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Preface

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Preface

This issue of *Linguistica Brunensia* was conceived with the idea to explore the structure and semantics of various types of nominal and verbal expressions in natural language from a formal perspective. The presented papers investigate primarily topics in theoretical syntax and formal semantics, but also concern the syntax-semantics interface and more general philosophical issues. Empirically, they cover linguistic phenomena in English, German, Polish, and Mandarin Chinese.

Naoki Nakamura examines the conditions governing extraposition from subjects. The proposal is that the (im)possibility of such extraposition is determined by the Spec-to-Spec Anti-Locality Condition. The central claim is that extraposition is blocked from external subjects due to a locality violation, while it is permitted from internal subjects. An additional prediction is presented and supported that extraposition becomes possible when intervening elements, such as sentence adverbials, disrupt the locality-violating configuration.

Emil Eva Rosina discusses how experimental data on memory predicates can inform formal semantic analysis. The study focuses on German, specifically the predicates *noch wissen* ‘still know’ and *sich erinnern* ‘remember’, which report two distinct types of remembering, as recognized in philosophy and cognitive science: remembering of personally experienced events and fact-only remembering of propositions. The proposal is that a proper semantic analysis of these predicates must incorporate individual judgments about others’ cognition.

Karolina Zuchewicz and **André Meinunger** investigate factivity-assertivity alternations in German and Polish, focusing on the role of the reportative subjunctive and complementizer variation. Their central claim is that factivity is not an inherent property of predicates, but rather an effect of syntactic configurations that are largely parallel in both languages under investigation. The analysis suggests that these alternations reflect a structural mechanism distinguishing between reportative and referential uses of embedded propositions.

Ruoying Zhao explores the semantic differences between the Mandarin Chinese perfective particles *-le* and *-guo*, with a focus on their ability to convey resultative readings and exhaustivity in question–answer contexts. The proposed explanation attributes these differences to the distinct at-issue contents allowed by each particle. While *-le* permits various sentence constituents to be at-issue, *-guo* restricts the at-issue content to the existence or instantiation of the event. The analysis is further argued to have cross-linguistic relevance for understanding similar aspectual contrasts in other languages.

Finally, **Tue Trinh** examines exceptive adverbial phrases in English and their interaction with cardinal determiners. The central observation is that sentences like *All four members of the Beatles except John Lennon gave an interview* are perceived as odd, unlike similar sentences without cardinal determiners. The proposed explanation is that exceptives function as elliptical clauses, and when combined with cardinal determiners, the resulting interpretation becomes undefined. This is accounted for by a minimal adjustment to an existing truth-conditional analysis of exceptive constructions.

To conclude, we would like to thank the authors for their contributions as well as the anonymous reviewers of each article for their efforts and help. We hope that the readers will find the papers thought-provoking and valuable.

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