## 1st NetWordS Summer School:
## Interdisciplinary Approaches to Exploring the Mental Lexicon
## Dubrovnik, 2 – 6 July 2012.

NetWordS – The European Network on Word Structure is a European Science Foundation Research Networking Programme pursued over a four year period (from May 2011 to April 2015), which aims to enhance an interdisciplinary approach in exploring word structure, word processing, grammar architecture and language physiology. It has brought together experts from various research fields such as cognition, brain sciences, computing and linguistics from more than fifteen countries and forty research institutions, encouraging in this way knowledge networking and transfer of ideas on various research topics and issues related to word structure. The NetWordS programme also promotes further education for young scientists through exchange grants and summer schools.

The NetWordS Summer Schools primarily target doctoral students and junior researchers, and are aimed at fostering their awareness of cross–disciplinary (theoretical, typological, psycholinguistic, computational and neuro–physiological) aspects of word structure and processing. Schools are also intended to provide an informative insight into a variety of topics, approaches and methods of research related to the same issues.

In the four year period of the NetWordS programme, two summer schools are planned to take place. While the organization of the second one is planned for 2014, the first NetWordS Summer School, *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Exploring the Mental Lexicon*, took place from 2 – 6 July 2012 in Dubrovnik (Croatia), in Centre for Advanced Academic Studies (CAAS). The organization of the First NetWordS Summer School was coordinated by three members of the organizing committee Ida Raffaelli (University of Zagreb), Vito Pirrelli (Institute for Computational Linguistics "Antonio Zampolli", National Research Council, Italy) and Claudia Marzi (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy), and by four local organizers as well, Tena Gnjatović, Daniela Katunar, Matea Srebačić, and Jana Willer–Gold (all from University of Zagreb).

The 1st NetWordS Summer School brought together about eighty participants from all over Europe, and about twenty lecturers from USA, Canada and Europe. Lecturers, who are all top scholars in various fields, offered a broad range of intensive courses on theoretical and methodological issues related to the structure, content, organization and functioning of the mental lexicon. Lecturers also presented and discussed recent advances in the research of grammatical and semantic structures, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary methods. Courses were focused on the issues of learning, cognitive processing, storage, reach and recognition of words, as well as on morphological and syntactic implications in these processes.

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Since one of the main goals of the NetWordS is to promote interdisciplinarity in the research of word structure, lecturers who took part in the First NetWordS Summer School were scholars from diverse fields such as cognition, computer science, brain sciences and linguistics. Nicola Molinaro and Kepa Paz–Alonso (Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, Spain) presented neuro– and psycho–linguistic protocols for exploring the mental lexicon. Sabine Arndt–Lappe (University of Siegen, Germany) focused on interdisciplinary evidence of phonology–morphology interaction, and Jonathan Grainger (University of Aix–Marseille, France) on morphological constraints on orthographic processing. Gary Libben (University of Alberta, Canada) and Sergio Scalise (Bologna, Italy) addressed theoretical and cognitive implications on morphological compounding. James P. Blevins (University of Cambridge, UK) and Geert Booij (Leiden University, Netherlands) presented and discussed construction–based and paradigm–based approaches to word structure, while Gero Kunter (University of Siegen, Germany) focused on corpus–based approaches to word structure. Courses of Alessandro Lenci (University of Pisa, Italy) and Magnus Sahlgren (Gavagai, Sweden) offered an informative insight into distributional approaches to word meaning. The issue of word learning and processing was discussed in courses by Colin Davis (Royal Holloway University of London, UK) and Antal van den Bosch (Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands), who presented analogy–based models of word learning and processing, while Manuel Carreiras (Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, Spain) addressed the issue of processing words in a second language. Hélène Giraudo (CNRS and University Le Mirail Toulouse II, France) and Vito Pirrelli (Institute for Computational Linguistics "Antonio Zampolli", National Research Council, Italy) offered courses on psycho–computational models of lexical storage and access. The issue of word recognition and production was discussed by Jon Andoni Duñabeitia (Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, Spain) and Niels Janssen (University of La Laguna, Spain), while Petar Milin (University of Novi Sad, Serbia) and Fermín Moscoso del Prado (University of California, USA) focused on statistics in psycholinguistic inquiry. Réka Benczes (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary) and David Vinson (University College London, UK) focused on the issue of the cognitive reality of lexical category distinctions within theoretical and methodological frame of cognitive linguistics. Peter Gaerdenfors (Lund University, Sweden) presented his model of semantics based on conceptual spaces.

The whole event was very professionally organized and coordinated. What would have been welcome was a booklet with a short description of each course before the beginning of the School to help participants with choosing the courses of their interest.

Although NetWordS Summer Schools primarily target PhD students and junior researchers, it is important to mention that the programme of the School also drew the attention of many researchers with higher degrees (assistant professors, associate professors and full professors). The reason for

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such great interest possibly lies in the fact that, besides providing a cross–disciplinary synthesis of a variety of relevant topics and approaches, NetWordS Schools also give the opportunity for participants to discuss relevant issues not only with lecturers – experts in various fields – but also with each other, to exchange knowledge and share ideas, and to arrange future collaborations.

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