

ESSLLI 2024 workshop, call for papers

Incremental constructions within and across languages: where degrees, eventualities and discourse dynamics interact

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as part of the ESSLLI summer school (<https://2024.esslli.eu>), Leuven (Belgium), **29.7. – 2..8 2024** (week 1)

Submission deadline **15. May 2024**

Incrementality ('adding up to a larger whole', König 1991) can be expressed by English *more*, German *noch/mehr*, Hebrew *od*, Mandarin *hai* etc. While studies of individual incremental constructions exist, there are still many gaps in their understanding. This workshop aims to fill such gaps (A) by studying how incremental constructions vary syntactically and semantically, both across and within languages, and (B) by trying to integrate insights from two approaches to incrementality, which thus far have not interacted: (i) Degree-based approaches (e.g. Greenberg 2010, Thomas 2011), taking incremental constructions to express additive measurements of eventualities and (ii) discourse-oriented approaches (e.g. Eckardt 2007, Umbach 2012, Grubic 2018) taking them to be QUD-sensitive, managing the growth of information along discourse-salient dimensions (e.g. event/discourse time).

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

Variations in the family of incrementals:

- across languages: Although individual theories did look at incrementals in different languages (e.g. English, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Russian and Mandarin Chinese), Thomas (2018) seems to be the only attempt to compare properties of incrementals across languages and highlight similarities and differences between them. We invite contributions comparing the syntax, semantics and pragmatics of incrementals in different spoken languages as well as in other modalities (e.g. sign languages)
- within languages: Research on incrementals has mostly concentrated on one lexical item per language, and there has been no attempt to compare incrementals within a language. We invite contributions investigating syntactic, semantic and pragmatic differences between incrementals within a language and the way they interact (as, for example, German *noch* and *mehr* 'more', English *more* vs. *another*, *plus*, and *furthermore*, Russian, *ešče* and *ešče i*, etc.)

A unified semantics for incrementality?

Except for sporadic attempts the approaches to incrementals (degree-based vs. discourse-oriented) have not yet 'spoken' with each other. We believe these two lines of thought each captures important insights concerning the semantics and pragmatics of incrementality, and we invite contributions which attempt to integrate them in order to make progress in capturing the core of incrementality. Relevant questions would be:

- Does the semantics of incremental expressions generally involve degrees? Or a discourse-progression component? Both?
- Which presuppositions and implicatures are triggered by incremental expressions? Do these differ depending on whether *more*-like or *noch*-like incrementals are considered?
- How precisely do incrementals differ from general additives in terms of discourse management, accentuation patterns, etc?

Since we want this workshop to promote extensive discussion in a still underdeveloped area, and we want to encourage broad participation, we welcome two kinds of submissions:

- Long (30 minute) papers, for which we solicit two-page abstracts
- Short (10 minute) position statements whose goal is to provoke focused discussion, for which we solicit one-page abstracts (plus references, at most 12pt).

Please send your paper to esslli2024@carla-umbach.de (subject [ESSLLI 2024]) before 15. May 2024 (pdf files, one / two pages incl. references, regular font size)

For those who submit long papers: Please indicate whether you would also be willing to give a position statement as an alternative to a long paper.