המחלקה לספריות זרות ובלשנות, תש"פ 20-2019

Name of the course: Conversational Dynamics
Lecturer name: Lavi Wolf
Course number:
Office hours: by appointment

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph

Conversation is a dynamic process in which information is exchanged. Conversational participants alternate between the roles of speaker and addressee, both conveying information and interpreting it. The course is concerned with the mechanisms underlying the conversational process and the role of semantic and pragmatic features in this process. We will explore various aspects of conversational dynamics, e.g. the 'conversational scoreboard', the context update process, the representation of items under discussion, the inquisitive nature of conversation and the linguistic techniques by which speakers influence hearers' beliefs.

Key words:
Conversation, dynamics, semantics, pragmatics

Course requirements:

Attendance required	**yes**
1. Quizzes	**20%**
2. Home assignments	**25%**
3. Final test	**55%**

Topics:

A. The conversational scoreboard
B. The context update process
C. Questions (and other items) Under Discussion
D. Conversational inquisitiveness
E. Utterance force modifiers
F. Truth conditional and use-conditional conversation effects

Reading material

Ciardelli, Ivano, Jeroen Groenendijk, and Floris Roelofsen. 2013. "Inquisitive semantics: a new notion of meaning." *Language and Linguistics Compass* 7, no. 9: 459-476.

Farkas, Donka F., and Kim B. Bruce. 2010. "On Reacting to Assertions and Polar Questions." *Journal of Semantics* 27 (1): 81–118.

Ginzburg, Jonathan. 1996. "Dynamics and the Semantics of Dialogue." In *Logic, Language and Computation*, edited by Jerry Seligman and Dag Westerstahl. Stanford: CSLI.

Greenberg, Y. and Lavi W. 2018. "Gradable Assertion Speech Acts". *Proceedings of NELS 48*, the University of Iceland.

Krifka, M. 2015. Bias in commitment space semantics: Declarative questions, negated questions, and question tags. In Proceedings of SALT 25

Krifka, M. 2017. "Assertions and Judgements, Epistemics, and Evidentials". *Workshop 'Speech Acts: Meanings, Uses, Syntactic and Prosodic Realizations',* Leibniz-ZAS Berlin.

Lewis, David. 1979. "Scorekeeping in a Language Game." *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 8 (1): 339–359.

Malamud, Sophia A., and Tamina Stephenson. 2014. Three ways to avoid commitments: Declarative force modifiers in the conversational scoreboard.Journal of Semantics,32(2), 275-311.

Rothschild, Daniel, and Seth Yalcin. 2015. "On the dynamics of conversation". *Noûs*.

Stalnaker, Robert. 1978. "Assertion." *Cole, Peter, Ed.: Pragmatics. Syntax and Semantics . New York: Academic Press, .* 9: 315–332.

Wolf. L. 2015. "Degrees of Assertion". *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, PhD dissertation.*