Linguistic Colloquium

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TYPE GRAMMARS FOR NATURAL LANGUAGE

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We will introduce a framework for the analysis of natural language based on the idea of a type logical grammar: a system of formal rules that can be applied to test the grammaticality of strings of words of a language, and eventually produce algorithms for the generation of grammatical sentences.

This idea has important precedents in the philosophy of Edmund Husserl and was developed in details by the Polish School of Logic (Ajdukiewicz). A significative step in this direction is represented by the Syntactic Calculus introduced in 1958 by the mathematician Joachim Lambek, and then developed in the Eighties by linguists and logicians like J. van Benthem, M. Moortgat, G. Morrill, W. Buszkowski and many others.

In the talk the basic elements of type logical grammars, also known as categorial grammars, will be introduced and linguistic examples will be given concerning different languages, making particular reference to the rules of Lambek's Syntactic Calculus.

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