Nota BeNe 2.1: The Quality of Quantity, the Quantity of Quality – Call for Papers

In his final editorial as the editor of *Language*, Brian D. Joseph made the following observation:

> Linguistics has always had a numerical and mathematical side […] but the use of quantitative methods, and, relatedly, formalizations and modeling, seems to be ever on the increase; rare is the paper that does not report on some statistical analysis of relevant data or offer some model of the problem at hand. (Joseph 2008:687)

Similar observations can be found elsewhere in the literature (e.g. Janda 2019 or Kortmann 2021, who both speak of a "quantitative turn" in linguistics) and have been made during the round table at last year's Linguists' Day in Antwerp. While quantitative methods have certainly changed the way of working in linguistics, Janda (2019:22) alerts to the danger of "over-reliance on quantitative methods", and Kortmann (2021:1207) raises the question whether linguistics has "reached the point of a 'quantitative crisis'" or if it is still "a discipline characterized by a healthy equilibrium, if not mutual reinforcement, of quantitative and qualitative approaches".

In the third issue of our journal, we would like to take up this discussion. The aim is definitely not to start new "paradigm wars" (Angouri 2018:37) nor to present one of the approaches as generally superior, all the more since Newman & Ridenour (1998) have argued that the qualitative/quantitative distinction is "a false dichotomy". Rather, we want to shed new light on the relation between qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches in linguistic research and on how to decide which approach is most suited for particular kinds of linguistic research.

We therefore invite contributions that reflect on the opportunities and challenges of the different approaches. Is quantitative research actually possible without qualitative reflection? Does quantitative support make qualitative research more convincing? Are frequencies and statistics all there is to quantitative research, and is a paper to be considered as quantitative as soon as it mentions frequencies? What role does so-called "informal 'quantification'" (Schegloff 1993:118) play in this respect? Is a real integration of qualitative and quantitative research (mixed-methods in the strict sense) to be preferred or can a non-integrative combination of qualitative and quantitative lead to similarly valuable results? How to make one or the other approach more suited to the framework and the research goals? etc.

We particularly welcome contributions that address these and related matters on the basis of original research, although more general, theoretical contributions can be submitted as well.

If you would like to contribute, please send an abstract of approx. 500 words (excluding references) to notabene@aau.at by April 15, 2024. After approval, the full article (in English, 10 000 words max) will be due by September 15, 2024.

References

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Kortmann, Bernd. 2021. Reflecting on the quantitative turn in linguistics. *Linguistics* 59,5. 1207-1226.

Newman, Isadore & Carolyn Ridenour. 1998. *Qualitative-Quantitative Research Methodology: Exploring the Interactive Continuum*. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press.

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