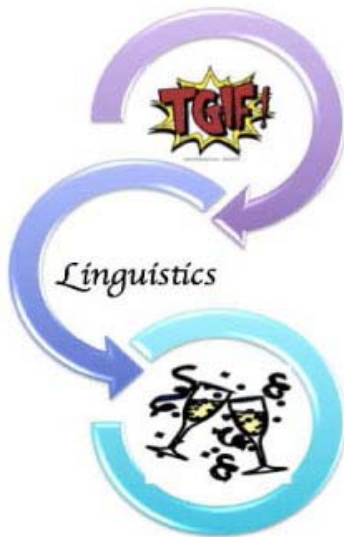# TGIF:
The NTU Linguist Chatroom

Join us!
Friday, 15 April 2016, 2.30pm
@ HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)

(Second) Thoughts About Data In Contemporary Linguistics

Not so long ago, "data" was a relatively unproblematic concept for many linguists. Soames and Perlmutter (1979) could claim, in all seriousness, that "an important advantage of linguistics ... is that its data is generally much more accessible than data in other sciences and typically can be obtained without time-consuming experiments." Our expectations about data in linguistics have changed over the years and data is no longer the unproblematic concept that Soames and Perlmutter once took it to be. In broad terms, there has been a proliferation of data types in linguistics, along with a concomitant proliferation of methods and types of argumentation. In this talk I offer my own (highly idiosyncratic) take on some data-related issues in current linguistics: (1) introspective data vs. other data, (2) overt vs. covert biases in data, (3) convergent vs. divergent results from different data types, (4) data from an individual vs. aggregated data from a population.

Speaker

John Newman taught in Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand before being appointed to the Department of Linguistics at the University of Alberta in 2002, where he served as Chair 2002-2011. His main research interests have been in the syntax and semantics of verbs, and he has researched in the areas of Germanic, Austronesian, and Chinese linguistics.

His publications include Give: A Cognitive Linguistic Study (1996) and the edited volumes The Linguistics of Giving (1997), The Linguistics of Sitting, Standing, and Lying (2001), The Linguistics of Eating and Drinking (2009). Since January 2014, Newman has been the Editor-in-Chief of the journal Cognitive Linguistics.

The TGIF seminar series is organised by the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, HSS