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no. 22 November 1999

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Edited by Prof. Nicola Pantalco, Institute of Emplish, Faculty of Bari.

Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bari.

Via Garruba 6/b 70122 BARI. Tel. 080 56.16.570 - 000.57 17 17 in Fax 080.57.17.459 - 080.57.17.515. E. mail:
n.pantaleo@lingue.uniba.it

All materials to be published (reports, reviews, short articles etc.) should be sent to: Gabriele Rinelli - Via Sant'Angelo 17/c 72100 BRINDISI

Tel. 0831.58.36.30 - E-mail: naogao@tin.it

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1. HEL and other (English) linguistics Conferences and Seminars

§ 111CEHL: Santiago de Compostela (Spain), September, 7-11, 2000. Organizer: Professor Teresa Fanego (c-mail 11icehl@usc.es). Details will be given in the next issue.

§ 5ESSE: Helsinki, August 25-29, 2000. Organizer: Professor Matti Rissanen (e-mail: ESSE5-2000@helsinki.fi)

The Conference will take place at the Centre Campus of the University of Helsinki, beginning at 2 p.m., on Friday, August 25 and ending with the Conference Banquet on Tuesday, August 29.

Semiplenary lectures are expected from, among others, David Denison, Sylvia Adamson, Franco Marucci, Lavinia Merlini, Lesley Milroy, Andrew Chesterman, Robert Crawford, David Punter.

Seminars, workshops and panels will be held on a great number of topics. Here are the ones which seem to me of major interest for SLIN readers:

Panels: "History of English from a typological perspective"

(convenor: D.Kastovski) "Modality in Middle and

Early Modern English" (convenor: D.Hart)

Workshops: "Recent trends in English philology" (convs.: Kathryn

Lowe, Merja, Black) "English for special purposes"

(convs.: J.Martin, M.Perrin)

Seminars: "English Historical Pragmatics" (convenor:

A.H.Jucker) "Varieties of English: a historical perspective" (convs.: Merja Kyto, R.Hickey) "Contact Linguistics" (convenor: A.Landa) "Theoretical problems of pronouns" (convs.: Olga M.Tomic. Milena Sheppard Milojevic, Marjia Golden) "Bilingualism, language mixing and code-switching in the history of English" (convs.: H.Shendl, Laura

Wright)

- § Societas Linguistica Europaea 2000. Poznan, 31 August-2 September. The topic of the Conference is Naturalness and markedness in synchrony and diachrony. Registration is recommended before 15 December, 1999, while abstracts for 20-minute papers are expected by 1 May, 2000. Proposals for workshops should be submitted before 15 January, 2000. A registration fee for non-members is 120 DM (for members 100 DM) to be paid before June 30, 2000. For any type of information please contact Professor Jacek Fisiak, c/o Collegium Novum, Al. Niepodleglosci 4, 61-874 POZNAN, Poland. Tel. +48-61.852 88 20. Fax: +48-61, 852 31 03, E-mail: SLE@ifa.amu.edu.pl or fisiak@main.amu.edu.pl (see registration form attached)
- § International Conference on "Processi di convergenza e differenziazione nelle lingue dell'Europa medioevale e moderna", organized by Centro Internazionale sul Plurilinguismo, Udine, 9-11 December, 1999. For information apply to Professor Roberto Gusmani, CPL, Università degli Studi di Udine, via Antonini 8, 33100 UDINE. Fax: ++39 +0432-556469. E-mail: epl@cip.onud.lt
- § Sociolinguistics Symposium 2000 on "The Interface between Linguistics and Social Theory": University of the West of England, Bristol, 27-29 April 2000. Plenary lectures will be given by Jack Chambers, David Corson, Pieter Muysken. Shana Poplack. Ruth Wodak. Colloquia will be held on: Language, Nationalism and Minority Rights; Multilingualism and Migration; Intercultural Communication; Language Contact along the Language Frontier; Discourse. Further information can be given by Mrs. Jessa Karki, e-mail: Jessa, Karki@uwe.ac.uk
  Web site: http://www.uwe.ac.uk/faculty/les/research/sociling2000.html
- § Maastricht-Lodz Duo Colloquium: "Translation and Meaning", Maastricht, 26-29 April, 2000. Information: e-mail: m.m.g.j.thelen@ftv.hsmaastricht.nl

The following are a deliciously high-spirited presentation of the linguistic workshop held during the 19th (biennial) National Conference of Italian Anglists and a more sober, but not less enjoyable report on the 9th Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Studies.

XIX Convegno Nazionale dell'Associazione Italiana di Anglistica, L'economia della Letteratura, Lingua e Cultura nei Paesi Anglofoni, University of Milan, 21st-23rd September 1999 – language sessions

When Literature, Language and Culture get together What they produce will be remembered ... for ever!

Sparkles of wit, knowledge and wisdom Coming from talks, chats, and discussions No doubt it is of freedom the kingdom, Freedom of those who nurture the passions

For the principle of economy, whose many a feather Bring up a language which is really ... clever!

Certainly, such a successful conference would not have been possible without the careful, patient, skilful organisers, among whom a due thank must be awarded to the precious, efficient Paola Evangelisti and to the never-tired, all-doing, all-thinking Giovanni Iamartino.

The drilling sound of workers that chased our linguistic group wherever we sheltered was – by the end of the conference – good company and reminded us that the work of linguists IS work IN PROGRESS. Indeed, we must drill into the past of English, unearth its foundations, and set up new theoretical scaffolding, with the insight of our daily study and research. With this aim in mind, a formidable blend resulted from the synchronic and dischronic studies presented and discussed during the conference by a host of brilliant, enthusiastic convenors, starting with the fascinating plenary talk delivered by Carol Taylor Torsello (Padua) on the economy of texts as information exchange.

Translation studies raised the curtain of language sessions, with Margherita Ulrych (Trieste) and Maria Luisa Maggioni (Catholic University, Milan). The former thoroughly investigated the nature of economy in translated text, with specific reference to such linguistic features as type-token ratio, lexical density, average sentence length and collocational patterns, in corpora of bilingual Italian/English parallel texts representing a variety of discourse genres. The latter stepped back into the 14th century with a detailed, exhaustive analysis of doublets in Books 1 and 2 of John Trevisa's translation of De Proprietatibus Rerum and explained that doublets were frequently resorted to by Trevisa in his effort to achieve the maximum of clarity and fidelity to his original.

On the second day of the conference, Amonia Bertacca (Parma), Giuliana Garzone (Forli) and the present writer (Verona) swept through the centuries and talked about changes already occurred and/or still occurring in the English language. Specifically, Antonio was concerned with noun inflections and showed us with solid evidence that there are nouns which are more 'stable' than others, forming patterns of diachronic change. Giuliana focused on the simple present and present progressive tenses. Starting from the origin of the periphrastic form and its gradual stabilising in the English language, her stimulating analysis shed more light on the re-distribution of the meanings between these two verbal forms, thanks to the concomitance of some significant morphological facts. Finally, I dealt with be able to vs. can/could; my study of the British National Corpus and of the LOB corpus allowed me to discuss the different semantic values conveyed by the two modal forms in syntactic contexts where both of

them can occur.

Rather unfortunately, being unable to be in two places at the same time, alas! I did not manage to attend the parallel session which was more synchronically geared and which saw the performances of Christopher Taylor (Trieste), about the subtitling of film dialogue, of Virginia Pulcini (Vercelli), about coarticulation phenomena in native and non-native English speech production, and of Maria Teresa Prat Zagrebelsky (Turin), on the use of verb contraction in written English.

However, I did not miss the following session with Marcella Bertuccelli (Pisa), John Morley (Siena), Luisanna Fodde (Cagliari) and Maria Grazia Guido (Lecce). Marcella dealt with implicit meanings in text and discourse, with reference to entailments, presuppositions, implicatures, explicatures, and implicitures at sentence level. She convincingly argued that the textual perceptive suggests the existence of a continuum of implicit meanings ranging from what is said explicitly to what is said inexplicitly, up to what is implicated and 'subplicitly' communicated. John professionally entertained us with his analysis of the reduction of the verbal element in the headlines of four English daily newspapers (the Times, the Independent, the Mirror and the Sun). Humour and professionalism did not lack in Luisanna's talk either, tackling economical, anti-economical and parasitic aspects in advertising English. She focused particularly on such economical features as ellipsis, internal and external deviation, metonymy and metaphors and on the anti-economical parallelism, repetition and texical cohesion. Finally, we were all : (=puzzled) and started :D (=laughing) at the iconic examples of Internet-English finely produced by Maria Grazia, who discussed the pragmatic use of syllable notations, acronyms, and emoticons in the Internet-English of char lines, discussion groups, and e-mail communications.

On the last day of the conference, the first session hosted the synchronic studies of John Douthwaite (Turin), Marina Bondi (Modena), Silvia Bruti (Pisa), and Diane Ponterotto (L'Aquila). John investigated the deployment of the four Gricean maxims in three Irish novelists – James Joyce, Roddy Doyle and Joseph O'Connor – and

thoroughly discussed the effects they achieve particularly through the differential use of quantity, with regard to context of production. authorial intent and thematic content. Marina focused on the role played by meta-pragmatic expressions in the economy of academic abstract writing. Her well-grounded study of two corpora, consisting of abstracts from the fields of history and economics, testified to the fact that meta-pragmatic expressions contribute to representing the contents of a document differently, according to the demonstrative logic of mathematical economics on the one hand and the factual reasoning of history on the other. Silvia dealt with paraphrase and text complexity and carried out an in-depth analysis of whether the apparently explicative value of paraphrases is aimed at reproducing the conceptual signatum by means of different signata or rather expresses different contents. Finally, Diane convincingly demonstrated the pivotal role of repetition in the development of conversation; indeed, repetition is a subtle combination of partially fixed syntactic and lexical patterns, allowing for a wide range of variation and functioning as a traffic manager in verbal interaction.

In the final session of the linguistic workshop, Donna Miller (Bologna), Nicoletta Vasta (Trieste), Marina Dossena (Milan) and Julia Bamford (Siena) went on stage. Donna presented the latest findings in her on-going fascinating research into the semantic indeterminacy of British Parliamentary discourse and provided an overview of the interpersonal metafunction of parliamentary debates. Nicoletta thoroughly analysed instances of seemingly anti-economical use of language in the form of lexico-grammatical repetitions and/or amplifications, 'fresh talk' strategies, and meta-textual interpolations, characterising the televised version of Tony Blair's address to the Annual Party Conferences of 1997 and 1998. She showed us that this anti-economical use is aimed at maximising, in pragmatic terms, the persuasive effectiveness of the message. Marina gave us a detailed overview of British and American institutional sites and discussed the ways in which their presentation is designed to meet the public's requirements in terms of clarity and informativity. Finally, Julia amply

surveyed typical instances of repetition and reformulation in lectures, showing that repetition and reformulation avoid ambiguity, help fix and draw attention to key concepts, and are an effective persuasive device in argumentation.

A poster session was also set up for eight presenters; Gabriella Mazzon (Palermo) explored the economy of writing of Internetiese (Netspeak) and brought forth interesting examples on the topic; Anthony Baldry (Pavia) dealt with the subtitling of dynamic multimodal texts; Thomas Baldwin (IULM, Milan) tackled translation activities, from the process to the product: Frances Hotimsky (IULM, Milan) expounded a new approach to aural reception and oral production; Belinda Crawford Camiciotti (Florence) focused on the differences between complete and abridged texts and particularly on the role of meta-discourse in comprehension and readability; Maria Freddi (Catholic University, Milan) analysed linguistic economy in the argumentative discourse of textbooks; Marcella Romeo (Palermo) discussed the statistics of language and the language of statistics; and finally Annalisa Zanola (Catholic University, Brescia) dealt with the economy of voice and gesture in English oral communication, with particular reference to the American Elocutionary Movement.

When all the final curtains had been drawn. The seeds of co-operation had been sawn.

Bibliographic sharing and joint study groups Were sealed officially while shaking hands; with taxis waiting for the departing troops to drive them back to their native lands.

Through all that time ENGLISH had been there, sitting peacefully in the middle of the stage on a stable, steady chair at times feeling like a guinea-pig in cage

yet wisely letting us-wonder and pronounce on any topic that was worth to announce.

(Roberta Facchinetti)

### International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Language and Literature (St. Andrews, 7-11 August 1999)

Given the subject matter of this series of Conferences, it was only fitting that this edition should be hosted by the oldest University in Scotland and indeed in one of the colleges (St Salvator's) which is only yards away from the Castle, one of the most impressive places associated with the Scottish Reformation. As a matter of fact, several papers did refer both to John Knox and to Cardinal Beaton, and though the focus of most was mainly literary, historians got a fair chance to highlight their contribution to Scottish studies.

The academic programme developed over four days, with plenary talks alternating with parallel sessions on homogenous topics, the choice between which was made rather more difficult than usual by the unavailability of a book of abstracts. Altogether, more than sixty papers were presented, and several ideas were discussed both concerning critical terminology (for instance, the extent to which the label \*Castalian Band' is meaningful and/or appropriate - Priscilla Bawcutt: 'Castalian: A vogue word and its origins') and more theoretical issues on translation and the role it has played in the history of Scottish literature (Douglas Dunn: 'The tradition of translation in Scottish literature').

Though papers on literature outnumbered the ones on linguistic issues, all of the latter proved of considerable interest and provided stimulating food for thought at various levels. In the area of linguistic analysis plenary papers were read by Anneli Meurman-Solin ('Language, Social Status and Social Milieu: Non-Literary Genres in

## Registration Form Mailing address (if not the same as above) Family name Family name Phone (country code, area code, number) Mailing address: work 25-29 August 2000 Helsinki home SE5-2000 Di Prof.

PARTICIPANT

REGISTRATION PETS

FJM/person

Number of

FIM total

ACCOMPANYING PERSON(S)

Li cancellation is necessary prefiminary notice should be given before 15 July, 2000. No refunds will be issued utter this date. An administrative fee of FIM 350 will be withheld from the cancellation refund.

The registration fee includes the Welcome Reception at the City Hall and the University Reception.

\*\*\* Special diet

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	45	7. Helsinki's Russian Past - Guided City Walk	EXCURSIONS, Sun 27.8.
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the Reconstruction of Renaissance Scots') and Derrick McClure ('The Dramatic Use of Prosody in Ane Satire of the Three Estaites'). Within the parallel sessions, instead, a distinct linguistic focus appeared in the papers by Clausdirk Pollner ('The Bible in Scots -Nisbet and Lorimer: a text-linguistic comparison'), Klaus Bitterling ('Language and Style in The Complaynt of Scotland') and M.Nieves Rodriguez Ledesma ('The Influence of Normative English on 16thcentury Scottish Prose'); in particular, the first two papers provided a clear representation of the extent to which the history of Scots does not just concern its 'anglicization', but also provides interesting instances of divergence from the southern variety: the third paper, instead, mainly presented a series of statistical accounts of how orthography and lexical choices appear to be significantly more anglicized in relation to text-type. The issue of 'Middle Scots Orthographic Practices' was also investigated by Veronika Kniezsa in another session in which the cockade of linguistic loyalty equally glimmered on the other two papers; one by the present writer on 'Intensifiers in the Helsinki Corpus of Older Scots' and the other by Keith Williamson with the intriguing title 'Y' yhere and y' place forwretyn - Spatio-temporal aspects of linguistic variation in Older Scots texts'. In both of these papers, the focus on non-literary texts, already discussed by Anneli Meurman-Solin in her plenary talk, allowed the authors to present ways in which a picture of variation across space. time and register can be recorded and analyzed with increasingly upto-date and flexible tools.

The programme also hosted a panel discussion on 'The Place of Anthologies in Early Scottish Studies'; this was chaired by P. Bawcutt and various issues were discussed by T. Clancy (Glasgow), R.D.S. Jack (Edinburgh), R.J. Lyall (Amsterdam) and R. Watson (Stirling). Among the topics that were touched upon, the representativeness of anthologies, their more or less explicit agendas, and their function in students' involvement were constantly in the foreground. However, relatively little was said about their philological accuracy (it was obviously taken for granted, but it would have been interesting if the

issues related to text collating and editing had been discussed) and, even more worrying in the day and age of corpus linguistics, computerized corpora were not mentioned among the resources that may allow scholars to gain insight into the cultural milieu of a certain time through an appreciation of all genres, whether literary or non-literary.

The business meeting that concluded the Conference also left some of us feeling that perhaps, in some circles, a language is not 'a dialect with an army and a navy', but 'a dialect with a poet and a dramatist'. Somehow, it was as if what McClure describes as the Pinkerton syndrome' were still very much with us after more than two centuries: it is all very well to discuss Scots as a poetic language, but it just won't do to consider it in terms of it being the real language of real people such as we find in texts like trials, acts of Parliament, minutes of kirk sessions, etc.; still, by then it was time to go down to the beach at the foot of the Castle and enjoy the famous Millennium Eclipse! And so we did - it was 'only' 80% (Cornwall being the lucky spot of 100%), but -unlike in Cornwall- the weather had brightened up for the occasion and, thanks to the homely magic of a pin-hole camera. we could follow the progress of the event without sunglasses that would have spoilt the observation of the natural light change. Finally, the same afternoon the Conference closed with a short excursion to Glamis: again, literary associations obviously made it a supposedly more appealing destination than Arbroath, which is just as close, if not closer, and certainly has more definite historical associations,

In general, the Conference proved both fruitful and enjoyable, since it was an opportunity to exchange views on scholarly results in various contiguous fields; besides, 'social events' such as a sixteenth-century Evensong in the beautiful University Chapel on Sunday and a voice and lute concert, in which songs by Montgomerie and Ronsard were performed, helped everybody forget about the present-day gorgeous golf courses next-door and appreciate the atmosphere of Stuart court-life. In the end, the social event par excellence turned out to be the (unexpected!) ceilidh that followed the Conference banquet:

an evening of Scottish country dancing in which all those happy few who joined in actually had a great time and turned the court into a friendly village hall of more recent times: after all. "The rank is but the guinea's stamp,/ The man's the gowd for a' that."

The 10th Conference in this series is announced to take place in Gröningen in 2002; it is to be hoped that by then research in historical dialectology will have made further progress (fascinating as it is, it is still a relatively young discipline), so that the numerical balance between the two sides of the coin, language and literature, may be more equitable; in fact, it would be very interesting if an approach to literary texts through a linguistic looking-glass, such as many distinguished scholars have already pursued in the past, were resumed, since this would undoubtedly shed fresher light on a variety that might otherwise become like crystallized lace.

(Marina Dossena)

### 3. Short reviews and bibliographical notes

Books received:

Nicholas Brownlees, 1999, Corantos and Newsbooks: Language and Discourse in the First English Newspapers (1620-1641), Pisa: ETS, pp. 135.

Brownlees's book approaches the earliest known season of English newspaper writing which was in fact a translation from Dutch 'corantos', initiated in Amsterdam by Pieter van de Keere on 2 December 1620 and mainly dealing with such foreign affairs as the Thirty Years War. Both corantos and newsbooks produced in the nearly two decades occurring between that Dutch/English undertaking and the start of the Civil War are analysed for their grammatical and discourse features, though attention is also paid to the historical-literary context. The author's issue is that the English language as shown in the specimens under examination undergoes some significant changes both in syntax and lexis and in style.

(Nicola Pantaleo)

\*Annotated hibliography for English Studies, published by Swets and Zeitlinger, is a remarkable bibliographical resource for students and researchers covering language and linguistics, cultural studies, literary studies, film studies. Its database contains 23,000 fully annotated records by 400 world subject specialists. It is available both on CD Rom and through ABES online whose demo site is: http://abes.swets.nl

# 4. Teaching History of English and English linguistics in Italian Universities, 1998

Here is an updated (hopefully) list of posts of History of the English Language active at present in Italian Universities:

Bari:	Nicola Pantaleo	, Face	olta	di	Lin	igue	e
	letterature stranie	re, Via	Gar	ruba,	6.	701	22,
	Tel. 080, 5717419, Fax: 080, 5717515						

Bergamo: Maurizio Gotti, Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere, Dipartimento di Linguistica e letterature comparate, P.zza Vecchia 8, 24129. Tel. 035, 277421.

Brescia: Paola Tornaghi (suppl.), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Facoltà di Lingue e letter, straniere moderne, Via Trieste 7, 25121. Tel. 030.24061

Cagliari: Paola Piras De Plano, Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere, Sa Duchessa, 09127 Tel. 070.6757133. Fax: 070.6757135

Cassino: Tony Paolotti, Dipartimento di Filologia e Storia, Via Zamosch, 03043, Tel. 0776,299561, Fax: 0776,311427

Catania: Carmela Nocera Avila, Dipartimento di Filologia Moderna, P.zza Università, 95124. Tel. 095,7307631/32, Fax: 095.313042

Genova: Ermanno Barisone, Facoltà di Lingue e letter, straniere, Dipartimento di Lingue e letter, straniere moderne, P.zza S.Sabina 2, 16126. Tel. 010, 2099554

Messina: Teresa Fiocco (suppl.) Facoltà di Scienze della

Formazione, Via Concezione 17, 98121, Tel,

090, 52520

Milano (Stat.); Giovanni Iamartino, Facoltà di Lettere è

filosofia, Istituto di An-glistica, P.zza S.

Alessandro 1, 20123. Tel. 02. 86339/351/366

Milano (Catt.): Giovanni Iamartino (suppl.), Facoltà di

Lingue e letter, straniere

moderne, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Largo Gemelli 20100

Milano (IULM): Ermanno Barisone, Facoltà di lingue e lener,

straniere, Via Filippo da Liscate 1.2., 20143

Napoli: Gabriella Di Martino (suppl.) Istituto

Universitaria Suor Orsola Benincusa, Viu Suor Orsola 10, 80134. Tel. 081. 5529583 Fax: 081.5515238. E-mail: Simonell acds.

Unina, It.

Palermo: Patrizia Lendinara (suppl.), Facoltà di

Magistero, Istituto di Lingue e letter, straniere,

P.zza I. Florio 24, 90139, Tel. 091, 6956111

Pavia: John Meddemen, Facoltă di Lettere d

filosofia, Dipartimento di Lingue e letter straniere moderne, Strada Nuova 66, 27100

Tel. 0382, 21389

Roma (III): David Hart, Facoltà di Lettere e filosofia,

Dipartimento di lin-guistica. Via del Castro

Pretorio 20, 00185. Tel. 06. 4959354

Roma (LUMSA): Anna Maria Luiselli Fadda (suppl.), Via

della Traspontina 21, 00193. Tel. 06, 6868277

Torino: Roberto Rosselli Del Turco (suppl)., Facoltà

di Lettere e Filosofia, Via Sant'Ottavio20,

10124, Tel. 011, 889983; 8174741

Udine: Gloria Corsi Mercatanti (suppl.),

Dipartimento di Lingue e letterature

germaniche e romanze, Via Mantica 3, 33100.

Venezia: Silvana Cattaneo, Dipartimento di Letter. e

civiltà anglo-ger-maniche, Dossoduro 3246,

30123. Tel. 041, 2578263

Vercelli: Gerardo Mazzaferro (suppl.), Facoltà di

Lettere, C.so Ferraris 109. Tel. 0161. 601451.

We must lament losses of SLIN posts at Pisa, Siena, Trento, Urbino, though they are compensated, in some way, by a significant increase in English linguistics as witnessed by the following list:

L'Aquila: Dianne Ponterotto, Dipartimento di Storia e

metodologie Comparate. P.zza V. Rivera 1,

67100, Tel. 0862,432040

Bologna: Donna Miller, Dipartimento di Lingue e Lett.

Straniere Moderne Via Cartoleria 5, 50124.

Tel. 051.230783. Fax: 051. 264722

Napoli Orient.: Jocelyn Vincent, Dipartimento di studi letter.

e ling, dell'Ottocento, P.zza san Giovanni Maggiore 30, 80134. Tel. 081/7605428 Fax:

081,5517770

Padova: Carol Taylor Torsello, Dipartimento di

lingue e letterature anglo-germaniche, Via B.to

Pellegrino 26, 35137. Tel. 049/8274951

Pavia: Maria Pavesi, Dipartimento di Linguistica,

Strada Nuova 65, 27100. Tel. 0382. 504484.

Fax: 0832. 504487

Roma III: Serena Ambroso, Dipartimento di Linguistica,

Via del Castro Pretorio 20, 00185. Tel.

06.4959354. Fax: 06. 4957333

(Siena) Arezzo: Laurie Anderson, Dipartimento di Letter.

Moderne e Scienze dei linguaggi, P.zza del

Praticino 7, 52100. Tel. 0575. 926402