Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf Institut für Sprache und Information Abteilung für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft

# ZÄHLEN UND MESSEN

## Counting and Measuring

Instructors:	Hana Filip, Guillaume Thomas
Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 16:30 - 18:00
Place:	Building 25.13, Room U1.30
Website:	http://user.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/~filip/Mass.Count.htm

Building 24.53, Room 00.94
Thursday 11:00-12:00 and by appointment
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(0)211 81-12554 (Dept. Office, Abt. für ASW, Tim Riebe)

Guillaume Thomas	
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Zählen und Messen sind in der Grammatik Eigenschaften, die für Nomen und auch für Verben relevant sind. Nomen gelten als zählbar, wenn sie einen Plural bilden können ("ein Apfel", "sieben Äpfel"). Im Prinzip können alle außersprachlichen Entitäten, Objekte und Ereignisse, beschrieben werden als diskret zählbar ("Regenguss", "einen Sprung machen") oder nicht-diskret ("Wasser", "Regen", "schwimmen"), und dann können sie GEMESSEN werden (ien Liter Wasser", "eine Stunde lang schwimmen"). Themen (unter anderem): Kollektivum (Gebirge), Sortenplural, Markierung des Numerus (Singular/Plural), (In)definitheit, Zählbarkeit aus sprachvergleichender Sicht, aspektuelle Klassen, grammatikalischer Aspekt.

Note: The class will be conducted in English and German (see below "LANGUAGE")

### LEARNING GOALS

- Understand theoretical and empirical methods of linguistic analysis
- Develop skill in reading primary scientific research literature
- Develop skill in scientific writing
- · Develop skill in scientific oral presentation

### PREREQUISITES

Introduction to Semantics & Pragmatics, Syntax & Morphology, Logic.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS (Beteiligungsnachweis and Abschlussprüfung)

- **Participation in seminar.** Active participation in seminar discussions. They will be based on lectures, assigned readings (see the COURSE SYLLABUS below) and write-ups submitted by students.
- · Write-ups. For certain assigned readings, you will be required to provide write-ups (in

English or German). Your write-ups should include: (i) a discussion concerning some points that you found interesting and why, and (ii) questions and points of clarification. Print out your write-ups and bring to class unless otherwise noted. Late write-ups (i.e. after the lecture has begun) will not be accepted. You are welcome to turn in your write-ups early (e.g. if you know you will miss class).

- **One presentation in seminar.** It should be about 30 minutes long followed by about 30minute question and answer period. (This may vary depending on the number of students in the seminar.)
- **Beteiligungsnachweis (BN):** In order to get a BN:
  - (i) You must turn in write ups with no more than two unsatisfactory grades.
    - You will be graded on a V, V- basis, where V is satisfactory, V- is unsatisfactory.
  - (ii) One in-class presentation of your write-up (in English or German).
  - (iii) You may not miss more than 4 class meetings.
- **Abschlussprüfung (AP):** In order to qualify for the AP, you must meet the requirements for the BN and write a final paper at the end of the term (more instructions provided towards the end of the term).

You are highly encouraged to apply for the AP since most of the work that you do for the BN will count towards the AP. You can apply for the AP using the appropriate form for your course of study. The forms are available in the linguistics department office, and you can turn in your completed form there.

### LANGUAGE

A lot of the lecturing will be in English, because nearly all the relevant research is published in English. However, you are welcome to participate in class by speaking English or German and you are welcome to turn in assignments in English or German. You will NOT be penalized for any mistakes having to do with English grammar; you will be graded purely on content.

### COMMON COURTESY

Turn off cellular phones and other electronic devices during class, do not send and receive text messages during class. You may use a laptop to take notes.

Week 1: April 8

Class introduction

April 10 (Hana) Allan 1980

Week 2: April 15 (Hana) Allan 1980

> **April 17 (Hana)** Krifka 1989: Mereological background

Week 3: April 22 (Guillaume) Krifka 1989

> **April 24 (Guillaume)** Krifka 1989

Week 4: April 29 (Guillaume) Chierchia 2010 \*\*First write-up due\*\*

May 1 (no class – holiday - Maifeiertag)

Week 5: May 6 (Guillaume) Chierchia 2010

> May 8 (Hana) Discussion of the first write-up

Week 6: May 13 (Guillaume) Rothstein 2010

> May 15 (Hana) Pelletier 2012

Week 7: May 20 (Hana) Landman 2011 \*\*Second write-up due\*\*

> May 22 (Guillaume) Discussion of the second write-up

Week 8: May 27 (Guillaume) Grimm 2012

May 29 (no class - holiday - Christi Himmelfahrt)

Week 9: June 3 (Guillaume) Grimm 2012

> **June 5 (Guillaume)** Parsons 2000 (chapters 1, 2, 3)

Week 10: June 10 (Hana) Parsons 2000 (chapters 8, 9) \*\*Third write-up due\*\*

> **June 12 (Hana)** Discussion of the third write-up

Week 11: June 17 (Guillaume) June 19 (no class – holiday - Fronleichnam)

- Week 12: June 24: TBA June 26: TBA
- Week 13: July 1 (Hana) Barner and Snedeker 2005

**July 3 (Hana)** Barner and Snedeker 2005

Week 14: July 8 (Guillaume) Lima 2014

> **July 10** Lima 2014

Week 15: July 17 (Hana)

#### REFERENCES

ALLAN, KEITH. 1980. Nouns and Countability. Language 56:541-567.

BARNER, DAVID and JESSE SNEDEKER. 2005. Quantity judgments and individuation: evidence that mass nouns count. Cognition 97.41–66.

CHIERCHIA, GENNARO. 2010. Mass nouns, vagueness and semantic variation. *Synthèse* 174:99–149.

- GRIMM, SCOTT. 2012. *Number and Individuation*. Ph. D. Thesis, Stanford University. Stanford, CA. TBA.
- KRIFKA, MANFRED. 1989. Nominal Reference, Temporal Constitution and Quantification in Event Semantics. In R. Bartsch, J. van Benthem, and P. van Emde Boas, eds., *Semantics* and Contextual Expressions, pp. 75-115. Dordrecht: Foris.
- LANDMAN, FRED. 2011. Count Nouns Mass Nouns, Neat Nouns Mess Nouns. In B. H. Partee, M. Glanzberg, and J. Skilters, eds., Formal Semantics and Pragmatics. Discourse, Contexts, and Models. The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic, and Communication, Vol. 6. Manhattan, KS: New Prairie Press.
- LIMA, SUZI. 2014. The grammar of individuation and counting. Ph. D. Thesis, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- PARSONS, TERENCE. 2000. Indeterminate Identity. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- PELLETIER, FRANCIS JEFFRY. 2011. Descriptive Metaphysics, Natural Language Metaphysics, Sapir-Whorf, and all that Stuff: Evidence from the Mass-Count Distinction. In B. H. Partee, M. Glanzberg, and J. Skilters, eds., Formal Semantics and Pragmatics. Discourse, Contexts, and Models. The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic, and Communication, Vol. 6, pp. 1-46. Manhattan, KS: New Prairie Press.
- 2012. Lexical Nouns are Neither Mass nor Count, but they are Both Mass and Count. In D. Massam, ed., A Cross-Linguistic Exploration of the Count-Mass Distinction, pp. 9-26. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- ROTHSTEIN, SUSAN. 2010. Counting and the Mass/Count Distinction. *Journal of Semantics* 27(3):343-397.