Morphology At Santa Cruz

Papers in Honor of Jorge Hankamer

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(MASC)

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This volume contains a series of working papers that are the result of a seminar on theories of morphology, taught by Jorge Hankamer at UCSC during the fall of 2009. At the root of both the papers and the seminar is the Morphology Reading Group (MRG), whose history deserves some attention.

The original MRG was held, from what we can tell, sometime during the early 2000s. In its current form, the group has been running quarter after quarter since 2005. Over the course of these last five years, these meetings, which involve discussion and sometimes presentations (by individual members) of readings in morphology, have served the purpose of educating several generations of UCSC Linguistics graduate students in the fundamentals of areas of morphology and in particular approaches to morphology, with special attention to the theory of Distributed Morphology. The result has been a renaissance in investigations in morphology (including morphophonology and morphosyntax) in the UCSC Linguistics Department. This renewed interest and investment in morphological investigations led to the 2009 Morphology seminar and to a number of student publications, as detailed in the list below.


The MRG also served as a model for numerous other subsequent student initiatives and reading groups at UCSC: the Prosody Interest Reading Group, Crosslinguistic Investigations in Syntax-Phonology, and the Fieldwork Lab.

The primary cause of this renaissance, we strongly believe, is the intellectual fortitude and generosity of MRG’s mentor, Jorge Hankamer. It is no surprise that Jorge’s colleagues, students and advisees have a deep gratitude and appreciation for his work in Linguistics and on the UCSC campus. This gratitude is reflected in multitudes of ways, not least via the Hankamer Webfest page. Nevertheless, we feel very strongly that Jorge’s role as the advisor of MRG and encourager of students’ collaborative intellectual initiatives is entirely special, and deserving of a separate expression of gratitude.

Jorge’s dedicated involvement in reading group meetings fostered an intellectual environment which was uniquely conducive to friendly, collaborative exploration of material that was frequently difficult and usually entirely new for many participants. It is difficult not to come away from these meetings with the impression that Jorge’s mere presence has a special force of its own, encouraging higher-quality discussions and a higher degree of responsibility in analytical thinking. Jorge has the unique ability to encourage student-led initiatives by providing just the right degree of support and intellectual freedom. His obvious enjoyment of the material, the discussion and our group intellectual endeavor never ceases to inspire us. With our deepest gratitude, we dedicate this volume to him.

Vera Gribanova, Ruth Kramer, and Matthew A. Tucker

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