

XIVèmes Rencontres Jeunes Chercheurs

16 et 17 juin 2011

Created in 1998, the Rencontres Jeunes Chercheurs (RJC) of the Doctoral School « Langage et langues » (ED 268, Sorbonne Nouvelle University – Paris 3) is an opportunity for junior researchers preparing for a Master's degree or a Doctorate, but also for post-doctorates, to present their work in paper or poster sessions.

This year, for the 14th edition of the RJC, the theme will be :

Questioning practices in linguistics research, or how do we linguists conduct our research?

While we speak about linguistics, we do not think about a singular discipline but rather about its plurality. Today, linguistics is no longer referred to as the science of languages, but rather as «Language sciences ». The use of the plural is not fortuitous at all and can be justified insofar as, on the one hand, it describes «the set of connected fields of research studying language / speech and language systems » and, on the other hand, it «[...] focuses on a diversity of scientific approaches to those objects of research ». (*Dictionnaire des Sciences du Langage*, Neveu 2004 : 261).

Today, far from being restricted to the disciplines concerned, the plurality claimed by Language Scientists not only lies in the multiplicity of the aspects studied, but also seems to be linked with the various methods used, whether they result from general approaches or from particular theories or fields. The question of practices in scientific research makes sense at every level of scientific investigation: the steps taken by language scientists range from data processing and analysis before they can reach some conclusions that can either reinforce or undermine a hypothesis that has been previously formulated on the ground of a definition of the specific aim of an investigation. This issue has become essential. It now turns out to be all the more relevant as we are confronted with proliferation of theoretical models and their interoperability as well as with the necessity of doing some more interdisciplinary researches aims at shedding some light on unexplored or insufficiently studied aspects of an issue, aspects that have been imaged only with one type of level of investigation which is often incomplete and full of gaps.

However, in spite of the strong emphasis placed on the heterogeneous approaches, one should not overlook the fact that all the sciences of language are united by one common object, that is language (language systems) and languages (language / speech). Hence the importance to determine how experts from various backgrounds deploy their respective knowledge, method and approach, when presented with one and the same issue. Maybe we could even go as far as to suggest that the large variety of methods every researcher is regularly confronted with might help them to consider the compatibility of different theoretical approaches and the results they lead to.

We invite participants to present their work with regard to the following questions:

- 1) To what extent do theoretical choices determine research work?
- 2) How do researchers deal with the clear-cut distinctions among the different branches of linguistics? Should we rather opt for inter- or cross-disciplinary approaches?
- 3) Does any alteration of an object of study go along with changing methods and practices?
- 4) To what extent do research tools restrict or broaden the scope of expected results within a theoretical framework?
- 5) Considering their background in linguistics, how can young researchers acquire this kind of technical knowledge?

Disciplines concerned by the topic:

Language education, semantics, syntax, phonetics, phonology, natural language processing, language acquisition, translation studies, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, stylistics.