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NEWSLETTER

SLIN

Newsletter Slin
Nicola Pantaleo
Via Martiri D'Avola 1/A
70124 BARI

n. 10 October 1995

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Edited by Prof. Nicola Pantaleo, Institute of English, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bari. Via G. Petroni 15/c - 70124 BARI
Tel. 080/5616520 - 080/5571427 Fax 080/5571459
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1. SLIN Conferences

The 7th SLIN National Conference on *English Diachronic Translation* which took place in the imposing premises of Villa Feltrinelli at Gargnano sul Lago from 2 to 4 October last enjoyed a mild weather and a substantial attendance of colleagues from all corners of Italy. Please find a detailed chronicle of those three days in the "Notes" written for us by Richard Dury with his customary lyrical touch. It remains to me to renew our thanks to the organizers, *in primis* Giovanni Iamartino, for the extraordinary hospitality and quasi-Swiss efficiency, waiting for the publication of the proceedings. I wish only to add that both the constant participation of our prestigious guest-speakers Proff. Jane Roberts and André Lefevere and the well-assembled book exhibition were universally appreciated.

The concluding business meeting provided, though its "brainstorming" open discussion, a few useful suggestions for future activity. Among them the confirmed one-day seminar on methods, tools and techniques of SLIN teaching - possibly including use of computer statistics - to be held next April in Rome, under David Hart's guidance, hopefully at the British Council's, or at the English Department. **All colleagues who wish to present a paper or a brief report are kindly requested to contact David (office tel. 06/4957333) as soon as possible.** It was also agreed that the 8th National Conference should have a sociolinguistic concern, possibly dealing with historical varieties and registers and, by the way, one contribution to that purpose can be found in Rolando Bacchielli's overview of that field of research in the bibliographical section of the

NL. As to place and time, we strongly wish Ermanno Barisone would be willing to offer Genoa or its surroundings for late spring or early autumn, 1997. In case of difficulty a Neapolitan hypothesis is under study.

Other proposals of topics for future Conferences are "Linguistic codification" (Iamartino), "A linguistic history of English prose" (Bacchielli), "Phraseology" (Zagrebelski), "Dictionary-making" (Gotti), all of which are of sure interest.

John Meddemen suggested that Collegio Ghislieri, Pavia, where he lives and for whose management he has some responsibility, might be a place for a series of lectures on the History of English. Further, a castle at Lardirago on the Lambro river is being restored and will be converted into a large Conference centre in a few years' time to be possibly used for a SLIN Conference.

Concerning the *Newsletter*, which many regard as a helpful channel of information and exchange, a general consent was shown for the Conference calendar and Notes as well as the book section to which each colleague might contribute in his own specialistic area of research, a proposal which is turned here into an **urgent appeal**.

Finally the present National Committee (Barisone, Pezzini, Hart and myself) was re-confirmed for the next year.

(Nicola Pantaleo)

2. Some prospective national and international meetings

* The 9th International Conference of English Historical Linguistics, Professor Jacek Fisiak confirms, will be held in Poznan, Poland, on August 26-31, 1996. Those who wish to contribute a paper are requested to send an abstract before January 31, 1996, to the new Conference secretary Ms. **Joanna Kaczmarek, School of English, A.Mickiewicz University, Al. Niepodlegosci 4, 61-874 POZNAN (phone 48 61 528820; fax 48 61 523103).**

** Workshop on "Clausal architecture: temporal, aspectual and verbal projections", Bergamo, November 17-18. Write to Prof. A. Giorgi, Dipartimento di Linguistica, P.zza Vecchia 8, 24100 Bergamo.

*** "Power, Cooperation and Conflict in English Languages and Literatures", a Conference planned by the Belgian Association of Anglicists for November 29 to December 1, 1996. Please apply to Marc Maufort, English Department, CP 175, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 50, av. F.D.Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

**** SPCL (Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics) Annual Meeting, January 5-7, 1996. Contact Prof. Armin Schwegler, Dept. of Spanish, University of California, Irvine, California 92717 USA. Fax +714+824.2803.

***** International Federation of Translators, 14th. "Translation: New Horizons" February 9-16, 1996. Apply to Congress Management, Fauth Royale & Assoc. Pty Lit., 15 Cooper St., Surry Hills, NSW 2010 Australia.

***** International Conference of Applied Linguistics on "Comparing Codes: Italian vs. English", Brescia, March 28-30, 1996. For further information write to dott. Maria Teresa Zanola c/o C.L.U.C., Università Cattolica, Via Trieste 17, 25121 Brescia.

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3. Conference Notes

The 7th SLIN Conference, Gargnano 2-4 October 1995.

When we arrived on the chilly Sunday evening both lakeside and hilltop lights on the Veronese shore were clearly visible, but by morning the weather had begun to change to a mellow October Indian summer and the Veronese mountains were just a vague cardboard cutout.

We were in Gargnano, a village built on the last sliver of flattish land before the Brescian Garda shore becomes sheer cliff, and where Milan State University has the good fortune to own a conference centre in the Palazzo Feltrinelli. From the terrace one could look eastward in the diffused grey light over the moving waters, the swans' bath, or below at water clear as an aquarium, where the slow fish moved over stone - *stoon - stein*.

Here a happy few attended the 7th SLIN Conference, impeccable organized by Giovanni Iamartino, quiet wing-worker, discreet-one in doorway. While waiting for the proceedings which are promised for early next year, I offer the following quite personal impressions.

Monday morning started with news from Jane Roberts, queen of King's, of the *Thesaurus of Old English*, which should come out next year (there are also plans for a Middle-English Thesaurus). The difficulty of translating the OE words for 'translator' were investigated with the help of advance extracts, showing how this new tool will greatly help us understand such areas of overlapping concepts.

Then followed three Italian contributions to OE translation studies. Paola Tornaghi from the Cattolica in Milan, elegant in dress and diction, told us of Byrhtferth of Ramsey's *Manual* for computing the calendar and its section on rhetoric and grammar. His Englished technical terms are supplanted by Latin-derived terms even in Ælfric for a possible variety of functional and sociolinguistic reasons. An

interesting comparative study of translations by King Alfred and Chaucer of Boethius's *De Consolatio Philosophiae* was then offered by Lucia Simisi from Bari, clear of speech and bright of jacket - who explained the difference between the two translations (conceptual vs 'faithful') by reference to the different cultural contexts. Finally M. Cometta from Milan looked in linguistic detail at the complex differences between the OE *Genesis B*, which Eduard Sievers thought must have been translated from Old Saxon, and the Old Saxon *Genesis* fragment later discovered in the Vatican Library.

Lunch followed in a semi-basement with the air of a country *trattoria*; meals were simple but good; the cheerful and discreet waitress seemed a village girl happy to live far from cities and universities (or was I just projecting my own feelings?)

In the afternoon we had two talks on Middle English, starting with the Nicola Pantaleo, Secretary of our Association and Editor of the *Newsletter* (to whom our thanks), who looked at the ever-fascinating subject of medieval mixed-language texts. In the case of *Piers Ploughman* the pervasive Latin passages (about 5% of the text) are more in the way of quotations, often accompanied by introductory formulae and accompanied by translation or comment, yet the variety of translation-styles (abridged, free, expanded etc.) also gives them a quality of witty language-manipulation.

The following talk by Domenico Pezzini can be grouped with two others that gave most space to a theory of historical translation studies. His comparison of two late ME translations of Ælfred of Rievaulx's 12th century *De Istitutione Inclusarum* (which probably influenced *Ancrene Riwe*) in fact was prefaced and guided by a criticism of traditional editorial notes to translations (empty annotations of implicitly-criticized omissions and expansions) and by the outline of an approach based on an understanding of target-text genre, audience and use, of attitudes to modular medieval texts seen as mines for making new reworkings, and on a human understanding of the hard-working medieval translator, who we can think of 'as a friend and as a brother'.

The theoretical approach was continued in the witty talk by John Denton from Florence. He criticized traditional Whiggish identifications of 'democratic' or 'progressive' writers and uncritical enthusiasm for an idealized Elizabethan age. The 'translation studies' attention to the commissioning, production and reception of texts tied in with what Pezzini had said and was justified by a series of apposite references to Elizabethan translator's prefaces and passages from North's translation of Plutarch. In exhilarating Dentonian style we were taken on a well-planned roller-coaster ride through the Elizabethan cultural context of translations, enlivened by provocative asides.

The afternoon also included the first of the mainly early Modern contributions: Maria Teresa Fabbro's discussion of the importance of translations in the development of the terminology of medical English. The phenomena of 'semantic borrowing' and the evolution of meaning with the evolution of science makes such terminology particularly difficult for the historical lexicographer.

Monday ended with dinner, followed by drinks in the drawing room where a pianist played Cole Porter tunes - the music heard more faintly, and mixed with the sound of lapping water, by those who took advantage of the warm night to sit on the darkened terrace outside.

On Tuesday morning the Veronese shore had finally disappeared and Gargnano was now an island far from any other land. Those at the lakeside Bartabel Hotel had breakfast to the sight of the rising sun filling the whole lake surface with pale shimmering light.

The third theoretical contribution came of course from André Lefevere on the Tuesday morning, his Texan bootlace tie revealing present residence at Austin. His main point was to underline how institutions and power mediate all academic discourse, including that about translation studies. He highlighted the importance of translations as a privileged locus of cultural interaction (apart from

instructions and other strictly referential texts). The accuracy emphasized by Jerome's grammatical model of translation now seems to have been replaced by the Horatian model of rhetorical translation involving a negotiation between texts.

The morning continued with Maurizio Gotti on the unusual phrase *to come to pass* used first by Tyndale and the English Bible translations, then spreading to a wide range of other text types. The multiple origin and development of the phrase was followed in a clear series of examples where information from historical dictionaries was productively supplemented by reference to both historical and present-day corpora. The present writer was unfortunately unable to listen to the following talk (on alliterative phrases in the English Bible tradition), but after this appreciated the nimble precision of Roberta Facchinetti in her discussion of a hitherto-unknown 17th-century schoolbook of grammatical rules for use in Latin translations. No great theorist ('All words that you doubt in the *middle* or *end* of any clause in your English, are usually Adverbs'), Anthony Huish is interesting in the way some of his rules foreground features of English, so showing the beginnings of English language teaching in schools.

Tuesday afternoon continued in the early Modern period with a talk on Haydocke's 1598 translation of Lomazzo's *Trattato della pittura*. Rita Severi from Verona placed the interest in painting in the cultural context of the time, and pointed out the interest of Lomazzo's work, not only for the story of Mannerism but also of psychology, since his discussion of the 'passions of the mind' ~~are~~ the source for later discussions. A reading of Haydocke may be behind Shakespeare's mention of 'that rare Italian master, Julio Romano' (the only living artist mentioned by Shakespeare - he must have had a good press agent).

Before the coffee-break (in Mussolini's former office - an interesting place, Palazzo Feltrinelli), we were both instructed and amused by Nicholas Brownlees who spoke with Hugh-Grant-like charm of *coranto*s, the first news-sheets (1620-1). The reason for

their erratic translation from the original Dutch, and their success with a news-hungry public 'despite their translations' was ably explained by analysis of the context of production and reception.

The second half of the afternoon started with something completely different: a report by Marco Bandera of the Gruppo d'Arco on the Globalink translating software that they adapt and sell for the Italian market. We were also able to see the program in action at the book-exhibition outside the coffee room. It quickly does much of the donkey-work of translation, recognizing linguistic components in each sentence, translating 90% of the words, offering synonyms etc. The basic program for translating between English and Italian costs only Lit. 200.000 - teachers who give translations as homework please take note.

Two interesting talks about translations of proverbs then brought the afternoon session to an end. Massimo Sturiale of Catania analysed the various solutions to this perennial problem that were tried out by Henry Cheke in his translation of the anti-Catholic allegoric play *Liberio arbitrio*, and Laura Pinnavaia of the Cattolica looked at the handling of French proverbs and added explanations by the excellent 17th-century lexicographer Randle Cotgrave.

There followed the *cena sociale*: candles, wine, varied dishes, chairs pushed back, visits to other parts of the table, a droll speech from André Lefevere, a toast to the organizers, and a last glass of wine on the terrace among the oleanders.

On Wednesday, lake and sky were a thousand shades of grey but the lake-light still bright. At the conference, R. Carpanini from Parma told us of Wordsworth's surprisingly prolific activity as a translator of Italian poetry and gave us a close reading of his versions of sonnets by Michelangelo. Next Gabriella Cartago, an Italianist, her flowers of Italian rhetoric enlivening the room, used the socio-economic context to explain changes in Rose's 1819 translation of Casti's anti-aristocratic *Animali parlanti* of 1802. The last talk was by Margherita Ulrich of Trieste who with intelligent verve examined the translation strategies

adopted in four translations of *I Malavoglia*, with special attention paid to the problem of social titles and second-person pronoun-use.

The business meeting, about which there is doubtless a report elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, ended with thanks to Giovanni Iamartino and his staff for a perfectly-run conference. Lunch by the few-remaining was a quiet affair, the last good-byes were made, and we walked away towards our cities and universities, past the little port for the last time - with just a quick glance aside at the Lake and its shining waters.

(Richard Dury)

4. Short reviews and bibliographical information

The following are brief informative sketches on some of our colleagues' recent books.

§ **Gabriella Del Lungo Camiciotti** has just published for Mursia, Milan, an *Introduzione alla storia della lingua inglese*, which after an accurate reconstruction of a profile of the history of English in its traditional threefold division into Old, Medieval and Modern, in the second part provides a "profilo di storia socio-culturale" investigating the way standards and dialectal varieties interact in the English society from the XV century to our days. The last chapter deals with all major British and Overseas varieties of English, touching on political history and ideological struggling. A well-informed, clearly written book.

§§ An interesting book on Noah Webster's major contribution to the national language and cultural history of USA - this is in fact its title - has lately been written by **Luisanna Fodde** (CEDAM, Padova, 1994). The author's goal is to show that Webster's work is not merely "a schoolmaster or national educator's" but rather the epitome of the "political and cultural developments that occurred in the United States after the Declaration of Independence".

§§§ A study of argumentative language as exemplified in John Maynard Keynes' *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* is the subject matter of **Roberta Facchinetti's** fine book headed *La modalità verbale nell'argomentazione di Keynes* (Guerini, Milano, 1992). First the terminological complexity of the notion of a modal verb is explored, followed by an overview of the uses of argumentation in specialist texts. In the next chapters the relation between modality and argumentation in the Keynes corpus and an identification of the pragmatic-rhetorical patterns are successfully analyzed.

(Nicola Pantaleo)

The coming of age of sociolinguistics and ethnolinguistics in the last few decades (witness the work of such "pillars" of linguistic "wisdom" and know-how as William Labov and Dell Hymes) has brought about an extensive reshuffle of linguistic studies.

The dissatisfaction with a too straitlaced and reductive notion of language as cultivated by theoretical and formal linguistics and the adjoining shift from prescriptivism to descriptivism in language studies are two epoch-making advancements of contemporary English linguistics.

The new attitudes to language resulting from this shake-up and the realization that English, as a world language, is a galaxy of largely unexplored varieties, have paved the way for the development of variation studies and the implementation of a more realistic and socio-culturally based notion of language.

In this new perspective, already alive with very specific and well-documented inquiries, **John Benjamins Publishing Company** of Amsterdam is in the front line. In fact, with their journal *English World-Wide. A Journal of Varieties of English* and the companion series of books *Varieties of English Around the World* (5 vols. in the Text Series and 8 in the General Series) they aim to encourage investigation on why varieties develop and what function they serve, while with *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* and the companion series of monographs *Creole Language Library* (10 vols. already published) they intend to promote research on two language types until recently "looked down upon" and considered marginal and negligible in official circles.

This new, extensively flourishing "pidgin and creole linguistics" research centres around three main areas: 1) the origin of p. & c. languages and their development down to their present state and status (a diachronic perspective), 2) the inventory, classification and description of all living p. & c. languages (a synchronic perspective), and 3) the recent transformation of already known and analyzed pidgins and creoles within the English "continua" existing around the world. Obviously this flare-up of new studies has theoretical and methodological implications with numerous spin-off

effects on various branches of linguistics, while old problems are revisited and new ones raised.

Pidgins and Creoles. An Introduction, 1995, by Jacques Arends, Pieter Muysken and Norval Smith (eds.) (vol. 10 of the *Creole Language Library* series) is an introductory course book designed for students who do not have an adequate knowledge of the processes of "pidginization", "creolization" and "decreolization" of language. The aim of this volume is chiefly to highlight the dynamics of p & c. systems and to emphasize the fact that these language types are surprisingly numerous around the world and that the processes that brought them about have operated extensively in all forms of language change and development. After dealing with the General Aspects of the problem in Part I, the authors pass on to discuss the Theories of Genesis in Part II and draw Sketches of Individual Languages in Part III to conclude with the description of Grammatical Features and a stimulating separate chapter on "mixed languages".

The Emergence of Black English, 1991, by Guy Bailey, Natalie Maynor and Patricia Cukor-Avila (eds.), (vol. 8 of the companion series *Creole Language Library*) is, on the contrary, quite a different undertaking from vol. 10 and is in many ways disconcerting. If vol. 10 is a token of certitude, vol. 9 thrusts us bang-up against a wall of epistemological questions. A group of mechanical recordings and transcripts with former slaves born between 1844 and 1861 stored in The Archive of Folk Song in the Library of Congress and, surprisingly enough, unknown to linguists until recently was finally brought to the attention of scholars. These recordings, which provide evidence on an earlier stage of BEV, seemed at first to play a decisive role in resolving the question of the origins of BEV. The result is, unexpectedly, frustrating because a group of diverse scholars on Black English, who, for the first time, have studied the same texts, have reached quite different conclusions. In actual fact the study of these recordings has raised more problems than it has resolved and has rekindled old controversies. But where is the snag? First, there is the question of the composition of texts:

"linguistic texts are the product of the interaction between spoken or written recordings and the scholar who analyzes them". "The creation of a linguistic text is an interpretive act" in the same way as "the analysis of the text is". Then there is the question of their interpretation which depends largely on the scholarly perspectives and predispositions implemented in the study of BEV. Vol. 9, which is divided into Part I: Texts (an invaluable service to the linguistic community) and Part II: Commentary (an important opportunity for speculation), is in any case fundamental, if only because it brings to the forefront the crucial problem of how and to what extent the composition of texts can affect their interpretation.

(Rolando Bacchielli)

5. Questionnaire data

The questionnaire - the fourth one - sent to all *NL* subscribers along with the 8th issue aimed at getting fresh information on the present situation of SLIN in Italy. I have been sent back 10 answers from as many colleagues, five of whom carry out a "supplenza" (= a second post). Here are the data I have attempted to tabulate in the following way: (see the next pages)

A	Course Topic	Handbooks	Theses	Research area	Discipline Status
Ba	Syntax, Langland	Francovich, Freeborn	ME, eME, Varieties	LME, Varieties, M, S, L, LG	Optional
Be1 (Facch.)	Grammar	Baugh-Cable	ModE, Varieties	ModE, AP, M, S, L, LG	Optional
Be2 (Dury)	English Literature	—	OE, eModE	AP, LG, non-Literary	Optional
Be3 (Gotti)	Lexical innovation	Baugh-Cable	ModE, Varieties	ModE, AP, S, L, LG, Varieties, non-Literary	Optional
Ge	Female condition in Middle Ages, American English	Milroy, Dillard	OE, ME, ModE, Varieties	OE, ME, eModE, Ph, L, Varieties	Optional
Mi	English lexicon, Language creativity	Pezzini, Gortlach	LME, eModE	Drama, non-Literary	Optional
Pa	Dryden, Virgil's translations	Baugh-Cable	LME, ModE	ModE, L, LG	Compulsory
Ro	Multi-word lexemes	Pyles-Algeo	LME, ModE, L, Phraseology	ModE, AP, S, L, LG, non-Literary	Optional
(To (lingua ingl.)	Englishes, Idiomatic Lexicon	Yule, Gramley-Patzold, Pulcini	LModE, Varieties	LModE, M, S, L, LG, Varieties	Optional)
Ur	Word-play	Kirschenblatt-Giubleff, Attridge	ME, ModE, Varieties, Mass Media	EModE, AP, S, L, LG, Varieties, Poetry	Optional
Ve	Chaucer, Everyman	Francovich	ME, EModE, Varieties	LModE, Poetry, Prose, Drama	Optional

B	Projects national, international	Computerized corpora	Other linguistic disciplines in the Dept.	Attendance, exams, degrees	SLIN Conference topics	Newsletter contributions
Ba	—	O.E.D.	Sociolinguistics	25, 40, 30	Varieties	Yes
Be1 (Facch.)	—	Helsinki, Brown, Cob, Lund	—	30, 70, 12 (with Gotti)	—	Yes
Be2 (Dury)	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
Be3 (Gotti)	—	Helsinki, O.E.D.	—	30, 70, 12	LG, Dict., Diachronic varieties	Yes
Ge	Yes (national)	—	Lingua inglese	150, 110, 29, 70, 50, 30	Socio-cultural history	—
Mi	—	—	Lingua inglese	60, 300, 20 (Catholic Univ.)	—	Yes
Pa	Yes (national) Manuscript fund, Children's lit.	—	—	80, 150, 20	—	—
Ro	ESP (national), eModE+Helsinki	—	—	8, 25, 70	—	Yes
(To (Lingua ingl.)	—	O.E.D., Cob, Brown	—	150, ?, 78	Phraseology, Varieties	—)
Ur	—	—	—	40, 70, 5	Mass Media, Etymology, HEL	Yes
Ve	—	—	—	70, 90, 3	—	—

(Key of abbreviations: AP = across periods; M = morphology; S = syntax; PH = Phonology; L = lexicology; LG = lexicography). Universities concerned: **Bari**, **Bergamo**, **Genova**, **Milano**, **Pavia**, **Roma**, **Torino**, **Urbino**, **Venezia**.