

Martine Gallardo

Workshop on Aspect and Argument Structure of Adjectives/Adverbs and Participles/Prepositions

From June 16th to 17th 2022, I attended the 10th edition of the Workshop on Aspect and Argument Structure of Adjectives/Adverbs and Participles/Prepositions (WAASAP), which took place at the University of Greenwich in England. This workshop featured a number of presentations on aspect and argument structure, and related topics from a diverse set of languages, among which were Haitian, Japanese, and Catalan. I particularly enjoyed the plenaries, including the opening plenary on serial verb constructions in Caribbean languages, and the closing plenary which sought to retheorize the way we analyze verb meanings. Both of these plenaries were thought-provoking and presented novel data which challenged earlier ways of understanding their respective topics.

The nature of the workshop, both in terms of the specificity of the topic tackled and the limited number of attendees, most of whom were experts in the field, allowed me substantial time to discuss both my work as well the work of other presenters and recent developments in the field. Via this discussion time, I was recommended a recent dissertation on semi-copular verbs and a book on root meanings that I believe will help me to expand my current research.

Attending WAASAP provided me with an excellent opportunity to present my work on aspect and passives in Italian to an international audience of experts, and I received useful feedback on my analysis, which suggested that I might expand my syntactic analysis via the inclusion of more semantics. Additionally, I met an Italian linguist there who gave me additional data that helped to bolster my analysis.

Unexpectedly, some of the attendees also took an interest in my other area of research, which is second language acquisition. So, beyond the initial purpose of attending, which was to receive feedback on my syntax work, I was also able to make connections with scholars who work on second language acquisition, including a PhD student from Spain who also works on the second language acquisition of Spanish.

Overall, I would like to thank the CIPL for providing me with this travel grant, without which travel abroad would not have been possible. The talks I was able to see on the very latest developments in the areas of aspect and argument structure, and the feedback I received was invaluable and has helped me to refine my current work into a manuscript which I will soon be submitting for consideration for publication.