

## Evaluation of CLUNL

Report 2017

Alain Rouveret, Honorary Professor  
Member of the Advisory Committee

This report has been prepared on the basis of the documents sent to the members of the Advisory Committee by the CLUNL management, namely the Scientific Component of the Progress Report for 2017 and the various documents attached to it.

The organization into four research groups, which proved to be so successful in the preceding years, has been maintained. They are

Group 1 (LIFE - Formal and Experimental Linguistics)

Group 2 (Lexicology, Lexicography and Terminology)

Group 3 (Grammar and Text)

Group 4 (Cognition, Language and Multimodal Communication).

The advantages of this multi-channel organization should be emphasized. It combines a tight internal structure with a flexible functioning and aims at relating areas which are usually kept apart in language studies. This places the students of language science working within the research program KRUse, adjoined to CLUNL in a particularly favorable situation. They are exposed to different fields of research, each with its own problems and methodology, so that, when confronted with a specific problem, they can tackle it from different theoretical points of views 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 try to put all these results into a coherent whole. Through its organization, CLUNL actively 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 theoretical and methodological choice confirms CLUNL's commitment to both applied and fundamental research.

This is particularly true in my area of competence, namely formal and experimental linguistics. Part of LIFE's research objectives are highly theoretical. LIFE aims at understanding which properties of human languages are universal, which ones are variable, how languages are acquired, how they change and how the language faculty interacts with other components of the mind. These explorations take into account both typical and atypical (impaired) development, both children and adults. Different fields of research and different topics are being explored: comparative morpho-syntax encompassing synchronic and diachronic perspectives, L1, L2, bilingual language acquisition and development, processing. In

2017, comparative studies between Brazilian and European Portuguese have been carried on, dealing with verbal agreement and pronoun production. Various morpho-syntactic aspects of Portuguese grammar have been studied, including inflected infinitives in different varieties of Portuguese, causative structures with participle in Medieval Portuguese, clitic placement, argument alternations. But new topics have also been introduced on the research agenda, in particular within the highly attractive and promising Bilateral Cooperation Project "Development of syntactic structures in Portuguese and French monolingual and bilingual acquisition": MA and PhD dissertations are currently dealing with bilingual children.

At the same time, at a more applied level, diagnosis materials for different types of language impairment are developed, as well as effective tools for language therapy and language teaching, which emphasizes CLUNL's deep concern for applied research.

Comprehensive chapters on specific syntactic topics and language acquisition topics have also been written for a number of manuals and Portuguese grammar directed towards a broader public (Manual of Romance Morphosyntax and Syntax (de Gruyter), A aquisição de língua materna e não materna, Questões gerais e dados to Português (Language Science Press), Gramática do Português (Fundação Gulbenkian)).

It must be acknowledged that the overall results of CLUNL in terms of publications (38 books, 22 papers in international journals), communications at international scientific meetings (64), conference organization (11) are absolutely impressive and far exceed what could be reasonably expected, if one refers to the expected indicators rubric. The contribution of the LIFE project to this set is considerable: just for 2017, 31 publications, the vast majority of which are articles in international journals or book chapters in international publications.

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