**Acquisition and processing of grammatical gender**

February 26-28 2019, UiT Tromsø

**Instructors**

Professor Holger Hopp, University of Braunschweig

Professor Natascha Müller, University of Wuppertal

Associate Professor Sharon Unsworth, Radboud University

**Organizers**

Professor Terje Lohndal, NTNU & UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Professor Marit Westergaard, UiT The Arctic University of Norway & NTNU

**Description**

Since the pioneering work of Karmiloff-Smith (1979), formal criteria have been shown to play a dominant role in grammatical gender assignment in early child data. Young children have been found to make errors revealing that morphophonology often wins over semantics in cases where these factors make conflicting predictions. Addressing the acquisition of gender from a bilingual perspective, the quantity and quality of input has also been extensively discussed, in addition to questions of language dominance and age of onset. Various patterns of overgeneralization are also found in a range of different language pairs. In addition to discussing these topics, the course will also consider the processing of grammatical gender in both monolinguals and bilinguals, with an additional focus on asymmetries that may occur between processing and production.

The following issues will be discussed:

* Grammatical gender assignment in acquisition across several languages
* Morphophonological vs. semantic cues
* Acquisition of grammatical gender in monolinguals and bilinguals
* The status of non-target forms and what they tell us about the development of the grammatical gender system
* Processing of grammatical gender in first and second language and potential asymmetries between processing and production

The course will consist of 6 lectures from Tuesday to Thursday. Each day will have two lectures, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The course will also be open for MA students even though they can not take it for credit.

**Requirements for 5ECTS**

* Do readings before and during the course as assigned by the instructors.
* Attend all lectures
* Submit one research question in writing to the instructor after each lecture.
* Write a 2000-word paper on a chosen topic following the course