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Resume

Since September 2006	PhD student and teaching assistant in linguistics at the University of Paris 3
2005-2006	Master's degree (Master 2) in Linguistics at the University of Paris 3 Dissertation: <i>Un connecteur accommodant: "autrement"</i> Advisor: Michel Charolles
	Work at the Laboratoire d'Acoustique Musicale with Danièle Dubois and Adrien Mamou-Mani: linguistic analysis of a corpus drawn from an experiment conducted with pianists and piano tuners
	High school teacher in French Literature (professeur agrégé de français) at the lycée Langevin-Wallon in Champigny-sur-Marne (parisian suburb)
2005	Agrégation de Lettres Modernes (competitive examination in modern literature to become high school teacher)
2004	CAPES de Lettres Modernes (competitive examination in modern literature to become junior high school teacher)
2002-2003	First year of Master's degree (Maîtrise) in Modern Literature Major : French Linguistics at the University of Paris 3 Dissertation: <i>Délimitation des unités syntaxiques dans le texte (Sylvie de Nerval)</i> Advisor: Pierre Le Goffic
2001-2002	Licence de Lettres Modernes (third year of undergraduate studies in Modern Literature) at the University of Paris 3

1999-2001	Preparatory classes in humanities at the lycée Condorcet, Paris
1999	Baccalauréat (high school degree) in Literature at the lycée François Ier, Le Havre

WORKS

(2009...2010...2011...?)

Doctoral dissertation in progress : *Description diachronique et synchronique du marqueur “autrement”*, advisor: Michel Charolles, Université de Paris 3.

Résumé / Abstract

(2008)

- a. “Topicality and discourse structure: evidence from the French marker *autrement*”, *30. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft*, workshop on Topicality, February 27-29, Bamberg. **Abstract**
- b. Review of Aloni, Butler & Dekker (eds.), *Questions in Dynamic Semantics*, Elsevier 2007, Linguist List. **html**
- c. “Making discourse structure realistic”, *Utterance interpretation and cognitive models II*, July 19-21, Brussels. **Abstract**
- d. Review of Detges & Waltereit (eds.), *The Paradox of Grammatical Change*, John Benjamins 2008, Linguist List. **html**

(2007)

“*Autrement*, un marqueur anaphorique d’altérité”, in *Actes des dixièmes Rencontres Jeunes Chercheurs de l’ED 268*, Paris, 12 mai 2007.

Abstract / pdf

(2006)

Un connecteur accommodant : “autrement”, mémoire de master 2, sous la direction de Michel Charolles, Université de Paris 3.

pdf

Autrement, un marqueur anaphorique d'altérité
Abstract

The marker *autrement*, whose use ranges from the adverb of manner to the connective, works anaphorically. The selection of its antecedent is subject to various requirements, stemming for instance from discourse structure or focalisation, and doing so the complement (rather than the negation) of this antecedent is accommodated. In this complex operation, the subsequent context may resolve ambiguity. Thus, meaning and discourse structure are dynamically processed.

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Topicality and discourse structure:
evidence from the French marker *autrement*
Abstract

I investigate the organization of discourse structure, as revealed by the adverb *autrement*, which in one of its use works as a marker of topic shift (roughly equivalent to *apart from that*). *Autrement* is anaphoric and takes as its antecedent a ‘topical’ constituent, that is ‘what is being talked about’ in the current sentence or discourse (or any subpart of the latter), but also a framing adverbial, a topicalized phrase, or the subject. The idea advocated here is thus that discourse has a structural organization where topics are ‘embedded’: there is a general matter of discussion, divided into sub-matters, further distinguished according to adverbial specifications, and so on, down to the subject of the clause, which is a topic in the traditional sense of information structure. Although the notion of topic is a notoriously slippery one, there happens to be no satisfying discourse relation (whatever the theoretical framework) to describe two sentences connected by *autrement*, except that ‘something has changed’. ‘Topic’ here is a rather vague notion, not necessarily amenable to formalization, working more or less as a mental address or anchor. But when *autrement* shows up, then we know that ‘something has changed’, and that what has changed is what we are talking about.

Making discourse structure realistic

Abstract

Discourse structure and its organization with discourse relations have many arguments in their favor. But an important issue is concerned with large texts: how does such a large structure get processed? What I propose is that on a large scale, only the upper part of discourse structure is taken into account; more precisely, topics are remembered and organized. To use SDRT terminology, attaching a proposition to an existing discourse structure not only means that an adequate relation is found, but also that information is added to the overarching topic. If the current proposition is attached with a subordinating discourse relation, then this added information is straightforward (it is the proposition that plays the role of attachment site); but if the relation is coordinating, then such a topic has to be built. Such a mechanism has already been discussed. What I want to advocate is that those topics are the ‘important part’, and that everything below is ‘skimmed’. An important question is: when does this happen? I propose that a substructure is pruned when it leaves the Right Frontier. Experimental data support this hypothesis: after the Right Frontier, subjects link words more easily to topics, although they’re abstract entities, than to sentences of the text, while there’s no such difference before the Right Frontier. This fact may be interpreted as the result of the ‘skimming’ process advocated here.