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## CONTRAST IN PERCEPTION, COGNITION AND LANGUAGE

Verona, 29-30 October 2015

Palazzo Zorzi-Polfranceschi, Lungadige Porta Vittoria 17 - Aula riunioni 2° piano



### **Premise**

The aim of the meeting is to consolidate our research group and add contents to the agreement regarding the study entitled “*How the human mind makes use of contraries in everyday life. A new multidimensional approach to contraries in perception, language, reasoning and emotions*”, the agreement for which was signed in 2015.

### **Main aims of the meeting**

**1) Updates on relevant research.** Our (ambitious) goal is to study the role and behaviour of contraries in various cognitive functions in order to extend the body of research which a proposal for a general cognitive theory of opposition can be based on. There will be brief presentations about studies on opposites/contrasts in perception, reasoning, language, art and decision making etc. which we have been working on since our last meeting in 2013 or that we are going to work on in the near future and that we would like to discuss with the other participants in the meeting.

**2) Discussions on some theoretical questions that might help to delineate a general cognitive theory of opposites.** We would like to dedicate some time to “thinking aloud” about whether there is something invariant underlying the notions of “contrast”, “antonyms”, “opposites” and “contrariety” as used in the studies we have presented and, more in general, in the various areas we are familiar with (i.e. in cognitive linguistics/semantics, reasoning, analyses of irony/humour, spatial perception, spatial cognition and logics). If all these terms identify a cluster, a family of concepts, what is the basis of their similarity? Conversely, if they have nothing in common, we should be able to define a glossary which clearly demonstrates their independence (i.e. which proves that X can be used with reference to *only* one specific cognitive function, while it *makes no sense* when applied to the others).

**3) Potential future steps.** Discussions on possible future steps aimed at improving and consolidating the collaboration and activities of the group.

### October 29 morning

9.00-10.30 “Welcome and warm-up”. This will give us the opportunity to share the goals of the meeting and to briefly introduce ourselves to each other, especially important for those of us who did not attend the previous meeting in October 2013. We will also mention the contents of the research agreement.

10:30-11.00 coffee break

11.00-11.40 C. Paradis, J. van de Weijer (University of Lund), I. Bianchi (University of Macerata), R. Burro, U. Savardi (University of Verona). *The perception of intermediates: results from an eye-tracking experiment.*

11.40-12.20 C. Canestrari, I. Bianchi, V. Cori (University of Macerata). *Intermediates and verbal irony.*

12.20-13.00 R. Giora, S. Givoni, O. Fein (Tel Aviv University). *Sarcasm, contrasts, and pleasure.*

### October 29 afternoon

14.30-15.10 E. Threadgold, L. J. Ball, J. E. Marsh (University of Lancaster), *Does a hint to search for contraries facilitate insight in problem solving?*

15.10-15.50 M. Öllinger (Parmenides Foundation, Munich) *The interplay of perceptual and conceptual aspects in insight problem solving.*

15.50-16.30 E. Branchini, U. Savardi, R. Burro (University of Verona), I. Bianchi (University of Macerata). *Doing the opposite of what I see. Creating training based on contraries for improving geometrical problem solving.*

16.30-17.00 coffee break

17.00-17.40 S. Farshchi, C. Paradis, R. Andersson (University of Lund). *Narrow and broad functions of negation in a miniature artificial language.*

17.40-18.20 I. Verstegen (Pennsylvania University), U. Savardi (University of Verona). *Vantage point - vanishing point: the phenomenology of two other antonyms in perceptual space.*

18.20-19.00 A. M. Roncoroni, U. Savardi, R. Burro, E. Branchini, B. Buratti (University of Verona), I. Bianchi, C. Canestrari, (University of Macerata). *How do gifted students deal with opposites in various cognitive tasks? A (hopefully) promising question.*

### October 30 morning

9.00-9.40 M. Bertamini (University of Liverpool), *Angular and curved: why do they have such different (opposite) associations?*

9.40-10.20 D. Raccanello (University of Verona), C. Gobbo (University of Padua). *States of suffering and wellbeing: Children's and adults' conceptualization in terms of physical and psychological domain.*

10.20-11.00 R. Burro, U. Savardi (University of Verona), I. Bianchi (University of Macerata), M. Kubovy (University of Virginia). *Contraries on patients' perception of health state, risk, and commitment to the treatment.*

11.00-11.30 coffee break

11.30-12.10 A. Fermani (University of Macerata). *A chameleon on a colorful carpet. Aristotle on Contrariety, Intermediates and on the many ways in which we see and express Reality.*

12.10-13.00 A. Moretti. *Measuring and shaping oppositional complexity.*

### October 30 afternoon

15.00-17.00 Discussion: – **Brainstorming on the “cross-cut” features of contrast/contrariety/opposition which emerge from the discussions on the research. Identification of future potential new research topics and of the collaboration schedules to be implemented for research in 2015-2016** on the subjects identified.

17.00-17.30: coffee break

17.30-18.30 **Future plans:** a discussion about reasonable next steps (a book? a monographic issue in a Journal? a conference? EU projects? etc....) based on what has emerged during the meeting.

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