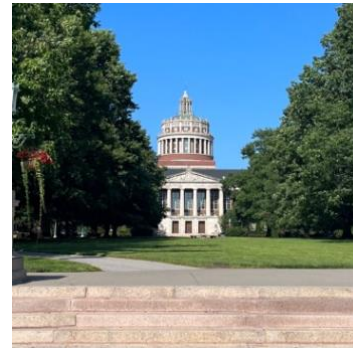


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Conference Report

I am very grateful to the Comité International Permanent des Linguistes, whose generous funding enabled me to attend the 28th Annual Lexical-Functional Grammar Conference (LFG23). The conference was held at the University of Rochester in the US from 22 to 24 July 2023. I really enjoyed the tranquillity in Rochester, which contrasted with the hustle and bustle of New York City.



The conference programme and my slides can be found here:
<https://sas.rochester.edu/cls/lfg23/program/>

In the 30-minute talk, I discussed the syntax-phonology interface concerning the verb-object phrase in two varieties of Chinese, i.e., Mandarin and Wenzhounese. In these varieties, a syntactically well-formed VP is prosodically ill-formed if a disyllabic verb takes a monosyllabic NP as its object. More interestingly, the prosodic ill-formedness incurred a stronger constraint violation in Mandarin than in Wenzhounese, which challenges traditional generative theories that assume binary grammaticality and motivates me to argue that grammaticality should be gradient. I discussed how we can formally capture gradient grammaticality and combine it with LFG, and what problems might arise due to this combination.



Although gradient grammaticality has been a controversial issue, most participants were sympathetic to my proposal partly because of the solid empirical base of my argument. In the 15-minute Q&A, the participants provided valuable comments regarding the influence of word frequency on acceptability judgment and the potential interaction between different modules of grammar, which I aim to incorporate into my paper to be submitted to the conference proceedings.

I also learned a lot from the other talks, e.g., the formation of complex predicates, arguments for and against lexical integrity, and documentation of endangered languages. Moreover, I had the chance to meet people with different specialisations within and beyond LFG, which was a great bonus for attending in-person conferences.