

About KRUse (2013/2014 - 2016/2017)

In recent years, I had several opportunities to evaluate PhD programs in France and in Europe. I also was responsible for a PhD program in Linguistics at Paris-Saint-Denis for several years and took an active part in the PhD program in Language Science at Paris- Diderot. In my opinion, KRUse is one of the best programs available in Europe today.

The program combines a tight internal structure with a flexible functioning. One of its hallmarks is that it aims at relating three areas which are usually kept apart in language studies. These are psychology and formal syntax, text and discourse linguistics, and lexicography and terminology. The fact that the students of language science working within the program are exposed to different fields of research, each with its own problems and methodology, implies that, when confronted with a specific problem, they can tackle it from different theoretical points of view and different methodologies, which uncontroversially constitutes a great advantage. On the other hand, students in linguistic science, as future scholars and researchers, are supposed to master as many sub-areas of the field as possible. Now that the various sub-fields in linguistics have gathered an impressive mass of data, proposed generalizations and built theories, time has come to step back a little and to try to put all these results into a coherent whole. Through its organization, KRUse directly

participates in this necessary and promising enterprise.

Another aspect which deserves to be mentioned is that in each area of specialization, theoretical constructs go hand in hand with a careful analysis of the data. The various contexts of language use in real life are taken into account: L1 and L2 acquisition, impaired language, text/discourse comprehension and production, monolingual and bilingual contexts. Much thought is given to the indicative value of the data themselves. This multi-channel approach to

natural language is also illustrated by the type of seminars that are proposed: some are speciality seminars (in psycholinguistics, in text and discourse linguistics, in lexicology); others are general seminars that are of interest to all the specialities (for example, the one entitled *Methods in Linguistics*).

But the overall organization of the program is also much flexible because students are offered "parallel activities", which allow them to increase their knowledge of language and linguistics by resorting to other sources. KRUse has organized a Summer School in Linguistics (not restricted to the KRUse students, but open to students and teachers from other universities). Three editions have already taken place. Scholars from the best establishments in the world have been invited to participate (in the 2016 edition, David Pesetsky from MIT, Colin Phillips from the University of Maryland, Jean-Paul Bronckart from the University of Geneva, Jean Pruvost from the University of Cergy-Pontoise) and many other younger ones. Reading groups are also organized during the Summer School, that is, regular meetings including conferences by visitors at CLUNL, workshops, presentations made by doctorate students. The lists given in the various reports are impressive.

The overall result of these multiple, but carefully planned and balanced activities is that a tight link is successfully established between teaching and research, which is exactly what is expected from a doctoral program. The organization of a student conference

would undoubtedly be an additional step forward. This wasn't possible in the last editions, but I know that the people at KRUse are working hard on this project.

In conclusion, it must be acknowledged that, since its inception, KRUse has reached a high level of excellence in all respects, strengthening and deepening knowledge in all the areas of linguistic science (it is a good idea to jointly deal with formal syntax, acquisition, variation in all their aspects), as well as emphasizing its social impacts (for example, in the contexts of education, health and specialized language use) and opening new areas of research (reflection on the notion of corpus, on the indicative value of examples depending on the context of utterance).

Of course, the architecture of the program plays a decisive role in its success. But the reason why KRUse is so successful is also that it relies on the energy and the talent of the Portuguese colleagues that participate in it, who were trained in Portugal or abroad with equal success.

For all these reasons, I strongly believe that KRUse, which is unique in many respects, should continue. If I am allowed to express my view on the matter, I also believe that the number of allocations made available each year should be increased.

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