

Conference Description

The conference *Negation and Clitics in Romance* is concerned with central aspects of the description and formalization of variation in the expression of negation in Romance, with a special focus on clitic exponents of negation or exponents in close morpho-syntactic interaction with clitics (distribution, cluster, morpho-phonologic phenomena etc.). Clitics can be considered as morpho-syntactic elements that are « neither clearly independent words, nor clearly affixes » (cf. Zwicky 1977: 1), they are phonologically weak and often show special syntactic behaviour as well as a tendency towards affixation and disappearance and are hence often subject to linguistic variation. This can be observed for instance in modern French (cf. *Jean (n')aime pas les pommes*), where the realisation of the clitic negation particle *ne* varies according to intra- and extra-linguistic factors, (such as the morpho-syntactic and phonological environment, the socio-demographic and geographic origin of the speakers, and the communication situation).

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Research Questions

From a typological and diachronic point of view, the conference will examine the following questions: What type of morphemes appear in multi-morpheme negations in Romance? In which way are they related to the Jespersen cycle (cf. Jespersen 1917, 1924)? From a theoretic and formal point of view, the conference seeks to explain and to model the interactions between the different elements in clitic clusters: Which models are suitable for their description? Could cycles of grammaticalization be used as patterns in order to map synchronic variation? In the last decades questions have been raised concerning the status of negation as a functional phrase. Is it necessary and useful to assume a functional negation phrase and where is it located (in the Romance/Indo-European languages and in a general way)? Is it convincing to assume that a clitic (like French *ne*) is the head of the negation, or are we supposed to reconsider our formal models of negation (cf. the critical discussion in Peters 1999)?

Jespersen, Otto (1917). *Negation in English and other languages*. København: Hoest.

Jespersen, Otto (1924). *The philosophy of grammar*. London: Allen & Unwin [u.a.].

Peters, Hugues (1999). An Alternative Proposal for French Negation. *Linguistica Atlantica* 21: 107–136.

Zwicky, Arnold M. On clitics. *Indiana University linguistics club* 1977: 1–40.

Organising committee:

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Negation & Clitics in Romance

Négation & clitiques
dans les langues et
variétés romanes

[www.rose.uzh.ch/
colloque.html](http://www.rose.uzh.ch/colloque.html)

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24/25th

February 2012

University of
Zurich
Institute of
Romance
Studies

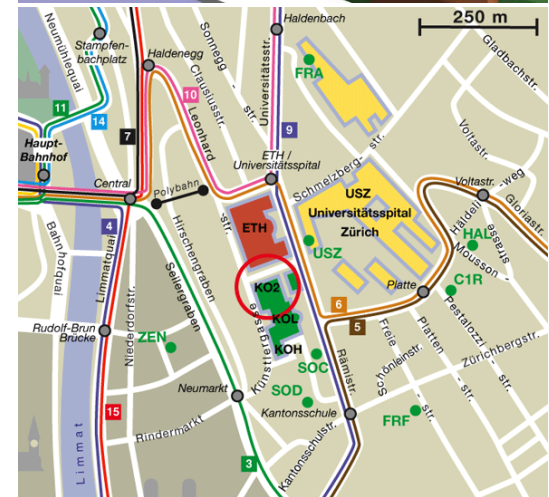
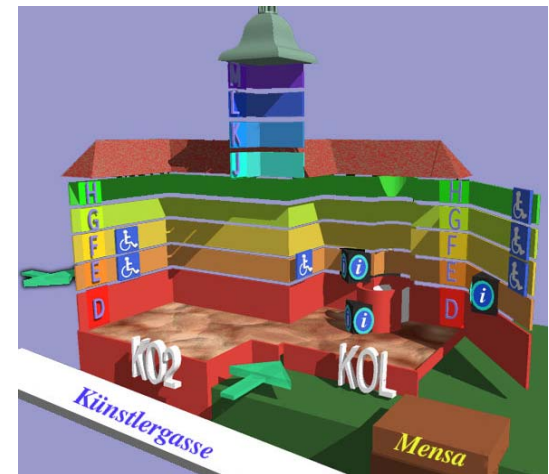
Program

- Friday 24th February 2012**
- 10.00- Welcome and introduction**
10.30 Charlotte Meisner, Harald Völker & Elisabeth Stark
- 10.30- When is preverbal negation**
11.15 reanalysed as a polarity marker?
The case of French *ne*
Pierre Larrivée
- 11.15- The morpho-syntactic status of *ne***
12.00 and its effect on the syntax of imperative sentences
Hugues Peters
- 12.00- When negative imperatives aren't**
12.45 negative
Paul Rowlett
- Lunch**
- 14.15- Synchronic variation in the**
15.00 expression of French negation
Charlotte Meisner & Natascha Pomino
- 15.00- The interplay of multiple**
15.45 descriptive factors for the understanding of a text language, illustrated by the negation in Old French. A study of manuscript variation of *ne-Ø*, *ne-mie*, *ne-pas*, and *ne-point*
Lene Schøsler & Harald Völker
- Coffee break**
- 16.15- Variable *ne* in nineteenth-century**
17.00 French: corpus data and metalinguistic commentaries
Andreas Dufter
- 17.00- Factors affecting the use of**
17.45 impersonal *il* in Spoken French: implications for change in the clitic system
Jennifer Culbertson

Program

- Saturday 25th February 2012**
- 10.00- On the status of subject clitics in**
10.45 Colloquial French: Evidence from 'expletive' *il* and 'negative' *ne*
Georg A. Kaiser
- 10.45- *Leur chien il (*ne) m'obéit pas.***
11.30 L'incompatibilité de *ne* et du doublement clitique du sujet: une idiosyncrasie du français
Benjamin Massot
- 11.30- Reference and polarity markers as**
12.15 clitics: contrasting demands on form
Dieter Wanner
- Lunch**
- 13.45- Negation and focus: on the syntax**
14.30 of emphasis
Cecilia Poletto & Raffaella Zanuttini
- 14.30- On the status of the negative**
15.15 marker *no* in logudorese Sardinian
Franck Floricic
- 15.15- The distribution of preverbal *en* in**
16.00 (West) Flemish: syntactic and pragmatic properties
Liliane Haegeman
- Coffee break**
- 16.30- The Middle Dutch negative clitic:**
17.15 status, position and Disappearance
Jack Hoeksema
- 17.15- Concluding remarks**
17.30 Charlotte Meisner, Harald Völker & Elisabeth Stark

Directions



University of Zürich
Entrance via main building (KOL) from
Rämistrasse or from Künstlergasse,
2nd floor

Room K02-F-152

Tram 9, 10, Polybahn
ETH/Universitätsspital

Participation is free!

Please register via: cmeisner@rom.uzh.ch