TLT 2025

23rd International Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theories (TLT, SyntaxFest 2025)

Proceedings

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Introduction

The 23rd International Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistics (TLT) follows an annual series that started in 2002, in Sozopol, Bulgaria. TLT addresses all aspects of treebank design, development, and use, "Treebank" is taken in a broad sense, comprising any spoken, signed, or written data augmented with computationally processable annotations of linguistic structure at various levels. This year, TLT took place at SyntaxFest 2025 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, which brought together five related but independent events:

- 18th International Conference on Parsing Technologies (IWPT 2025)
- 8th Universal Dependencies Workshop (UDW 2025)
- 8th International Conference on Dependency Linguistics (DepLing 2025)
- 23rd Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theories (TLT 2025)
- 3rd Workshop on Quantitative Syntax (QUASY 2025)

In addition, a pre-conference workshop organized by the COST Action CA21167 – Universality, Diversity and Idiosyncrasy in Language Technology (UniDive) was held prior to the main event, with dedicated sessions on the 1st UniDive Shared Task on Morphosyntactic Parsing and the 2nd Workshop on Universal Dependencies for Turkic Languages.

SyntaxFest 2025 continues the tradition of SyntaxFest 2019 (Paris, France), SyntaxFest 2021 (Sofia, Bulgaria), and GURT/SyntaxFest 2023 (Washington DC, USA) in bringing together multiple events that share a common interest in using corpora and treebanks for empirically validating syntactic theories, studying syntax from quantitative and theoretical points of view, and training machine learning models for natural language processing. Much of this research is increasingly multilingual and cross-lingual and requires continued systematic analysis from various theoretical, applied, and practical perspectives. By co-locating these workshops under a shared umbrella, SyntaxFest fosters dialogue between overlapping research communities and supports innovation at the intersection of linguistics and language technology.

As in previous editions, all five workshops at SyntaxFest 2025 shared a common submission and reviewing process, with a unified timeline, identical submission formats, and a shared program committee. During submission, authors could indicate one or more preferred venues, but the final assignment of papers was determined by the collective program chairs, composed of the individual workshop chairs, based on thematic alignment. All accepted submissions were peer-reviewed by at least three reviewers from the shared program committee.

In total, SyntaxFest 2025 received 94 submissions, of which 73 (78%) were accepted for presentation. The final program included a total of 47 long papers, 21 short papers, and 5 non-archival contributions, distributed across the five workshops: 5 papers were presented at IWPT (2 long, 3 short); 20 at UDW (14 long, 5 short, 1 non-archival); 16 at DepLing (12 long, 2 short, 2 non-archival); 18 at TLT (10 long, 7 short, 1 non-archival); and 14 at QUASY (9 long, 4 short, 1 non-archival).

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who made this event possible. We thank all authors for their submissions and the reviewers for their time and thoughtful feedback, which contributed to a diverse and high-quality program. Special thanks go to the local organizing team at the University of Ljubljana and the Slovene Language Technologies Society for hosting the event, and to the sponsors for their generous support. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge ACL SIGPARSE for endorsing the event and the ACL Anthology for publishing the proceedings.

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Ljubljana, August 2025

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Keynote

Subject prominence revisited: What makes entities salient?

Amir Zeldes
Georgetown University

Abstract: In this talk, I'll explore what makes certain entities stand out in discourse — what we might call more or less "salient" — and how speakers systematically identify them. Building on existing approaches to information structural "aboutness", subjecthood, Centering Theory and animacy hierarchies, I argue that salience goes beyond surface categories such as definiteness, pronominalization and grammatical function. It's also shaped by deeper structures: distributional cues, discourse relations, hierarchical organization, genre conventions, and the communicative goals we infer from context. To get at this, I use a graded notion of salience based on how often entities are included in multiple human-written summaries of a text or conversation. Drawing on manually treebanked data from 24 different spoken and written genres in English, I ask: how is salience expressed for each entity mentioned in a discourse? I'll show that while traditional linguistic markers of salience all correlate with our salience scores to some extent, every rule has exceptions, and no single feature tells the whole story. Instead, salience cuts across all levels of linguistic structure, and the most informative theoretical model of the phenomenon must therefore combine cues from across morphosyntax, discourse structure, and functional pragmatics.

Bio: Amir Zeldes is Associate Professor of Computational Linguistics at Georgetown University, where he runs the Georgetown University Corpus Linguistics lab, Corpling@GU. He has worked on multilayer treebank construction and evaluation, including development of the Georgetown University Multilayer corpus (GUM) and datasets for low resource languages, such as the UD Coptic Treebank. His main area of research is computational discourse modeling, working on frameworks such as Enhanced Rhetorical Structure Theory (eRST) and Graded Salience, as well as topics such as coreference resolution, genre variation and summarization. He is currently president of the ACL Special Interest Group on Annotation (SIGANN).

Non-Archival Abstract

Segmentation of Sino-origin words to enhance the representation of Korean and Japanese in S/UD-format treebanks

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In the Japanese and Korean S/UD treebanks, Chinese-origin words composed of two morphophonological units are not segmented, even when they are semantically transparent. We propose segmenting and annotating these words with dependency relations in order to achieve a more fine-grained and unified description of both languages. As an example, we apply this analysis to the pre-annotated GSD corpora in SUD format, and we examine the benefits and limitations of a rule-based approach.

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