcotte, Tanya Nikitina, Rebecca Starr, Kirsten Thorpe, and Rebecca Williamson — all helped with general planning, publicity, and selection of the abstracts for presentations at the meeting. Rebecca Starr and Barbara Kelly produced the meeting handbook; Rebecca Starr redesigned the web-site; Florian Jaeger took care of email announcements; Jean-Philippe Marcotte took care of AV needs; Bruno Estigarribia and Max Abelev organized the food and refreshments for the coffee breaks and the Friday evening reception; Kirsten Thorpe and Tanya Nikitina organized registration, and Rebecca Williamson planned the book display. The CLRF Organizing Committee is also

indebted to the chairs of the paper sessions, those staffing the registration table and the book display, those helping with the refreshments, and everyone else who has lent a hand to bring about the 2004 Forum on ‘Constructions in Acquisition’.

This meeting depends every time on the invaluable support of the staff in the Linguistics Department — Natalie Mendoza, Allen Sciutto, and especially Socorro (Coco) Relova, and at CSLI — Michele King and Laura Burns-Wood. We also thank CSLI for the use of Cordura Hall for this meeting.

Eve V. Clark

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