STUDIES ON THE *RÍO DE LA PLATA* SPANISH FROM A COGNITIVE LINGUISTIC APPROACH

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The present theme session brings together research carried out in seven universities in Argentina by members of AALiCo (by its acronym in Spanish - *Argentine Association of Cognitive Linguistics*) who have been actively generating, since 2009, an important scientific production on the *Río de la Plata* variety of Spanish within this theoretical perspective.

Such studies are characterized by conceiving discourse as a constantly evolving space. Therefore, within the framework of an *emergent grammar* (Hopper 1987), linguistic structures are studied, in the pieces of work presented here, not as prior-to-use entities, but as the provisional result of a continuous movement towards a structure under construction.

This dynamic view of grammar focuses, in particular, on pragmatic slippages which, supported by image schemas (Johnson, 1987), metaphorical projections (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Grady, 2007), metonymic connections (Radden & Kövecses, 1999) and complex blendings (Fauconnier & Turner 2002), generate phenomena of pragmaticalization (Diewald, 2011; Degand & Evers-Vermeul, 2015) and grammaticalization (Hopper 1991; Hopper & Traugott [1993] 2003; Company Company 2008).

From this theoretical framework, the research that makes up this theme session is animated by a non-atomist vision in which categories cease to be discrete concepts and are organized in the form of a continuum (Hopper & Traugott (2003 [1993]). In these studies, meaning is granted a central place and lexicon, morphology and syntax are integrated as convergent means that structure conceptual content for expressive and communicative purposes. Grammar is, then, "inherently symbolic and hence meaningful" (Langacker, 1987) and is permeated by the speaker's subjectivity (Traugott & Dasher 2004, Traugott 2010).

Within this non-compositional view of language, special attention is paid to the emergence of constructions (Goldberg, 1995, 2006) as form-meaning pairings shaped by interactional frames (Fillmore 1982). In this respect, the contributions presented here privilege the study of authentic utterances situated in a social and cultural environment in which discourse and intersubjectivity are embedded in interactional frames.

Based on empirical evidence, hitherto untreated linguistic phenomena are explored in the following areas: alternative scenes generated by different types of relative clauses and different prepositions, discourse markers, interjections, the adjectival strategy in thdistribution of textual information, pronoun duplication, impersonality strategies, counterfactual constructions, communicative acts

relevant to move others. Finally, two studies address the crosslinguistic influence and the relationship between language and cognition in Spanish learning.

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