

September 13, 2012

Maria Freddi

The three-hour seminar on Thursday 13th will be devoted to introducing the most common concepts and issues of quantitative linguistic research and some basic descriptive statistics. Based on real-linguistic examples, the concept of “quantifiability” of data will be discussed and compared to qualitative research methodologies. Also, the concepts of quantitative linguistic variables, hypotheses, reliability and validity will be defined and illustrated and two of the most common statistical tests used in linguistics, chi-square test and t-test, will be explained. Measures of correlation and regression, which participants will have already encountered in the previous seminars run by prof. Michael Cysouw, will be applied to different sets of data. Applications will be shown as examples of how to conduct inferential statistical analyses. The software used for some of the illustrations is SPSS Statistics, a free trial version of which can be downloaded onto the participants’ own pcs or in the computer lab for the duration of the course.

Pre-reading

FREDDI, Maria (2005) “From corpus to register: the construction of evaluation and argumentation in linguistics textbooks”. In: E. Tognini-Bonelli, G. Del Lungo Camiciotti (eds.) *Strategies in Academic Discourse*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John BENJAMINS, pp. 133-151. ISBN: 90-272-2290-8

September 19, 2012

Maria Freddi

In the second three-hour seminar, the focus will be on corpus creation and exploitation with revision of key concepts such as sampling and representativeness. The seminar will deal with concordance analysis and analysis of collocation. English data will be considered, but reference will be made to some of the contents discussed in the seminars on Russian corpora by prof. Ljasevskaja. The software used to carry out the searches and analyses will be *Wordsmith Tools* (v.4).

Pre-reading:

Viana, V., S. Zyngier and G. Barnbrook (2011) *Perspectives on Corpus Linguistics*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John BENJAMINS