

Historical perspectives on the properties of anaphors in discourse

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Principles governing the choice and the resolution of anaphors in discourse have received considerable attention in different fields of current linguistic theory (Schwarz-Friesel *et al.* eds. 2007). There is overall consensus on the issue that the choice of one class of expressions out of a set of representatives with different degrees of lexical explicitness (zero elements – different types of pronouns – full DPs) is subject to a complex of factors reflecting the properties of the antecedent and the principles of discourse organization. What remains controversial is the nature and the interaction of these factors, among all grammatical function, definiteness, animacy, and different dimensions of information structure (givenness, topicality, focus).

Investigations into the role of anaphors in discourse mainly consider data from modern languages but are particularly rare in historical linguistics. However, it is well-known that the earlier stages of some languages display a rich inventory of expressions used to refer to a particular entity in the previous discourse, thus providing a good testing ground for the hypotheses put forward in the theoretical research. As there has been growing interest in information structure and discourse organization in diachronic linguistics, the workshop wants to focus on the relevance of anaphors as a mechanism of achieving coherence in discourse. We encourage contributions to one of the following issues:

- What are the discourse properties of different types of anaphors that are attested in earlier periods of a language?
- What are the changes in the system of anaphoric expressions as well as in the use of a certain class of anaphors over time?
- What is the syntactic and phonological behavior of pronouns in the scope of focus sensitive operators like Engl. *also*, *only* or *even*?
- How does the form of anaphors interact with the anticipated development in the following context (forward-looking function of anaphors)?

References:

Schwarz-Friesel, M., Consten, M. & Knees, M. (eds.)(2007): *Anaphors in Texts. Cognitive, formal and applied approaches to anaphoric reference*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.