Abstracts

Jean ALBRESPIT et Henri PORTINE, « Entre hypothèse et contrefactualité : du corpus au recueil et à l'analyse des données »

This study is positioned on the dividing line between the expression of hypothesis and the evocation of counterfactuality in English and French. We begin by commenting on the use of the terms "*irrealis*" and "*irréel*" in linguistic analysis and highlight the stratificational ambiguity of the terms. We argue that the notion of counterfactuality is significant in linguistics, even if this notion is mostly used by psycholinguists. Our claim is that there is a relative continuity—with possible threshold effects—between the formulation of hypotheses and the form of *irrealis* as such. We have based our study on a corpus of interviews in order to obtain relatively controlled data which we have analysed according to the postulated stratification and with the aim of highlighting the underlying operations at work.

Valérie BOURDIER et Régis MAUROY, « Formes du réel et de l'irréel dans les propositions finales en anglais »

In English, although final clauses in ***so that*** are an example of *irrealis*, their verbs may display a variety of modal markers: modal auxiliaries do indeed prevail, but the simple present and preterit tenses which usually express consequence rather than purpose in such clauses are also widely used. In comparison, only the subjunctive mood is acceptable in French, following *pour que/afin que*, not the indicative. This paper will refer to the *Théorie des Opérations Énonciatives* framework in order to examine the contextual parameters (predictability, genericity, iteration, notional proximity, etc.), which are associated with the use of simple tenses that are normally used to mark asserted statements. This can only be achieved by a close evaluation of the criteria pertaining to the definition of finality: the difference between assertion and validation, the part played by "teleonomy", qualitative and quantitative interaction in clauses and the relative importance of "otherness".

Caroline DUMAIS-TURPIN, « Lien réel/irréel : l'exemple des concepts de visée et d'intentionnalité en Théorie des Opérations Énonciatives »

With the predicates *wish* and *hope*, two complementary—or even contradictory—states may appear within the same utterance in contemporary English, one real, the other unreal; they also indicate the referent for the syntactical subject. The present study aims to distinguish between teleonomic function and agentivity from an utterer-based perspective and analyses the different uses of the predicate expressing wish, regret or hope.

The presence or absence of the choice of one value as opposed to another and teleonomic function are used as criteria in order to determine three different classes corresponding first to the linguistic concepts of prospective validation and of intentionality and a third category referring to "intentional prospective validation" which enable us to account for the predicates that are being studied.

Rui MARQUES, « Référence au réel et concordance des temps en portugais européen »

This paper focuses on the sequence of tenses *PAST + PRESENT* in structures of verbal complementation of European Portuguese. This sequence is possible with some, but not all, matrix verbs. The proposal is made that these lexical restrictions result from two factors: (i) the *PRESENT tense* is deictic, pointing to reality at the time of utterance; (ii) the meaning of some verbs imposes the real world as part of the denotation of the complement clause, contrary to what is observed with other verbs. Thus, the sequence *PAST + PRESENT* is blocked in those cases where the meaning of the main verb does not lead to the consideration of a model of reality at the time of utterance, since the *PRESENT* would have reference failure.

Catherine MÉRILLOU, « *Si j'aurais su j'aurais pas venu* : redondance et économie de marqueurs de l'irréel »

This paper explores the various possible ways of expressing a counterfactual hypothetical situation in French, starting from what is generally given as the standard pattern: a *si* clause in the imperfect (*protasis*) and a main clause (*apodosis*) in the conditional. Alternative patterns use the conditional, or the imperfect, twice, or both forms but in reverse order. Interestingly, one of those variants—and only one—is considered as ungrammatical. This leads to the question of redundancy *vs* economy.

The exploration goes on to study English and Italian, where resemblances are to be found beyond the differences—and ends up in Quebec where a particularly original and economical form is to be found: the hypothetical infinitive.

Catherine MOREAU, « Du Réel à l'Irréel : distanciation et représentation »

This paper examines the construction of *irrealis* within the *Théorie des Opérations Énonciatives* framework and argues that a strictly *realis/irrealis* binary distinction is inadequate. The study proceeds from the premiss that a distancing operation exists relative to the referential norm represented by *realis*, which is considered as a cognitive construct. Through interrelations with syntactic and grammatical categories, a scale of degrees is shown within this process. The final step in the scale corresponds to *irrealis*, which generates its own reality through counterfactuality and as such appears as compatible with *realis*.

Christiane ROCQ-MIGETTE, « La construction d'une hypothèse irréelle par un syntagme prépositionnel »

A prepositional phrase may introduce an unreal hypothesis within a simple sentence. This article analyses phrases expressing the spatial or temporal location of an event and those introduced by *with* or by the negative prepositions *but for* and *without*. The past form of a modal governing the lexical verb is essential to such *irrealis* constructions but the prepositional phrase is also definitely necessary to interpret the semantic value of the modal. The prepositional phrase often introduces a comparison with what is known as real, changing for example the circumstances of an event; when it refers to a non-existent element, this may be achieved through the lexicon. Ambiguities are solved by the context.

Jean-Claude SOUESME, « *As if* : du potentiel au service du réel »

The aim of this paper is to determine the fundamental value of *as if*, which is usually said to refer to fictive events. The study of its uses will lead us to consider *as if* as a marker of potentiality rather than unreality. Indeed, if the main clause of the sentence is in the present, *as if* is followed by a verb which can either be in the present tense or in the simple past. As a result, in a past context, we may wonder whether the preterit has a temporal or a modal value, all the more so as we encounter both *were* and *was* in the third person singular when the predicate is constructed with the verb *be*.

We shall then assume that *as if* serves to adjust the quantitative delimitation of a predicative notion to be found in the sentence, and that *as if* clauses play a part in adjusting to reality.

Anne TRÉVISE, « La construction de l'irréel : dynamique des interfaces syntactico-sémantiques »

Constructing reference to *irrealis* implies a two-way path between this more or less well-defined semantic category and the markers allowing for the construction of such referential values. It also implies leaping over the gap between *realis* and *irrealis*, with the possibility of returning to the

representation of what is or has been the case, i. e. has been validated, whether or not it has been explicitly and directly stated.

Can specific and regular markers, patterns of markers and combined predications be listed that unambiguously construct this unrealistic representation in English? And what about lexical expressions like "a picture in my mind", or "sell one's soul" in the reference text? And what of adverbs like "almost"? Besides, how is it possible that "if" can be absent in some non-ambiguous representations of *irrealis* combinations of predications but not *would*, *could* or *might*?

Jeanne **VIGNERON-BOSBACH**, « *Genre* en français et *like* en anglais : marqueurs d'irréel ? »

This article describes the use of *like* in English and *genre* in French when they mark a proposition as counterfactual. These terms can often be paraphrased with *as if* and *comme si*. In this contrastive study, we examine *genre* and *like* and the two predominant uses of *as if* and *comme si*, i. e. qualitative comparison and *irrealis* as the expression of controversy. How do *genre* and *like* express a contrast between a situation presented as real and a non-validated, counterfactual situation? To what extent do these two markers situate two propositions in a controversial/contrastive relation?