

Iasi, 18 December 2015

Short Term Scientific Mission Report

Dear Members of STSM Committee,

It is my pleasure to inform you that thanks to the STSM grant offered to me within the COST Action Number IS1312 I was able to make considerable headway towards the completion of my ongoing research project, *Cross-linguistic comparison of discourse relations and connectives in Romanian and English*. As stated in the plan of my stay, the goal of my project is to produce a small parallel corpus of texts translated from Romanian into English (fragments from the Europarl corpus) annotated for discourse relations/sense categories using the Cognitive Approach to Coherence (CCR) scheme developed by Professor Ted Sanders and the team of researchers from the Discourse Representation and Processing Group at the Utrecht Institute of Linguistics OTS (University of Utrecht, the Netherlands).

During my stay in Utrecht, which took place within the period specified in my application papers (29 November – 12 December 2015), I was offered the opportunity to participate in several two-to-three-hour meetings and have very instructive discussions with Professor Ted Sanders, associate professor dr. Jacqueline Evers-Vermeul and Jet Hoek (PhD-student). We also had the pleasure of being joined in some of these meetings by Ludivine Crible (PhD-student, Université Catholique de Louvain) and dr. Derya Cokal (Turkey). Our discussions focused on several topics of interest for discourse annotation, such as the criteria and procedures used to distinguish between objective and subjective relations, the nature and annotation of some multifunctional relations (*when – când, as long as – cât timp*, etc.), the segmentation issues, the steps to use when annotating relations with CCR, the annotation of temporal relations and the possibility of introducing additional dimensions within the CCR scheme, the nature of two adversative connectives specific to the Romanian language (*nu..., ci and iar*), etc. Professor Sanders and his team recommended (and even provided me with) several papers and works of interest for my research.

During my stay, I also attended the presentations of fellow researchers Ludivine Crible and Derya Cokal and, on 10 December, I delivered my own presentation (*Contrast and concessive relations in a small Romanian-English parallel corpus. Results of a pilot annotation project*) at the Discourse Colloquia organised by the Utrecht Institute of Linguistics OTS. My stay also included a visit at the eye-tracking laboratory run by the Utrecht Institute of Linguistics – where I observed and discussed one of the experiments conducted by Yipu Wei (PhD student working on discourse connectives) –, and several informal but informative discussions with dr. Nivja de Jong (assistant professor) and Andrea Santana Covarrubias (PhD-student).

This stay in Utrecht helped me clarify important issues relative to the annotation of discourse relations and to the CCR scheme. The results of my research efforts will be presented during the following events organised within the TextLink Action.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sorina Postolea

