



Vacancy PhD student (AiO) in Syntax, Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL)

Application number: 9-033

The Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL, <http://www.hum.leiden.edu/lucl/>) is the research institute of linguistics at the Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University.

LUCL announces a PhD position in *theoretical syntax*, within the NWO-funded project *Focus and ellipsis* (project leader Anikó Lipták). The position is available from 1 September 2009.

Project description:

The project *Focus and ellipsis* aims at investigating the syntactic role of focus in the formation of forward and backward ellipsis in languages with different focus-marking strategies. The investigation will address the complete range of ellipsis constructions (sluicing, stripping, (pseudo-)gapping, fragments, verb phrase ellipsis, comparative deletion, noun phrase ellipsis) within generative grammar, specifically the minimalist framework.

The PhD student's task will be to address the properties of backward ellipsis. Backward ellipsis is different from forward ellipsis and has received much less attention in the literature. The PhD student's project includes the following research goals and areas:

- a) exploring the differences between remnants in backward ellipsis and remnants in forward ellipsis
- b) the role of focus in the formation of backward ellipsis;
- c) the nature of the mechanisms at work in backward ellipsis
- d) building up an empirical database from 6 typologically distinct languages (Hungarian, English, Spanish, and three African languages to be determined);

The full description of the whole project can be found at:

<http://www.hum.leiden.edu/lucl/research/focus-and-ellipsis.jsp>

The PhD candidate will need to:

- attend the one-year PhD program of LUCL
- present research results at international conferences
- help to organize a conference on the project topic

- write articles for international journals
- write a dissertation under the direction of the project supervisors
- collaborate with the principal investigator of the project, dr. Anikó Lipták

Requirements:

Candidates should have an MA degree in Linguistics with a strong background in syntactic research; fluency in English and good writing skills; affinity with consulting informants and ability to work independently but in close collaboration with the other team members and the project supervisors.

Conditions of employment:

The successful applicant will be appointed at LUCL for one and a half year and after a positive evaluation, followed by a fixed-term period of two and a half years.

Gross salary will be € 2042,- per month in the first year, gradually rising, also depending upon the evaluation, to € 2612,- per month in the final year conform the Collective Labour Agreement Dutch Universities.

The application should include:

- a letter of motivation with a description of the applicant's background and past research
- a curriculum vitae (a complete list of publications)
- MA thesis (when not yet available, other representative material)
- a 2-page research proposal about the PhD project "*Focus in background ellipsis*" (for a short description of the project follow the link above)
- names and e-mail addresses of two referees

Information:

More information can be obtained from Anikó Lipták, leader of the project:
A.Liptak@hum.leidenuniv.nl, tel. +31 71 527 3320.

Please send your letter (in Dutch or English), indicating the application number on the letter and the envelope, to the following address before **3 April 2009**:

Faculty of the Humanities, LUCL
Mrs. Irene Cockram – van 't Haaff, HR advisor/afd. P&O
P.O. Box 9515
2300 RA Leiden
The Netherlands

Applicants are encouraged to send an additional electronic copy of the application package to: A.Liptak@hum.leidenuniv.nl.