

**O**f Joseph Whene ye folles Kuel. So hi be kepte in pson  
if he had lymed other than  
Goye Goye

And al manged  
per sent  
Goye ny  
And ope  
Whene  
Allo  
Gut  
ffor  
as  
de  
as  
ye  
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# NEWSLETTER

## SLTN

n.7 October 1994

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### 1. SLIN meetings and Conferences

\* Having been unable to overcome all difficulties connected with the organization of the 7th SLIN National Conference in Cagliari next year, in spite of Luisanna Fodde's generous efforts, we decided to contact Giovanni Iamartino to see if Milan, where he is fresh professor of History of English, could be an alternative. In the February issue of the SLIN NL we will certainly be in a position to provide all information on the Conference (SLIN National Committee).

\*\* I am glad to let you know that the proceedings of the Rome Conference, intitled *Aspects of English and Italian Lexicology and Lexicography*, have just been published. Copies, which will be freely sent to contributors, are available for purchase (Lit. 31,000) from Bagatto, Casella Postale 7127, 00100 Roma Nomentano. It is doubtful that offprints can be produced but anyone interested might contact David Hart directly. Moreover, the proceedings of the Urbino Conference (1993) on "Word formation", edited by Rolando Bacchielli, are due by the end of this year.

\*\*\* Following up the publication in NL 6 of F. Daenens's summarized contribution to the discussion on European language history made as part of the last April Rome meeting please find on p. 17 the text of Richard Dury's talk kindly submitted by the author. For lack of space I cannot publish here the other contributions by the Spanish, German and Russian colleagues, as carefully transcoded by M.L. Maggioni and P. Tornaghi for which I wish to thank them, along with all other papers and discussions. We might either give them piecemeal in the next NL issues or send them on request under payment of the costs of photocopying and mailing (contact David Hart or me).

### 2. International Conferences

\* The 8th International Conference of English Historical Linguistics (8ICEHL) was held in Edinburgh on 19 to 23 September last. The large participation from virtually all corners of the earth and the intrinsic interest of most papers made it a success in spite of a few organizational drawbacks. The topics were, as usual, quite varied ranging from Old English phonology to Scots toponomastics. Further details will be given in the next NL. It was agreed that the next Conference will take place in Poznan (Poland) in 1996.

\*\* It is announced that the Third Conference of ESSE will be held at Glasgow University (a brilliant time for Scotland!) on 8 to 12 September, 1995. Those who want to know more may apply to:

Professor Graham D.Caic, Department of English Language, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, U.K. (phone 41 339 8855 ext. 5849; fax 41 307 8030) (see pre-registration form below).

\*\*\* The Twelfth International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL), involving among other speakers E.Traugott, T.Venneman, P.Kirparsky, I.Roberts, will take place at Hulme Hall, University of Manchester, on 13 to 18 August, 1995, and will cover such topics as "The lexicon and semantic change", "Cross-linguistic evidence for syntactic change", etc. For further information and inclusion in the mailing list please write to ICHL, Department of Linguistics, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, U.K. Tel./Fax: 44 61 - 275 3187.

\*\*\*\* A Conference on "Language Contact in the History of English" promoted by Dieter Kastovsky and his Wien équipe was held in Tulln last July. A thorough intriguing evaluation of that event by Richard Dury may be found below.

### 3. Conference notes

#### Language Contact in the History of English, Tulln, July 1994.

Tulln is a sleepy little town on the smoothly-flowing Danube, about 40 minutes upstream from Vienna. Here, in the quiet "Zur Rossmühle" hotel on the placid main square, the ideal setting for an Agatha Christie mystery perhaps, forty-five language sleuths met to compare notes on some few of language's infinite enigmas. While awaiting the publication of the proceedings, here are some notes on the speakers that appealed most to the imagination of the present writer.

Heiner Eichner from Vienna gave a - in many ways - fascinating talk on the first day about the obscene riddles in the Exeter Book. Dafydd Johnston's *Medieval Welsh Erotic Poetry* (1991) reveals a Celtic tradition of erotic writing, including descriptions of intercourse or praise of the penis (or even of the female genitals by a woman poet), similar to the Exeter Book in its combination of explicit subject-matter, high style and riddling comparisons. The lack of anything similar in any of the classical, early Germanic or early Romance languages is a strong suggestion of Celtic cultural influence here. Copies of the handout can be sent (in a plain wrapper) to those with a special interest.

Another revelation to the present writer on (his first morning was Laura Wright's account of what she calls 'macaronic business writing': the mixed Latin/French/English language of medieval administrative records. She pointed out that much shared morphology combined with extensive abbreviation made many of the written forms ambiguously Latin, English or French. A particularly fascinating observation was that, in the mature variety, the varying combinations of French and Germanic word-order in noun phrases, the varying agreement of French adjective with French or English noun etc. were not examples of ignorance or confusion, but deliberate variation, a cultivated stylistic trail. (The extension of this hypothesis to the history of spelling might be of interest.)

Manfred Markus finished off the day with a talk on ME digraph spellings and foreign influence. This was based on the ICAMET corpus (Innsbruck Computer Archive of Middle English Texts; list of texts and information for purchase, £10 per disk, from Manfred Markus at [ubk.ac.at](mailto:ubk.ac.at)).

After a visit to the small but interesting Egon Schiele museum on Thursday evening, Andrei Danchev (Sofia) on Day Two presented us with the puzzle of *for to* - infinitive: Scandinavian influence? French influence? internally motivated? global phenomenon in language-contact and language-learning situations? A puzzle indeed.

Angelika Lutz (wife of Theo Vennemann, also at the conference) gave a stimulating talk about the decline of native prefixes as due to the attrition of phonological structures. By combining scales of 'inherent consonantal strength', 'syllable-position strength' and 'accental strength' we can see that OE prefixes with a stable phonotactic structure survived, while those with a 'weak' structure either disappeared, replaced weak consonants with strong consonants, or were replaced by a whole new prefix.

Niki Ritt of Vienna (who many of us heard at Urbino) began his talk on the introduction of Scandinavian pronouns into English with a brilliant parody of the sociolinguistic explanation of this innovation. There then followed a system-internal, functionalist explanation (based on the 'better performance' in communicative situations of a set of pronouns with a *h* vs *th*, sing. vs pl. opposition), ending with an application of 'complex adaptive system' theory to this situation of competing pronouns. The present writer was left gasping, greatly impressed, and looking forward to reading the printed version. In the discussion Theo Vennemann suggested that speakers may have felt that (*h*)em was a reduced form of *them* and so adopted the latter in careful speech.

On the third day, Saturday, Gabriele Rinelli from Brindisi acquitted himself well in his discussion of the semantic evolution of *cherl* and *carl*. The pejoration of OE *ceorl* was seen as partly due to a fusion of *ceorl* and slave class, the delayed pejoration of *carl* in the Danclaw being related to the different social situation there.

Lucia Kornexl from Munich defended the OE glossators: their 'over-literal' renderings were probably definitions rather than translations, related to the OE classroom technique of asking pupils to elucidate each transparent morpheme.

Robert P. Stockwell (together with Donka Minkowa) gave a talk of great crispness and clarity on the origins of the iambic pentameter: Chaucer takes the 10-syllable line from the Continent; the iamb comes from Italian or from the native tradition (tendency for equally-spaced stresses); Chaucer invented the iambic pentameter by excluding triple time from the close of the line and allowing it only at the beginning (through 'inversion').

After the official dinner in the hall of the old Minoritenkloster by the Danube on Saturday night, we returned on Sunday for the final morning, opened by David Burnley's scholarly survey of French and English in fourteenth-century London. He mentioned the 'curial style' of lexical elaboration, repetition, syntactic doublets etc. that spread from Latin to French and to English. This 'calquing of a whole style' he called 'emulation'. Another interesting point in a wide-ranging talk concerned the clergy's insistence on *thou*, e.g. the clerk in the 'Franklin's Tale'. Speakers were not aware of separate languages but of a range of styles.

Lilo Moessner from Freiburg then gave a stimulating talk on 'relative *but*' ('he found no door but [= which ...not] it was open'), claiming it was introduced by Malory as a calque of his French original (*...ne... qui/que...ne...*). The historical and textual evidence was convincing, but the mood of following comments was 'Why on earth did he use *but* when he could have used *that*?' A further puzzle awaiting solution.

After another fine lunch and toasts to the hotel manager, to Dieter Kastovsky with thanks for the excellent organisation, and from Dieter Kastovsky to his wife, it being their wedding anniversary, we scattered like sparks from a hearth to be kindled again in three year's time.

(Richard Dury)

#### 4. Bibliographical information

\* A brand new textbook version of *Beowulf*, including the Finnsburgh Fragment (pp.256) prepared with glosses by George Jack, University of Saint Andrews, for Oxford University Press may be bought for the cheap price of 6.99 pounds (hardback 35.00 pounds). See sample page below.

\*\* I have just received a copy of Gabriella Mazzoni's new book *Le lingue inglesi. Aspetti storici e geografici*, published by La Nuova Italia Scientifica, 1994. A review will follow.

\*\*\* Here is the usual carefully updated list of novelties in the History of English language provided by John Denton with notes for choice and use.

W. LABOV, *Principles of Linguistic Change*, (vol 1, *Internal Factors*), Oxford: Blackwell 1994. The first volume of a planned (enormous) three volume work that will prove to be Labov's *magnum opus*. This book was already announced as forthcoming in a previous newsletter. I thought readers would like to know that it has now been published.

A.M.S. McMAHON, *Understanding Language Change*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1994. A general introduction to language change, which should prove interesting to students who have already read Jean Aitchison.

L. BAUER, *Watching English Change*, London: Longman 1994. A look at language change in this century through a corpus of newspaper articles decade by decade.

R. LASS, *Old English. A Historical Linguistic Companion*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1994. A guide for students with some basic knowledge of historical linguistics, advertised as 'a bridge between the more elementary Old English grammars and the major philological grammars and recent interpretations of the Old English data'.

D. STEIN & I. TIEKEN-BOON VAN OSTADE eds., *Towards a Standard English 1600-1800*, Berlin: Mouton De Gruyter. A volume of special interest to us in Italy, since it contains the last published paper by Thomas Frank.

M. SPEVACK, *A Shakespeare Thesaurus*, Hildesheim: Olms 1993. A very useful volume (of over 500 pages) that should replace the classic glossary-ed. by Onions.

Conference proceedings and other collective volumes in the field of corpus linguistics continue to pour from the presses. Three recent volumes should prove of particular interest to historians of English:

J. AARTS, P. DE HAAN & N. OOSTDIJK eds., *English Language Corpora: Design, Analysis and Exploitation*, Amsterdam: Rodopi 1993. The proceedings of ICAME 13. The editors underline in their preface the growing importance of historical corpora (there are papers by Susan Wright on the Cambridge Corpus of Early Modern English, Ian Lancashire on the Toronto Early Modern English Renaissance Dictionaries Corpus and Merja Kytö on the Helsinki Corpus of Early American English).

M. KYTÖ, M. RISSANEN & S. WRIGHT eds., *Corpora across the Centuries*, Amsterdam: Rodopi 1994. The proceedings of the First International Colloquium on English Diachronic Corpora held in Cambridge in March 1993.

M. RISSANEN, M. KYTÖ & M. PALANDER eds., *Early English in the Computer Age. Explorations through the Helsinki Corpus*, Berlin: Mouton De Gruyter 1993. The title speaks for itself.

Lastly, two small, inexpensive books from the new series of 'language workbooks' started by Routledge in 1994. They are intended for first year students, and are very clearly set out.

R.L. TRASK, *Language Change*

P. TRUDGILL, *Dialects*

(John Denton)

\*\*\*\* *Studies in Early Modern English*, Dieter Kastovsky ed., 1994, Berlin - New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

The term Early Modern English is used to refer to the transitional period between Middle English and Modern English, which has so far been an underresearched period in the history of English.

As the 29 papers contained in the present volume show, many developments that started in late Middle English culminated in the relatively short period between 1580 and 1600, so that Early Modern English (approximately 1600-1800) has played a much more important role in the shaping of Modern English than is usually assumed. The papers in this volume cover various aspects of Early Modern English: phonology (dialect geography, prosody), syntax (adverbials, word-order, passive, modals, auxiliaries, negation), semantics (structure of the vocabulary, antonymy, lexical fields), sociolinguistics, and text linguistics. A large number of the papers are devoted to syntax in the widest sense, ranging from word-order changes to the structure of the Verb Phrase and the use of pronouns. A considerable number of the contributions deal with aspects of the tremendous lexicological changes of the Early Modern English period.

**Contents:** Dieter Kastovsky, Introduction | Leiv Egil Breivik - Toril Swan, Initial adverbials and word order in English with special reference to the Early Modern English period | Christiane Dalton-Puffer, Are Shakespeare's agent nouns different from Chaucer's? - On the dynamics of a derivational sub-system | Andrei Danchev - Merja Kytö, The construction *be going to* + infinitive in Early Modern English | Andreas Fischer, "Sumer is icumen in": the seasons of the year in Middle English and Early Modern English | Jacek Fisiak, The place - evidence for the distribution of Early Modern English dialect features: The voicing of initial /f/ | Udo Fries, Text deixis in Early Modern English | Risto Hiltunen, On phrasal verbs in Early Modern English: Notes on lexis and styles | Jonathan Hope, The use of *thou* and *you* in Early Modern spoken English: Evidence from depositions in the Durham ecclesiastical court records | Veronika Kniezsa, Orthoepists and reformers | Angelika Lutz, Vocalisation of "post-vocalic r": an Early Modern English sound change? | Manfred Markus, From stress-timing to syllable-timing. Changes in the prosodic system of Late Middle English and

Early Modern English | Arthur Mettinger, Lexical semantics and the Early Modern lexicon: The case of antonymy | Lilo Moessner, Early Modern English passive constructions | Stephen J. Nagle, Infl in Early Modern English and the status of *to* | Terttu Nevalainen, Aspects of adverbial change in Early Modern English | Herbert Penzl, Periodisation in language history: Early Modern English and the other periods | Hans Peters, Degree adverbs in Early Modern English | Clausdirk Pollner, The ugly sister - Scots words in Early Modern English dictionaries | Helena Raumolin-Brunberg - Terttu Nevalainen, Social conditioning and diachronic language change | Matti Rissanen, The position of *not* in Early Modern English questions | Mats Rydén, William Turner and the English plant names | Viktor Schmetterer, The history of the English language and future English teachers | Edgar Schneider, *You that be not able to consyder thys order of things*: Variability and change in the semantics and syntax of a mental verb in Early Modern English | Dieter Stein, The expression of deontic and epistemic modality and the subjunctive | Gunnel Tottie, *Any* as an indefinite determiner in non-assertive clauses: evidence from Present-day and Early Modern English | Michael Windross, Loss of postvocalic *r*. Were the orthoepists really tone-deaf? | Laura Wright, Early Modern London business English | Susan Wright, The mystery of the modal progressive.

5. As a further contribution to the prospective SLIN Conference on diachronic translation here is an article by M. Görlach which the author has kindly permitted me to reprint for the NL.

**A translator translated.**

### 1. Foreword.

Don Laycock was always fascinated by language, and one of the attractions of this pursuit certainly lay in the exploration of the limits of what can be expressed through language. And since such a quest ought to be fun too, Don, especially in his attempt at translation, went for witty authors, for instance the German classics Wilhelm Busch (1832-1908) and Christian Morgenstern (1871-1914). Both poets were influenced by Nietzsche, which may account for certain similarities beyond all their apparent differences, and could also explain what made both so attractive to Don. After he had finished his Tok Pisin translation - begun at my request - of *Max und Moritz* in 1979 (printed in Busch in 1982), he wanted to continue with Morgenstern (but he apparently never did). The last word I had of him was in his dedicatory volume of Buffet and Laycock *Speak Norfolk today* (1988), in which he said: "For Manfred Görlach, in the

hope that he may yet translate *Max und Moritz* into this exotic variety" - it should have been *him* (or *mienhim*) of course.

## 2. Limits of translatability.

There is no point in denying that some texts can be translated more successfully than others. Difficulties increase with what stress is laid on form/expression rather than content, and there are stories to document what can go wrong, for instance, in translating advertisements. (A famous blunder is that of a pharmaceutical firm advertising headache pills in an Arab country using an illustration of the 'Before...After' type; it had apparently been overlooked that Arabs are used to reading from right to left.) Similar problems *can* of course be solved, but I believe that there is no possible translation of one type of text - 'linguistic jokes' - which can be exemplified by the following specimens:

(1) An American travel(ing) in Britain on a railway, dozing, had the shock of his life when he heard - through the microphone - a sonorous voice from above: "This is your guard speaking." - Translate into French or German.<sup>1</sup>

(2) A GI in postwar Germany looking round a drugstore and finding skin cream priced Mark 0.45 said, "Oh, this is forty-five". The blushing salesgirl replied, "Sie kennets aa firs Gesicht nehme". Translate into English.<sup>2</sup>

(3) *Mors certa, hora incerta* - "Todsicher geht die Uhr falsch". - Translate into English.<sup>3</sup>

In all these cases, not even Karl Kraus's famous instruction *Üb' ersetzen*<sup>4</sup> 'try to find an equivalent by replacing' can be applied, as it can with some luck and inspiration in section 3 below.

## 3. Two problems and their solution, from Busch and Morgenstern.

There are many localised (and dated) features in *Max und Moritz* (1865) for which a translator must find an equivalent in Kraus's sense, and for most of these an easy solution offers itself. Since *Sauerkraut*, for instance, is of no structural importance

<sup>1</sup> 'Guard is an Anglicism' in this context; while both British English and Australian English clearly distinguish between 'God' and 'guard' phonemically, an incorrect identification is easy in transatlantic conversation.

<sup>2</sup> The salesgirl took 'forty-five' for German (*for die Feif*), which in her dialect would mean 'for the prick'

<sup>3</sup> 'Death is certain but the hour is not' - 'Sure as death, this clock is wrong.'

<sup>4</sup> The phrase is an ingenious re-analysis: *Übersetzen* = *Üb' ersetzen*. As such, it is not only an aphorism at least equal to the *traduttore, traditore* formula, but also a specimen of untranslatability of verbal wit like (1)-(3) above.

for the story, a translator can either keep it in (and retain the German 'flavour') or replace it by a local dish - "creamy champit neeps" or "peas-brose" in Scotland or (Don's solution) *bin, na kon, na rais, na kabis* in Papua New Guinea (examples from Busch 1982). Other features are, however, much more difficult to translate (some would say impossible to translate until convinced by a good solution). One instance is the third prank in *Max und Moritz*: there is a folkloristic connection between tailors and goats in the German-speaking area (and apparently only there). Busch, for this reason, named the tailor *Böck* ('buck') and made the two boys taunt him with 'meck, meck, meck', the conventional rendering of a goat's bleat (also note G. *meckern* 'to bleat', but also 'to grouse'). Since the combination of tailor + goat does not 'make sense' in other cultures only a drastic replacement, if any is at hand, can help. However, in the dozens of translations I know I have seen almost all translators flounder in this passage. Don tried, with some success, to replace Busch's joke by *blakhokis Bok, Bok, Bok*, which means 'flying fox' or 'fruit bat', but is a very offensive sexual taunt when understood as 'black woman or her genitalia', a meaning common in Tok Pisin and Bislama.

When I tried the impossible, namely to translate the passage into rhymed Old English, I stumbled across the homonym *seamere*, both 'tailor' and 'mule' - which meant that the whole joke was possible to restructure: the taunting had now to be in the form of the braying of a mule (*taw, iaw*) - and the tailor's name to be *Cuthbert*, *Cuddy* being a common name for the donkey in northern England. The Old English homonymous pair, unparalleled in any other language, made it possible to render the story by what I still think is an ideal equivalent.<sup>5</sup>

One of the funniest poems by Morgenstern is the one on the *Werwolf* (werewolf). Wilfully re-analysed according to the *ham - burger* principle, Morgenstern built an absurd poem around a lurid inflection/declension scene in a village churchyard, the grammatical exercise being restricted, because of the limited paradigm, to the singular - which left the *Werwolf's* family uninflected.

The joke, based as it is on an accidental formal feature of one German word, would appear to be totally untranslatable. And yet, there is an ingenious rendering by Karl F. Ross (in Morgenstern 1972) which Ross too modestly called 'An approach' and in which the inflectable *banshee* takes the *Werwolf's* place: everything is a perfect match - the declinability, the graveyard associations, and the non-pluralisability of *she*. Only the female gender is new - a tiny imperfection indeed in an otherwise flawless equivalent. This found, the rest of the task is technical - to translate the connecting bits around the central absurd argument:

<sup>5</sup> My solution for the ME translation was different, and possibly not quite as satisfactory: retaining the name *Buck* and thinking of its sexual overtones, the pun *tailed tailor* appeared to be a taunt that might have worked in Chaucer's days.

#### Der Werwolf

Ein Werwolf eines Nachts entwich  
von Weib und Kind und sich begab  
an eines Dorfschullehrers Grab  
und bat ihn: »Bitte, beuge mich!«

Der Dorfschulmeister stieg hinauf  
auf seines Blechschilids Messingknäuf  
und sprach zum Wolf, der seine Pfoten  
geduldig kreuzte vor dem Toten:

»Der Werwolf«, sprach der gute Mann,  
»des Weswolfs, Genitiv sodann,  
dem Wenwolf, Dativ, wie mans nennt,  
den Wenwolf, - damit hats ein End.«

Dem Werwolf schmelzelten die Fälle,  
er rollte seine Augenbälle.  
»Indessen«, bat er, füge doch  
zur Einzahl auch die Mehrzahl noch!«

Der Dorfschulmeister aber mußte  
gestehn, daß er von ihr nichts wußte.  
Zwar Wölfe gäbs in großer Schar,  
doch »Wer« gäbs nur im Singular.

Der Wolf erhob sich tränenblind-  
er hatte ja doch Weib und Kind!  
Doch da er kein Gelehrter eben,  
so schied er dankend und ergeben.

#### 4. Tok Pisin revisited.

Such extremes are not the normal problems and proper functions of translation. A creative translator will, however, always try to expand the ranges of the language he translates into. With his *Max na Moritz* Don has given us the most extensive rhymed text available in Tok Pisin so far, and he must have convinced the critics that had claimed that Tok Pisin was not suited for rhyming and regular metre - although it *is*, admittedly, a difficult language for such requirements (cf. my analysis of the structural

#### The Banshee (An Approach)

One night, a banshee slunk away  
from mate and child, and in the gloom  
went to a village teacher's tomb,  
requesting him: »Inflect me, pray.«

The village teacher climbed up straight  
upon his grave stone with its plate  
and to the apparition said  
who meekly knelt before the dead:

»The banSHEE, in the subject's place;  
the banHERS, the possessive case.  
The banHER, next, is what they call  
objective case - and that is all.«

The banshee marveled at the cases  
and writhed with pleasure, making faces,  
but said: »You did not add, so far,  
the plural to the singular!«

The teacher, though, admitted then  
that this was not within his ken.  
»While »bans« are frequent,« he advised,  
»a »she« cannot be pluralised.«

The banshee, rising clammyly,  
wailed: »What about my family?«  
Then, being not a learned creature,  
said humbly »Thanks« and left the teacher.

possibilities of four creole languages based on *Max and Moritz* renderings in Görlach 1986). It is certainly not good enough to object that a translator must not graft European forms onto native traditions; the interference of Western civilisation on nations such as Papua New Guinea was seen by few people so critically as they were by Don - and the impact on the physical environment caused by Western technology and commerce is incomparably more grievous than forcing a European children's book onto the minds of Tok Pisin *mankis*.<sup>6</sup>

In a different vein, Don expanded the expressive potential<sup>7</sup> of Tok Pisin by his translation of Shakespeare - what Thomas Decker did for Krio in 1975, when he gave Sierra Leoneans their own *Julius Caesar* (Decker 1988), Don successfully attempted for the Papua New Guineans when he gave them their *Macbeth* (although he did not live to see his translation printed - and accepted by the Tok Pisin speech community). His achievement is all the more remarkable since it is very rare for authors to translate successfully into a language they do not speak natively. It would have been exciting to see what task Don might have tackled next had he had world enough and time.

#### References

- BUFFET, Alice and Don LAYCOCK, 1988, *Speak Norfolk today*, Norfolk Island: Himii Publishing.  
BUSCH, Wilhelm, 1982, *Max and Moritz in English dialects and creoles*, ed. Manfred Görlach, Hamburg: Helmut Buske. (Contains 14 translations, among them Don Laycock's into Tok Pisin and my own into Old and Middle English).  
DECKER, Thomas, 1988, *Jultohs Siza*, (Krio Publications Series, 4). Umea, Sweden: The University.  
GÖRLACH, Manfred, 1986, Bottom, thou art translated - 'Creolizing' a German children's book. In N. Boretzky et al., eds *Beiträge zum 2. Essener Kolloquium über "Kreolsprachen und Sprachkontakte"* 83-101. Bochum: Brockmeyer. Reprinted in M. Görlach, *Englisches. Studies in varieties of English 1984-1988*, (VEAW G9), Amsterdam: Benjamins, 1991: 174-191.

<sup>6</sup> The reaction of the staff of Kristen Press, Madang, was half-way between funny-haha and funny-peculiar. A letter of 27 February 1979 in which the publication of the translation was declined, pointed out "deviations from 'correct' Pidgin" - possibly misunderstanding the nature of a style for which no 'poetic diction' was available? - and objections to "introducing European pranks to Papua New Guinea children".

<sup>7</sup> Cultivation of a language means that it must acquire special lexis for technology, but also literary styles. The position of present-day Tok Pisin is in some way similar to that of Renaissance English establishing itself as a modern national language by emancipation from the dominance of Latin. In the sixteenth century, insightful observers found that it was not good enough to complain about the lack of elegance of the vernacular, but that efforts should be made to use it in writing by the educated elite.

LAYCOCK, Don, n.d., Translation of W. Shakespeare, *Macbeth*. Unpublished manuscript.

MORGENSTERN, Christian, 1972, *Galgenlieder: Gallows songs*. München/Zürich: R. Piper. (Contains translations by Max Knight and Karl F. Ross.)

## 6. The UDASEL Project

Prof. Manfred Görlach (University of Cologne) has kindly submitted a copy of a short presentation of the planned *Usage Dictionary of Anglicisms in Selected European Languages* sent to the European English Messenger (ESSE Bulletin). Since it is certainly a topic of general interest I have thought that it might be useful to publish it in full.

### The projected *Usage Dictionary of Anglicisms in Selected European Languages (UDASEL)*

by Manfred Görlach, University of Cologne and Doc. Elzbieta Maniczak-Wohlfeld, Uniwersytet Jagiellonski

After preparations of more than five years, the UDASEL dictionary was started in 1993 and has become a European enterprise. The influence of English on other languages has been noticed (and often criticised) and documented in various national dictionaries of anglicisms. The great Dutch scholar Zandvoort suggested compiling such a dictionary almost thirty years ago, but no comparative treatment has in fact been attempted.

The UDASEL is to include 16 to 20 European languages from different language families, but excluding those in close contact with English (Irish, Welsh, Maltese): four Germanic (Icelandic, Norwegian, Dutch and German), four Slavic (Russian, Polish, Croatian and Bulgarian), four Romance (French, Spanish, Italian and Rumanian) and four others (Finnish, Hungarian, Albanian and Greek). The languages were selected partly because competent collaborators were willing to join and partly to allow the analysis of a maximal number of contrasts - puristic vs. open speech communities, Western vs. Eastern countries, regional comparisons (Scandinavia, the Balkans) and the impact of mediating languages (French and German in particular).

A word is included in the dictionary if it is recognizably English in form (spelling, pronunciation, morphology) in at least one language; the presence or absence of the word in all the other languages will then be noted. A total of 3,000 items is expected, for the overlap between the sixteen plus languages is great. The technical jargon of the sciences etc. is to be excluded.

Each entry is to include a variety of information. The English etymon, as a headword, is followed by the meanings recorded for loanwords in the various languages (definitions based on the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*). The data on the word's history and its spread across Europe are then summarized in a few sentences, guiding the reader to the detailed evidence in the 16 individual languages (see AIDS for a specimen text). Information for the individual language, say P(olish) or G(erman), includes spelling and pronunciation, gender attribution and pluralization in nouns, approximate date of adoption and, where relevant, the mediating language. The most important data follow: is the word part of the language, and how well integrated is it in terms of currency, style value and acceptability? (—, 0, Ø = not a part, 1 with qualifying letter = in restricted use, 2 = fully accepted but recognized as English, 3 = no longer identified as English, 4 = semantic calque, 5 = the word is not English). Where several meanings are recorded, the usage label is given for each. An equivalent is named if known; this may be a loan translation or other calque, especially in puristic languages. Derivatives will be nested in the same entry if they are not English.

One of the major problems is that of definition. An *anglicism* is a word recognized in its form (spelling, pronunciation, morphology) as coming from English (value 1 & 2) in at least one of the languages investigated. If it is recorded for this one language, all the others have to state what its position is. (—) 'not known', (0) 'known, but not considered part of language X' and (Ø) 'known and used only as a foreignism' can present problems where usage is unstable, as it sometimes is in incoming and outgoing lexis, or with words which belong to technical and other jargons (normally not included in UDASEL).

Since lemmatization occurs under the English etymon (BrE spelling where different), the alphabetical arrangement is no problem, but some difficult decisions have to be made as to whether separate entries are justified for homonyms, derivatives and compounds. Pseudo-English items coined from English material but not part of English are asterisked.

The economical form of this entry does not normally permit the recording of regional and social variants in pronunciation. For such information, for details on the word's history, and for possible collocations and documentation from printed sources, the user can consult dictionaries of anglicisms in the respective language (these books are also, of course, valuable sources).

Aims: the UDASEL is intended as a documentation of the lexical input of English into European languages as it exists in the early 1990s. The situation is rapidly changing, so there is a need to get the dictionary data complete in much less time than is usually accorded such projects - not just because the contract with Oxford University Press stipulates "end of 1996" as the date for submitting the complete manuscript. The UDASEL is expected to permit an international comparison of the impact of English on different European languages.

The comparative method and the time schedule also preclude basing currency values on text corpora; these are always of doubtful representativeness even for national dictionaries and this problem would be immensely greater with any cross-linguistic analysis. For many languages such corpora would have to be put together anew - so there is really no choice but to base style/currency values on the introspection of the collaborators and their informants, combined with data in recent dictionaries.

Modern technology will make it possible to produce a second edition a few years later which will then include more recent acquisitions and permit contrasts of the growth of this type of lexis - the European languages are likely to become more similar in due course, but there will be special developments too, such as the impact of recent French language legislation.

UDASEL will not make redundant monographs devoted to a contrastive analysis in special fields, such as the language of sports or music; in computerized form, the UDASEL data base will even make such research much easier.

The project should also spark off sufficient interest among linguists and word-watchers to inspire them to supply additions and corrections. Finally, the data will be of interest to the compilers of bilingual dictionaries for the evidence they contain about *faux amis*; increasingly, anglicisms have moved away from their 'original meanings' (or at least connotations) - which means that the anglicism cannot be properly translated by its etymon.

Entries ought to be accompanied by a 'map' to show how widely the individual anglicisms are distributed. The map would consist of a square showing the four Germanic, Slavonic, Romance and other languages in blocks, indicating regional patterns as well as language-group specific clusters:

	Germanic	Slavonic		
Ic	N	P	R	
D	G	C	B	
F	I	Fl	H	
S	Rm	A	Gr	

square - black: fully accepted (2,3,4,5)  
 hazed: in restricted use (1)  
 white: word does not occur here (—, 0, Ø)

We would like to thank the editor of The Messenger for giving us an opportunity to inform its readers on the new project. It is quite obvious that the dictionary will be the better the more wordaholics have a chance of contributing to it. Colleagues interested in checking data for their native language - or even contributing

new sets of data for languages not yet covered - should write/fax to Cracow or Köln to ask for further information. There is even more work to be farmed out regarding the accompanying *Annotated Bibliography of Anglicisms in Selected European Languages (ABASEL)*.

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*Specimen entries:* (June 1994; 13 languages so far, incomplete)

**AIDS** n.1 'acquired immunity deficiency syndrome'  
*AIDS* (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome) was identified, and became immediately known, in the early 1980s (first attestation in English in 1982). The threat of the disease and world-wide coverage in the media made a name for it necessary within a very short time. This can be a) the *homonym* acronym pronounced as a word (GDN PCr Gr) or as individual letters (I), or a replacement of an acronym based on a translation (FSH: ... I, A, Gr). The phonology and 'morphology' of *AIDS* has not allowed any derivations to be made from it, as they are recorded for new acronyms, as in F, B.

	Germanic	Slavonic		
Ic				R
				B
F		Pl		H
S		A		

**G** [eidz, e:ts] N [U] 1983 (2) **D** [ ] C [U] (2) **N** also *aids* [eids, æids] M [U] 1980s (2) **E** [ ] (0) < ct *sida* M, 1982 → *sidéen* adj. **S** M (3) <? ct *SIDA/Sida, sidoso* n/adj. 'Aids-sufferer', 'suffering from Aids' **I** [a-i-di-esse] M [U] (3) **Rm** [ ] M [U] (1) < *SIDA* **R** (0), ct *SPID* **M** **P** [e:ts] M (2) **Cr** [ ] M [U] (2) **B** — ct *spin* M [U] 1980s (2) → *-ozen* ... *odrom na pridobita imunna nedostatachmost* **A** — ct *SIDA/SIDA* **Gr** *giz* N [U] (2) > ct *SEAA*

baby

lc			
		Fr	H
	Bm		

n.1 'infant', 5 'sweetheart', +6 'blue-striped, light overall worn by children to kindergarten/play-school', +7 cp 'small'

G [be:bi] N pl. -ies, m19c, 1 (2), 5 (1c) > *Saugling* D | | C, 19c, 1 (2), 5 (1a) N [be:bi, be:bi] M, b20c, 1 (2), 5 (1s) F *bébé* [ ] M, m19c, 1 (3), *baby* [ ] M pl. *babies/babys*, m19c, (1), +7(3) S[*babi*] (3), 5 (1s) I[hɛ:bi] M [U] m20c, 1 (2c), 5 (1c) Rm (0) R *bebi* M [U] b20c, 1 (1c), 5 (ly) P N [U], b20c, 1 (1c) < *dziecko* Cr *bebi* [ ] F sg. & pl., m20c 1 (1c) B *beibi* [ ] N [U], e20c, 5 (1sy), et *bebe* N, *bebetise* N. dim. A *bebe* F pl. Ø (1r) Gr *hēbix/bēba* [ ] M/F, 1 (3) = *moro* N

backhand

lc			
F	I	Fl	II
S		A	

n. 1 '(in tennis) a stroke played with the back of the hand'

G [bɛk'hent] F [U] e19c (1ra) < et *Rückhand* D [ ] C [U] 1970s? (1t) N [bæk'hæ:n(d)] M, m20c (1t) F — < et *revers* S — et *revés* I — < *rovescio* Rm [ ] N [U] (1t) R *bekhend* [-nt] M, m20c (1t) P *bekhend* [-nt] M, m20c (1t) Cr *bekend* [ ] M, b20c (1t) B *bekhend* [ ] M, m20c (1t) A — Gr *bakchant* [ ] N [U] (1t)

bacon

lc			
		C	B
		Fl	H
		A	

n. 1 'meat from the back of a pig', +2 'smoked pork filet'

G [be:-] M [U] m20c (1t) D | | N/C [U] m20c (1t) N [be:ken, be:ken, be:ken] N [U] b20c (2) F [ ] M, e19c, +2 (2) S M [be:kon] *betcon* (3) I [be:kon] M [U] m20c (1) < *pancetta di maiale affumicata* Rm Ø R *bekon* M [U] m20c (2) P *bekon* M [U] m20c (2) Cr *bekan* [ ] M [U] m20c (2) → -ski adj. B *bekan* [ ] M [U] m20c (Ø > 2,3) A — Gr *beikon* [ ] N, e20c (2)

n. 4a 'a counter in a restaurant or café', 4c 'a pub for meals and drink', 4d 'for drink only', +8 'nightclub', +9 'furniture to keep alcohol in'

G [bɑ:r] F pl. -s, 19c, 4a, d (3) D | | C, b20c, 4a (3 > *tapkast, buffet*), 4d (3 = *café*) N [bɑ:r] M, b20c, 4a (3) < *bardisk*, 4c (3), 4d (3) F [ ] M, m19c, 4a, d (3) S M pl. -es, 19c, 4a (4) *barra* 4d (3) I [bɑ:r] M [U] 1926, 4d (3) Rm [ ] N, 19c, 4a, 4b +8 'nightclub', 1945, +9, via F (3) R *bar* M, b20c, 4a, c, d, +9 (3) P [bɑ:r] M, b20c, 4a, c, d (3) → -sk+9 M; -owy adj. Cr [ ] M pl. -ovi, b20c, 4c, d → -ski adj. B *bar* [ ] M, m20c, 4a, d, +8 (3), via G → -che +9 N, -ovets M 'a playboy', -ov(ski) adj. A *bar* M pl. -e, 4a, d Gr *bar* [ ] N, 4a, d (2)

The History of the English language in the context of the History of the European languages. (R.Dury)

Language-history studies, which originated in the historical period of increasing national awareness, could be given greater explanatory power by bearing in mind pan-European phenomena, and paying attention to the persistence of similarities and the action of linguistic convergence. Such a shift would take account of substantial European cultural unity and history of mutual influence, and would be particularly relevant for researchers and teachers in Faculties of Modern Languages.

Historical linguistics has been traditionally interested in the backward-projected reconstruction of shared proto-languages; language-history studies generally present evolution in the normal direction of 'time's arrow', but have concentrated on single languages; and there has been little study of persistent similarities and parallel losses and innovations of European languages - no 'history of the European languages'. This is partly because contact-induced changes are complex and perhaps never totally provable, and partly because there will always remain a number of shared changes, apparently too many to be the work of coincidence, but which cannot easily be simply attributed to interference.

Meillet (1918) talks of such 'independent parallel developments' and a few years later Sapir (1921, ch.8) introduces the idea of the parallel 'drift' of related languages (with examples from English and German). Sapir's term is taken up by other linguists including Greenberg. His 1963 study of language universals is strictly synchronic, but the study of universals is later given a historical dimension (and the term 'typological drift' often used). Typologists later moved from comparing unrelated languages (as the best means of proving their point) to accepting the usefulness of comparing related and geographically-contiguous languages; this creates the new discipline of 'areal typology' (exemplified in the important 'Euro-Typ' project which should start publishing its results from 1995).

Areal linguistics places more emphasis on contact phenomena than typological constraints and has more interest in mapping isoglosses and the identification of a 'convergence area' or *Sprachbund*. Despite the lack of interest of Germanic, Romance and Anglistik scholars in the investigation of a general linguistic area, we may (remembering Whorf's concept of 'Standard Average European', 1941) see European languages as forming a weak *Sprachbund* reflecting prolonged contact and many shared elements of culture. Claims for such a European area have been made by Lewey (1942), Becker (1948) and Décsy (1973), together with an interesting section in Hock's handbook on historical linguistics (1986).

An important Italian contribution to creating a diachronic dimension to such areal studies has been made in Italy by Bernini and Ramat's investigation of the development of postverbal negation in European languages. By mapping the development from preverbal, to discontinuous to postverbal negation we can see an

apparent geographical spread of postverbal forms from north Germanic to English, German, north Italian dialects and finally to modern colloquial French and modern Celtic languages.

A study was made into the familiar one-volume Histories of the English language from the late nineteenth-century to the present-day, to see to what extent pan-European developments are mentioned in these accounts. It was found that, as expected, they generally ignore them, apart from occasional passing comments. The first exception is the table given by Jungandreas (1949) showing the parallel developments of English and German. The similarities of the English and other Germanic long vowel shifts discussed by Labov et al. (1972) has not found its way into the handbooks apart from Lass (1987), who also has a brief chapter comparing English and German language history. The many parallel developments of English and Romance languages have been largely ignored.

It was suggested that more reference could be made in our teaching to wider European developments in which English shares (in morpho-syntax, phonology, orthography and in the processes of standardisation), and research, despite the difficulties involved, could also take account of this larger explanatory context.

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- 755 Hyge wæs him hinfūs, wolde on heolster  
flēon,  
sēcan dēofla gedræg; ne wæs his drohtoð  
þær  
swylce hē on ealderdagum ær gemette.  
Gemunde þā se [m]ōd[g]a mæg Higelāces  
æfenspræce, uplang āstōð  
760 ond him fæste wiðfēng; fingras burston;  
eoten wæs ūtweard, eorl furþur stōp.  
149\* Mynte se mæra, [þ]ær hē meahste swā,  
widre gewindan ond on weg þanon  
flēon on fenhopu; wiste his fingra geweald  
765 on grames grāpum. þæt [wæs] gēocor sið  
þæt se hearmscapa tō Heorute ātēah.  
Dryhtsele dyneðe; Denum eallum wearð,  
ceasterbūendum, cēna gehwylcum,  
eorlum ealuscerwen. Yrre wæron bēgen  
770 rēpe renweardas; reced hlynsode.

hyge mind; hinfūs eager to get away; heolster darkness; flēon flee  
sēcan go to; dēofol devil; gedræg company; drohtod experience  
swylce such as; ealderdagum (dp) days of life; gemetan encounter  
gemunan remember; mōdig brave; mæg kinsman  
æfenspræc (f) evening's speech; uplang upright; āstōð (pa sg) stood; fæste firmly; wiðfēng (pa sg) grasped; burston (pa pl) cracked  
eoten monster; ūtweard striving to escape; eorl warrior; furþur forward; stōp (pa sg) stepped; myntan intend; mære infamous; þær if  
widre further off; gewindan escape; þanon from there  
flēon flee; fenhop (n) fen-retreat; wiste (pa sg) knew; geweald power  
gram hostile; grāp grasp; gēocor grievous; sið journey  
hearmscapa grievous ravager; ātēah (pa sg) undertook  
dryhtsele noble hall; dynnian resound  
ceasterbūend fortress-dweller; cēna brave; gehwylc each  
eorl warrior; ealuscerwen terror; yrre furious; bēgen both  
rēpe fierce; renweard guardian of a hall; reced hall; hlynsian resound

758 mōdga] goda 762 þær] ...~~as~~ A, hwær (hw later; then crossed out in pencil) B  
764 his] is; omitted A, his B 765 wæs] he wæs

754 *nō þy ær fram meahste*: 'he could not get away any the faster'.

758 *mōdga* (MS *goda*). If the manuscript reading is retained the verse is metrically abnormal, since alliteration will fall on the finite verb *Gemunde* but not the adjective *goda*. See Bliss (1959: 18–19) and Kendall (1991: 78), and cf. 1537 below.

769 It is apparent from the context that *ealuscerwen* has the sense 'terror' or 'dire distress', though the word is unattested elsewhere and its formation has been extensively discussed. The element *ealu-* is probably the word meaning 'ale', though it is possible that it is a form cognate with Old Norse *el* meaning 'good fortune'; *-scerwen* may mean 'deprivation' or 'dispensing'. The best account is that of Smithers (1951–2: 67–75), who argues that the compound means 'serving of (bitter) ale', used figuratively of death or disaster. Other discussions are well summarized by Dobbie (1953: 154–5); see also Heinemann (1983), Magennis (1985: 530–5), and Rowland (1990).