

Invitée par l'Institut de langue et littérature allemandes

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The progressive as a marker of mirativity: evidence from English, French, German and Dutch

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Salle R.S.38 - Espace Louis-Agassiz 1

Toute personne intéressée est cordialement invitée.

In my talk, I want to explore the relation between the categories of **aspect** and **mirativity** by analyzing the mirative(-like) meanings of progressive constructions in different languages, including the strongly grammaticalized progressive in English, the French construction *être en train de* (see De Wit et al. 2013), the German 'prepositional' *am*+infinitive-construction (see Anthonissen et al. 2016) as well as the Dutch prepositional *aan het*-progressive and the motion and posture verb progressive constructions. It will be shown that progressive aspect is frequently used to construe situations as somehow running counter to expectation, i.e. to convey mirative meanings. This connection between progressive aspect and mirativity can be related to the contingent (i. e. non-structural) status of situations reported by means of the progressive, which will be argued to be a universal property of progressive constructions.

Bio: Tanja Mortelmans is associate professor at the German department of the University of Antwerp. Her main research interests concern the broad fields of modality and evidentiality, also from a contrastive and didactic perspective. She has recently published on the semantics and syntax of (evidential) *seem*-type verbs in the Germanic languages, on the benefits of Construction Grammar with respect to the teaching of modal verbs (together with Lynn Anthonissen) and on the progressive construction in German (together with Lynn Anthonissen and Astrid De Wit)