

22nd Annual DGfS Meeting in Marburg, Germany

The DGfS (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, German Society for Linguistics) organizes the largest European conference on linguistics. The annual meetings are held towards the end of February/beginning of March each year at varying places in Germany. Twelve workshops on different linguistic aspects, usually six on the main conference theme, six ranging freely from phonetics to text linguistics, offer an opportunity for everyone to present a paper and/or to participate in the discussions. Conference languages are German and English and occasionally French. Information can be found on the website <http://coral.lili.uni-bielefeld.de/DGfS/>.

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the DGfS was held from March 1–3, 2000 in Marburg. The conference theme was "The word – structures and concepts". This year, there were 539 participants from all over the world.

About 190 papers were presented by researchers from Europe, the United States and Canada, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand in 12 parallel workshops, covering numerous linguistic areas, including parts of speech, conceptualization and grammaticalization, case, graphemic structures, phonology, word finding in acquisition and aphasia, and others. Papers in the workshops ranged from various aspects of linguistic theory and language modeling to language acquisition and loss. Usually, some of the organizers of a workshop decide to publish the papers.

Two plenary sessions completed the programme. The plenary speakers were Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy (The evolution of the language faculty: Morphological and nonmorphological evidence), William Labov (The triumph of regional dialects in America), James Pustejovsky (What do words reveal about concepts) and Anna Wierzbicka (Semantic primitives and lexical universals as a key to lexical semantics: The case of emotions).

Additionally, there were two CD-ROM demonstrations, one on the atlas of North American English and one on neuronal language modeling.

One plenary talk (Labov) and one workshop were devoted to phonology. "The word in phonology" brought together 18 papers on phonology and phonetics with topics on, e.g., Optimality Theory, the relationship between phonology and morphology, the relationship between sounds and prosodic features, syllable structure, word stress as well as special phonetic and acoustic aspects.

Book exhibitions throughout the conference presented hundreds of classics, recent and brand-new publications from German and international publishers, among them Bertelsmann, Buske, Cambridge UP, Erich Schmidt, Gunter Narr, Hueber, John Benjamins, Langenscheidt, Longman, Metzler, Mouton de Gruyter, Niemeyer, Oldenbourg, Oxford UP, Peter Lang, Stauffenburg, UTB, Waxmann, Winter.

The next meeting of the DGfS will be held from February 28 – March 2, 2001, in Leipzig. The conference theme is "Language and Cognition".

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