

# Introduction

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## Festschrift Grewendorf

It is a long-standing academic tradition to honor outstanding personalities of the field with a Festschrift, which is usually presented in connection with some milestone birthday.<sup>1</sup> Taking up this noble custom, this collection of papers is dedicated to Günther Grewendorf and offered to him on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

During his entire career, Günther has been among the foremost scholars in the field of Generative Grammar who established the German branch of what is now the leading paradigm in the study of natural language. Over the last thirty years, Günther has contributed substantively to the enterprise of generative linguistics (his achievements in this area are too numerous to be mentioned here in detail, but cf. the list of publications at the end of this volume). As a teacher and organizer, he has built a research environment that nurtured and shaped many younger academics, particularly in the field of theoretical syntax. It seems fair to say that Günther has a talent to attract people who do good work as linguists and get things off the ground and often make a career in linguistics. This is reflected by the fact that among the contributors, there are many former students of his, a number of them now leading figures in the field as well.

Günther's work encompasses the disciplines of philosophy, pragmatics, and theoretical linguistics. After studying philosophy and linguistics with Wolfgang Stegmüller, Eike von Savigny, Max Käsauer, Johannes Bechert and Richard Hare, Günther's early publications deal with issues of ordinary language philosophy and pragmatics, in particular the analysis of speech acts. During the 1970s, he then turned to problems of formal pragmatics, focusing on a formal analysis of question-answer pairs. At the same time, he developed a keen interest in theoretical syntax when he became acquainted with the contemporary work of Chomsky and other generative linguists of that period. With the wake of the Principles & Parameters theory, Günther advanced to one of the most prominent German linguists with his work on reflexivization in A.c.I constructions (Grewendorf 1983b). Based at the University of Frankfurt since 1984, Günther has been and still is among the most productive, influential and internationally renowned German linguists, constantly shaping and reshaping the understanding of the syntax of German. Among his many influential publications, *Aspekte der deutschen Syntax* (1988), *Ergativity in German* (1989), *Minimalistische Syntax* (2002) as well as a number of papers in *Linguistic Inquiry* and *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* figure prominently. In addition to his research work, and apart from his work as editor of the principal German

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<sup>1</sup> With some notable exceptions, cf. e.g. *Studies Out in Left Field: Defamatory Essays Presented to James D. McCawley on the Occasion of his 33rd or 34th Birthday*, ed. by A. Zwicky, P. Salsus, R. Binnick, and A. Vanek (Edmonton, Alta.: Champaign, Ill.: Linguistic research, 1971)

linguistics journal, *Linguistische Berichte*, Günther almost single-handedly turned the previously rather low-profile linguistics chair of the German department in Frankfurt into a centre for generative linguistics, at times producing more promising young linguists than any other linguistics department in Germany. Recently, his efforts culminated in the founding of a separate *Institut für Kognitive Linguistik* ('Institute of Cognitive Linguistics') at the University of Frankfurt, which after all provides an appropriate setting for his work as a linguist and teacher.

The articles in this volume aim at doing some justice to his wide interests. They reflect concerns that dominate Günther's work and thinking, providing an up to date view on topics ranging from key questions of theoretical syntax to pragmatic and philosophical issues. These include the relation between word order and the structuring of information, pro-drop phenomena, verbal syntax, the interface between syntax and the interpretative components of grammar, clausal typing and the encoding of mood as well as questions of language acquisition and evolution, semantic interpretation and the relation of language and the law.

We should acknowledge, though, that the present selection of papers is not representative in at least two respects. First, given the number of Günther's students, friends, and collaborators and the amount of influence he exerted on the field, we easily could have collected more than the 23 papers you'll find below. However, to keep this book from exceeding the usual page limits of a single-volume publication, at a certain point we simply had to stop asking people for contributions. Second, it is quite obvious that this collection cannot cover the whole breadth of Günther's work. Thus we feel that many aspects of his work on pragmatics (cf. e.g. Grewendorf 1979b, 1981a, 1983a, 1984a, 2002a) as well as Günther's work on the intricacies of the German tense system (cf. e.g. Grewendorf 1982a, 1984c, 1995a), or topics like the analysis of (multiple) *wh*-constructions (cf. e.g. Grewendorf 2001a and his 2002 book) are underrepresented here. Still, we think that there is considerable overlap between the topics dealt with in the present volume and Günther's research interests.

The introduction to a Festschrift is the place as well, of course, for some more personal words, including anecdotes (and possibly even some juicy gossip) that reveal some characteristic traits of the one to be honored.

As already briefly mentioned above, Günther has a striking ability to attract people to linguistics. Moreover, due to his talent to organize and get things off the ground, he is often in the position to provide jobs for people he believes in, which enabled many to turn an interest into a profession. In fact, there is a vast number of present-day linguists in Germany which started their career as assistants of Günther's. As a boss, he always tries to establish an amicable relationship with his co-workers (he really dislikes it if someone calls him *Chef* 'boss'), which includes regular visits to his favorite place in Frankfurt, the *Pielok*. At times, he can be quite demanding towards his associates. He is used to high standards and seeks them in his co-workers as well, both personally and linguistically. He appreciates loyalty and diligence among his staff. If he believes in someone and/or the work done by that person, he is usually very supportive. On the other hand, he takes it very personal if someone disappoints him (personally or linguistically). Due to his many occupations, his time is quite limited and he is often not willing to spend it on things or people that once didn't meet his expectations. Still, he will

always agree to discuss any weird theoretical idea that comes to your mind if you approach him directly.

A characteristic which many of his co-workers might have noticed over the years is Günther's highly ambivalent attitude towards technology. On the one hand, he's always keen on the latest (IT-) devices (such as notebooks, cell phones, etc.). Often, this enthusiasm is also to the benefit of his co-workers – in fact Günther is quite proud of the fact that his chair is at the fore of technology (Günther was among the first within humanities at the University of Frankfurt who had computers, e-mail and all that, due to a research project funded by IBM). On the other hand, Günther is deeply suspicious and skeptical of technological developments and changes affecting his gear, in particular if these “innovations” frustrate his efforts to tame the technological beast. And the facts often seem to prove him right – the installation of new devices or software regularly doesn't lead to the desired results or, even worse, shuts down his computer, which usually sends him into a frenzy about the shortcomings and inadequacies of modern technology (the AutoFormat function of MS Word is another regular cause of similar fits of rage). On such occasions, Günther wholeheartedly condemns the wonders of modern information technology and proclaims that he will go back to DOS (when we still knew why things didn't work), or, if disaster strikes really badly, to the typewriter. His particular experience in this area might also be the reason why he still clings to his beloved and trusty pocket diary, resisting all temptations to switch to a much more fashionable palmtop (like Ede Zimmermann has).

Coupled with this fraught relationship is his equally frustrating relationship to other conveniences of modern life such as cars and bank accounts (e.g., his new Volvo with its leaking roof, and the intricacies of managing the cash flow between various research and university related accounts).

At times, his skepticism about progress seems to translate into a gloominess about the world in general and his day-to-day business at the university in particular. When Günther is in this particular mood, he often seems to entertain the suspicion that things aren't running as smoothly as they may seem to be and that disaster may be lurking behind every corner. And often enough, his seemingly groundless concerns appear to be justified by the developments in the real world. Then again, Günther is always prepared to roll up his sleeves and fight off the threatening troubles, which regularly ends those periods of gloom. This kind of *Hemdsärmeligkeit* ('shirt-sleevedness', see below for some explication) is not only typical of Günther, it is also a quality which he appreciates greatly in his co-workers (who sometimes have to struggle to live up to these high standards).

This particular trait of Günther's can also be traced in his approach to science sometimes. To him, it seems, things start to get interesting when there is real disagreement that sparks fervent discussion. Again, it is when he “rolls up his sleeves” that he appears to be really in his element. Among students and fellow linguists, Günther is famous (and sometimes feared) for his critical, plain-spoken, no-nonsense way of dealing with theoretical ideas and linguistic reasoning. This characteristic of his can be best experienced during his colloquium (the *Oberseminar*), every Wednesday from 6 to 8 pm, where the latest developments in generative syntax are discussed (and often shredded). The Frankfurt linguistics *Oberseminar* is also widely known for its critical audience, and it has

seen many pilot runs of talks later delivered to much larger crowds (who can make it there will make it anywhere – God bless those who try sell something that goes against Günther’s most deeply felt theoretical convictions.).

Instead of rambling on about purported character traits, we’ll rather try to give an impression of a particular evening at the *Pielok*, Günther’s favorite place in Frankfurt where he can refuel on Wednesday evenings after the *Oberseminar*. This occasion was particular because it was the evening of Günther’s first appearance at the senate as newly elected dean. The meeting of the senate was busted up by students protesting against the newly introduced study fees; a glass window had been broken with a fire-extinguisher and the president of the university had locked himself up in his room, possibly because he was afraid of suffering physical damage. Instead of fleeing the scene, Günther once again rolled up his sleeves and engaged in a discussion with the students, eventually managing to cool down the situation and pave the way for negotiations with the president. On the evening of this Wednesday, then, Günther sat in the Pielok with us, reporting the turbulent events of the day, which he would finally sum up with a long sigh: “It’s like the good old days”, and a sentimental smile would cross his face.

Of course, now that Günther is dean of the faculty, his schedule is even tighter than it used to be. In view of his broad research interests and his newly acquired duties as dean, one is not surprised that such industriousness has repercussions in other areas of his life as well. Thus, there is often a clash between his affection for Italy (including his fondness of the Italian way of life) and his cramped schedule. At times when he is frustrated and tired by the negative aspects of academic life such as endless meetings, grim competition, lazy students, cuts in the budget, and the seemingly endless chase for the best theory, he announces that it is his utter wish to retire to his house in Italy, to become a vintner and olive farmer. On the other hand, things don’t always go so smoothly in Italy, either. Returning to Frankfurt after his last sabbatical, Günther appeared a bit worn out from fighting a population of small flies that infested his Italian residence and tormented him at night (or was it bugs? it took him quite some time and energy to only figure out what was actually bugging him, in any event). Moreover, olive cultivation is hard and occasionally even dangerous work – recently, when Günther was cutting down some branches and trees he sustained a serious injury which required a trip to the hospital and nine stitches. Be this as it may, having to meet all the different demands that he sees himself confronted with naturally requires some external assistance. None of his co-workers is surprised that his business is always very urgent – as Günther would put it: *schwerpunktmäßig wird hier immer noch gearbeitet*.

## Form, Structure, and Grammar

The papers collected in this volume are grouped into three parts which we take to reflect three major strands of interest in Günther’s work and thinking.

The first part, *Form*, addresses issues pertaining to morphology, lexical semantics, and their interface to syntax, a topic area which is touched upon in quite a number of Günther’s publications (to name only a few, cf. Grewendorf’s 1989 book on the licensing of *pro* and the analysis of ergative constructions in German, Grewendorf 1995a on

the syntax and semantics of present and perfect tense forms in German, Grewendorf and Sabel 1999 on the relation between properties of inflectional systems and the availability of scrambling, Grewendorf 2001a on morphological properties licensing *wh*-cluster formation, or Grewendorf 2003a on the question of how the shape of reflexive pronouns influences their binding properties).

The part *Form* includes contributions by Werner Abraham (deriving the interpretations and the syntactic behavior of different participial forms), Manfred Bierwisch (accounting for properties of German reflexive forms in terms of the distinction between improper, pseudo- and regular arguments), Sascha W. Felix (presenting an experimental study on the acquisition of Japanese word structure), Tilman N. Höhle (analyzing morphological and syntactic properties of verb clusters in a variety of German dialects), Manfred Krifka (providing a novel analysis of the pronoun system of Tok Pisin), and Gereon Müller (offering a new explanation for the “pro-drop parameter” based on an in-depth analysis of inflectional features and their relation to syntax).

The second part, *Structure*, features a set of new and original syntactic analyses, mainly concerning the syntactic encoding of information structure, and in particular the structure of the middle field and the left periphery. This topic has been at the heart of Günther’s research interests for many years (cf. e.g. Grewendorf 2002, 2002c, 2003b, 2005a, 2005b, forthcoming; Grewendorf and Poletto 1989, Grewendorf and Sternefeld 1990; Grewendorf and Sabel 1994, 1999).

This part includes contributions by Josef Bayer (presenting new evidence for the hypothesis that different types of A’-movement target different left-peripheral positions of the German clause), Adriana Belletti (proposing a uniform analysis of clitic left dislocation and relative clauses involving resumption in Italian), Gisbert Fanselow (providing an account of word order variation in the German middle field in terms of rules of accent attraction), Werner Frey (offering a new account of the distribution of object-*es* in German), Katharina Hartmann and Malte Zimmermann (investigating the make-up of the left periphery in the Chadic language Dghwede), Cecilia Poletto (analyzing scrambling in Old Italian as movement to an IP-internal Focus projection), Luigi Rizzi (offering a new perspective on inversion phenomena in Italian and Romance), Joachim Sabel (linking the availability of non-finite relatives and *wh*-questions to morphological properties of the C-system), Mamoru Saito (explaining expletive verb constructions in Japanese in terms of the minimalist principles of Full Interpretation and Last Resort), and Jochen Zeller (who develops a minimalist analysis of applicative constructions in Kinyarwanda).

The third part, *Grammar*, collects papers that deal with the interfaces of core grammar with the systems of interpretation and use as well as papers addressing the role and nature of the language faculty within a broader cognitive and evolutionary perspective. In Günther’s oeuvre, this subject matter is addressed from two different angles: first, in a theoretical manner, dealing with issues in the theory of (universal) grammar and the way the phenomenon of language is rooted in properties of the human mind (cf. e.g. Grewendorf 1985c, 1993a, 1995, 1996, 2006; Grewendorf and Zaefferer 1991, Grewendorf and Wilder 1994). Second, in a way that emphasizes practical applications of theoretical linguistics, focusing on the relation between language and the law in particular (cf. e.g. Grewendorf 1985a, 1990c, 1992a, 2000a, 2002b).

The third part contains contributions by Rainer Dietrich (providing evidence that the language faculty is subject to a circadian rhythm of its own), Hans-Martin Gärtner and Markus Steinbach (arguing against the feasibility of the analysis of speech acts and point of view in terms of functional projections), Georg Meggle (arguing that apparent paradoxes concerning the evolution of language dissolve if a proper distinction is made between the development of non-verbal communicative abilities and genuine linguistic abilities), Monika Rathert (proposing that the notion of comprehensibility in forensic linguistics is better approached from the perspective of Frame Semantics), Tom Roeper (developing an account of focus binding in *Only I* and related constructions in terms of point of view features and Relativized Minimality), Dietmar Zaefferer (reanalyzing sentence mood in terms of “lean specification” and “reconceived content” and deemphasizing the role of truth for the definition of speech acts), and Thomas Ede Zimmermann (arguing for a distinction of the “internal” and “external” semantic roles of linguistic expressions and thereby solving certain substitution fallacies).

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