Affix mobility and the factual in Oneida

Thomas Diaz, University at Buffalo, SUNY

The factual prefix in Oneida (Northern Iroquoian), which denotes an action viewed as completed, presents myriad challenges for theories of inflectional morphology. While verbal morphology in Oneida is known for its fusional complexity, the factual is remarkable in that it can appear in four different positions within the verb, each with its distinct allomorph.

In this talk I will discuss the theoretical challenges the factual poses. I will then put forward an analysis based on Crysmann & Bonami’s (2015) Information-based morphology. This theory uses an HPSG-style feature structure that makes direct reference to position class, as well as the unique phonology of each unique exponent. This contrasts with similar inferential-realizational theories, such as Stump’s (2001) Paradigm Function Morphology, which utilizes ordered rule blocks which are then fed through other mechanisms to yield the correct surface form.

I will present on the theoretical benefits of an Information-based approach as opposed to these similar approaches.