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# NEWSLETTER

no. 29

March 2002

## Contents:

1. SLIN Conferences and Seminars .....	p. 1
2. HEL and other (English) linguistics conferences and seminars .....	p. 2
3. Conference Reports (R. Facchinetti) .....	p. 9
4. Reviews and bibliographical information (J. Denton).....	p. 12

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## 1. SLIN Conferences and Seminars

I am glad to announce that our biennial Workshop will take place as usual in Rome, hosted and organized by David Hart, though with a slight change in the dates due to a national strike called on 5 April. So the new dates are **April 3 (afternoon)** and **4 (morning)**. The venue is the Meeting Room of the Dipartimento of Linguistica, University of Rome III, via Ostiense 236, which may be easily reached by underground train, line B (blue), starting at Termini railway station and getting off at the seventh stop (Marconi station).

The scheduled activities are as follows:

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3-4.30 p.m.: Matti Rissanen, The Salem Witchcraft Trial.(discussion follows)

8.00: dinner

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11.30 a.m.: Seminar discussion of the current situation in SLIN teaching and research, introduced by Antonio Bertacca (University of Pisa)

12.30 a.m.: Business meeting led by Nicola Pantaleo

13.30 p.m.: Lunch

It is also possible, on request by informing David Hart, to join the Seminar talk which professor Rissanen will give on Thursday morning, at 9.00, for doctorate students intitled *Despite or Notwithstanding: on the development and grammaticalization of adverbial links in early English.*

(Trusting to see you numerous in Rome I give you my best wishes for Easter. N.P.)

## 2. HEL and other (English) linguistics conferences and seminars

### *Reminders and updates*

§ The 12<sup>th</sup> ICEHL (International Conference on English Historical Linguistics) will be held at Glasgow University on 21 to 26 August, 2002.

The Conference will start with an evening informal buffet on Wednesday, 21 August, and conclude on the following Monday (late morning).

Please contact John Anderson at [J.Anderson@arts.gla.ac.uk](mailto:J.Anderson@arts.gla.ac.uk)

Further general information is provided at the following websites:

[www.gla.ac.uk/general/index.html](http://www.gla.ac.uk/general/index.html)

[www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLLL/EngLang](http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLLL/EngLang)

[www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLLL/EngLang/news.htm/ICEHL12](http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLLL/EngLang/news.htm/ICEHL12)

\*Please find the full programme and the registration form of ICEHL12 attached to the present issue.

Special information on some workshops were kindly given by organizers. Here are the ones which I have got as yet:

1. **CorpusSearch and the York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English** (Wednesday, August 21). This workshop is intended to familiarize users with the basics of the annotation system used in the York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English and to introduce searching with CorpusSearch, the search tool which accompanies the corpus. Researchers **interested in Middle English** are also welcome to attend as the same annotation principles and search engine are used with

the Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Middle English, and researchers intending to use that corpus will readily be able to apply what they learn. The workshop is intended for beginners or those with very limited experience of using these corpora; however, participants should be computer-literate. In order to make the workshop as useful as possible, all participants are asked to send a brief statement to the organizers (**Ann Taylor, e-mail: [at9@york.ac.uk](mailto:at9@york.ac.uk)**), which should reach them by **May 31**, outlining their particular research interests and the kind of questions they are looking to answer in using the corpora. They are also kindly requested to include a resume of their computer experience, including which operating systems and word processors they are familiar with. The workshop is limited to 20 participants. Please write to Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD, UK.

2. **Historical Pragmatics**. The workshop is managed by Susan Fitzmaurice, Andreas F. Jucker and Irma Taavitsainen and invites papers whose abstracts should be submitted before March 31, 2002 to Susan Fitzmaurice, Department of English, Box 6032, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ 86011-6032, USA (fax: (001) 928 523-7074; e-mail: [susan.fitzmaurice@nau.edu](mailto:susan.fitzmaurice@nau.edu))

The aim of the workshop is to provide a setting in which participants begin to address some challenges posed by the work on the history of the English language that identifies itself as historical pragmatic in approach. The range of work that falls within the parameters of pragmatics has begun to exert considerable pressure on the designator 'pragmatic', to the extent that workers in the field really need to search for fresh terminology to convey a better sense of the more fine-grained analysis actually being conducted (S. Fitzmaurice, 2000, "Some remarks on the rhetoric of historical pragmatics", *Journal of Historical Pragmatics*, 1 (1): 1-6).

It seems timely to use this pressure as occasion for collective investigation in the forum of a research workshop. To this end, participants in the

workshop may assess the body of research conducted on the history of the English language within what we might loosely identify as the framework of historical pragmatics. At the same time, it will provide the opportunity to explore some topics and questions of common interest in fields outside historical pragmatics. Increasingly, those questions have to do with the ways in which we approach the analysis of historical discourses, discourses that have their own cultural settings, historical codes, circumstances of production and transmission, and attendant language practices. The questions raised concern the ways in which we identify, read and account for rhetorical functions such as information, explication, persuasion, strategic interaction, and rhetorical force.

Approaches that share the domain of historical discourse as a field of enquiry are historical stylistics, corpus linguistics and historical sociolinguistics. The concerns of historical pragmatics also overlap with those of disciplines that now lie outside the domain of language and linguistics studies like rhetoric and literary history. This workshop will provide a forum for examining how the connections among such approaches or perspectives to some of the issues outlined above may be mutually enriching.

### 3. Radical approaches to the study of English 1700-1900

The aim of this workshop is to consider how the standardization and codification of English in the later modern period both marginalized and was manipulated by authors who were in some way outside the mainstream of 'polite' British society: those who were working-class, female, provincial, colonial or dissenters. Previous studies of English grammar in this period (Leonard 1929, Crowley 1989, 1991) emphasized the role of grammars in catering for the social aspirations of the bourgeois, maintaining the political status quo and uniting the British nation and Empire under the banner of a uniform standard. This workshop aims to challenge such a monolithic view of approaches to language study in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, demonstrating that there were other,

more radical approaches and agendas.

The workshop will also address the question of the status of English outside England, and the relationship between 'colonial' and 'provincial' varieties in terms of their status. In this respect, the position of Scots and Scottish English will be of particular interest.

The workshop will not be confined to the study of grammar. But will encompass radical and resistant approaches to the study and description of English, including reflections on English contained in grammars of other languages. An example of this would be the remarks made by the radical Scot James Gilchrist in his description of Urdu, in which the encounter with the non-European 'other' is seen as shedding light on the European 'self'.

Those who wish to participate in this workshop are asked to send by **30<sup>th</sup> April** a short proposal (500 words), stating how the grammar(ian)s who interest you are appropriate for this project, as an e-mail attachment to John Beal (j.c.beal@shef.ac.uk) and Carol Percy (cpercy@chass.utoronto.ca).

**§§ ESSE 6 – 2002** to be held in **Strasbourg, 30 August – 3 September**. The venue is the Mark Bloch University where the Conference will start at 10.30 on Friday and conclude with the Conference Banquet on Tuesday, 3 September.

The guest speakers are Mr. Neil Kinnock, vice-President of the European Commission, and Prof. Richard Holt, The Monfort University of Leicester, speaking on *Amateurism: The Rise and Fall of a British Ideal*.

Ten plenary lectures, 51 Seminars, 13 Panels, and 3 other major Academic events make up the rich menu of the Conference.

The definitive programme of the Conference will be disclosed in the Spring issue of *The European Messenger*, expectedly out on 15 April, or may be found on the Conference site:

<http://www.mshs.univ-poitiers.fr/esse/esse6.html>

The Conference fee is Euro 150. Registration and booking may be effected through links created on the ESSE websites. The **deadlines for papers acceptance and circulation by the conveners are 15 May and 1 June, respectively.**

Any further information may be obtained from Prof. Albert Hamm, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, Dept. of English, Marc Bloch University, 22 rue Descartes, 67000 Strasbourg, France. Fax: +33 (3) 8860 7661. E-mail: [esse2002@umb.u-strasbg.fr](mailto:esse2002@umb.u-strasbg.fr)

§§§ **Organization in Discourse II: the Historical Perspective** (Turku, Finland, **August 7-11, 2002**), organized by Risto Hiltunen, Department of English, University of Turku.

Please consult the Conference website at

[www.utu.fi/hum/engfil/oid2002.html](http://www.utu.fi/hum/engfil/oid2002.html)

§§§§ **International Conference on Historical Lexicography and Lexicology**, University of Leicester, **15-17 July 2002**

Papers (20 min) are invited on any subject in the fields of historical lexicology and historical lexicography. Suggestions for one-hour and half-hour sessions (roundtables, demonstrations, linked papers) are also invited. Five-minute notes and queries are included in the program. Proposals should be forwarded by **29 March, 2002** to e-mail: [jmc21@le.ac.uk](mailto:jmc21@le.ac.uk)

Please also consult the Conference site: [www.le.ac.uk/cc/jmc21/hll.htm](http://www.le.ac.uk/cc/jmc21/hll.htm)

## *New entries*

§ **2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on *New reflections on grammaticalization***, University of Amsterdam, **4-6 April, 2002.**

Information may be obtained by writing to: [gramma@hum.uva.nl](mailto:gramma@hum.uva.nl)

§§ **A cycle of lectures (9 April – 21 May)** on “*Aspects of English language and culture: Allan Bennett and Harry Potter, Francesco Petrarca, Tim Parks, Christopher Marlowe*” is organized by John Meddemmen, Collegio Ghislieri, University of Pavia according to the following timetable:

1. 9 April, 2002, 21.00 hs. J. Meddemmen: “Is it really impossible to translate the comic spirit of English into Italian?” (given in Italian).
2. 16 April, 2002, 21.00 hs. A. Mortimer: “Transplanting Petrarch”.
3. 14 May, 2002, 21.00 hs. T. Parks’ talk on his novel *Destiny* (Vintage 1999) and his new book on football.
4. 21 May, 2002, 21.00 hs. S. Pireddu: “Bodies, gestures and singularities in Renaissance culture” (given in Italian).

§§§ **International Conference on *New Developments in Linguistic Pragmatics***, Łódź, 10-12 May, 2002. Please contact Dr. Piotr Cap. E-mail: [kret@lodz.pdi.net](mailto:kret@lodz.pdi.net)

§§§§ **International Conference on *The Periphery viewing the world: Language, Literature, Media, Philosophy***, organized by the Hellenic Association for the study of English, the National and Kapodistrian

University of Athens, 23-26 May, 2002.

Conference website: <http://www.uoa.gr/English/HASE1.htm>

§§§§§§ 17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Linguists (CIPL XVII), Oaxaca (Mexico), 7-13 July, 2002. Information: Professor Ramón Marín, Institute of Anthropology, UNAM, Ciudad Universitaria, Delegación Coyoacán, 04510 Mexico City, DF, Mexico.

E-mail: [arzapalo@servidor.unam.mx](mailto:arzapalo@servidor.unam.mx)

§§§§§§ 10<sup>th</sup> International conference on Scottish Language and Literature, Middle Ages and Renaissance will be held at Rolduc in the Netherlands from 13 to 19 July, 2002.

Offers of papers and grouped papers in sessions are invited to reach the organizing committee by 1 April. Details about the conference, registration, prices, accommodation, registration form, etc., are available on the conference website: [www.let.rug.nl/scotconf](http://www.let.rug.nl/scotconf)

The address for correspondence is: Scotconf, English Deptment, University of Groningen, P.O. Box 716, 9700 AS Groningen, The Netherlands.

§§§§§§§ 11<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on *Methods in* Dialectology, University of Joensuu, 5-9 August, 2002.

For any enquiry contact Professor Markku Filippula through e-mail [markku.filippula@joensuu.fi](mailto:markku.filippula@joensuu.fi)

**Accommodation Fees:**

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Nights: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your first, second and third choice of Hotel and record the total accommodation fee in the 'Sub total' column. Prices quoted are per evening.

\*If Sharing twin/double, please indicate name of person you are sharing with

Accommodation	Single	Twin/Double	Sub Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Wolfson Hall(en-suite)(single or twin)	£31.00	£62.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cairncross House(self-catering, shared facilities)(single or twin)	£14.00	£28.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Town House Hotel(en-suite)(single or double)	£60.00	£72.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belhaven Hotel (en-suite)(single or double)	£38.00	£55.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hillhead Hotel (en-suite)(single or double)	£42.00	£49.00	
Total Accommodation Fees:			£

TOTAL (Add credit/debit card supplement of 5% on both Registration & Accommodation Fees)

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- CHALLENGING CORPUS EVIDENCE

Software demonstrations have also traditionally been an integral part of all ICAME conferences, and this time there were indeed many. Some of the presenters brought forth new software, like Wimatrix, a web-based corpus processing environment (Paul Rayson, Lancaster), and a new web interface to the *International Corpus of Learner English* (Sylviane Granger et al., Louvain). Others illustrated the upgrading of programmes already on the market; this is the case of *ICECUP*, the analysing tool of the British component of the *International Corpus of English* (Sean Wallis, London), of *ParaConc*, a parallel concordancer (Michael Barlow, Rice), of SPSS exploited for corpus analysis (Charles Meyer, Massachusetts), and of *TRACTOR*, the TELRI Research Archive of Computational Tools and Resources (Martin Wynne and Oliver Mason, Birmingham).

There was also a substantial delegation of Italians present and each one of us gave his/her own contribution: Nicholas Brownlees from Florence ("Extending the ZEN Corpus (1961-1650): A Progress Report"), Maurizio Gotti from Bergamo ("‘Shall’ and ‘will’ as first person future auxiliaries in a corpus of early modern English texts"), the present writer from Verona ("The modal verb MAY in contemporary British English: a study of the ICE-GB corpus"), Elena Tognini-Bonelli from Lecce ("Towards a corpus-driven approach"), and Maria Teresa Prat Zagrebelsky from Turin, who was one of the poster presenters ("Even if"

or "even though"? A corpus-based investigation of the Italian-ICLE sub-corpus).

This impressive body of thriving projects and fruitful results in the field bears witness to the fact that the linguistic analysis of machine-readable language corpora has now moved into the mainstream of scholarly research on the English language and has developed a strong centripetal force attracting not only experts in the field, but also doctorate students and mature scholars who are moving their first steps into this ever more fascinating field.

This success has prompted the participants of ICAME 2001 to discuss "the future challenges for corpus linguistics", in the panel closing the conference; there, a stock-taking and methodological reflection on this discipline was attempted, but most of all the common desire which was expressed was the wish to further develop the dialogue between the corpus-linguistic 'community' and scholars working in other traditions.

(Roberta Facchinetti)



#### 4. Reviews and bibliographical information

§ Laurel J. Brinton, *The Structure of Modern English. A linguistic introduction*, Amsterdam & Philadelphia: Benjamins 2000, pp. xxii+335 (including workbook CD-rom) (EURO 27.22 pbk.)

Marjolijn Verspoor and Kim Sauter, *English Sentence Analysis. An introductory course*, Amsterdam & Philadelphia: Benjamins 2000, pp. 245 (including CD-rom) (EURO 27.22 pbk.)

Thomas Frank wisely began his *Storia della lingua inglese* with an introductory section on the linguistic analysis of contemporary English, well aware of the lack of knowledge of developments in modern linguistics of the Italian university students fresh from school to whom the book was addressed. He also made several appeals for placing university language study on the same level as that of literature. He would be pleased to know that at long last this has come about in the new foreign language first degree courses in Italian universities. Language students still come to university with a 'pre-Saussurean' knowledge of language structure and it appears to me that one of the essential tasks of their teachers is to persuade them that the mixture of tradition, prejudice and folklore constituting their initial state of language 'awareness' needs thorough revision. My students are invariably surprised to hear that English only has two tenses (at most), that 'my', 'your' etc. are not 'possessive adjectives', that the term 'duration form' is a uselessly vague concept and that double negatives are not 'illogical'. There are several university textbooks offering more or less detailed introductions to modern English, some limiting themselves to (mostly) the micro-linguistic areas of phonology, lexical and grammatical morphology and syntax, some extending coverage to pragmatics and sociolinguistic variation. An example of the latter type is *A Survey of Modern English* by Stephen Gramley and Kurt-Michael Pätzold (London & New York: Routledge 1992), an example of the former being *An Introduction to English Language. Sound,*

*word and sentence* by Koenraad Kuiper and W. Scott Allan (Basingstoke: Macmillan 1996). I am currently using parts of both books for my classes on English phonology and grammar with first year students and find both unsatisfactory, the former treating language variation more thoroughly than the micro-linguistic areas and the latter avoiding too many problematic issues. The new textbook by Laurel J. Brinton, from the University of British Columbia, covers English phonology, word structure and formation, grammatical categories and word classes, lexical semantics, phrasal structure and verb complementation, sentence types, finite and non finite clauses, sentence semantics and pragmatics (speech act theory, cooperative principle and conversational implicature) with exemplary clarity, introducing students to basic grammatical argumentation and further work available on the accompanying CD-rom. The book contains enough material for at least two (or even three) years' work (given the limited amount of time students on the new degree courses are expected to devote to each language module) and needs to be supplemented by more practical classes (including more elementary sentence analysis, with the aid of the excellent introduction by Verspoor and Sauter, also accompanied by a CD-rom), especially in the field of phonology, where choice of one English accent (only from the productive standpoint, of course) is a painful, but inevitable choice. Language courses based on textbooks like the two reviewed here will challenge students to think more deeply about what they will increasingly come to see as a stimulating content subject, a status denied for so long to language studies in what for so many years have ironically and misleadingly been called 'language faculties'.

(John Denton)

#### §§ NEWJOUR, Electronic Journals and Newsletters.

NewJour aims to accomplish two objectives; it is both a list and a project.

First, it is the place to announce one's own newly planned, newly issued, or revised ELECTRONIC NETWORKED journal or newsletter. It is also the place to announce the availability of paper journals and newsletters as they become available on, or move into, electronic networks. Second, it represents an identification and road-mapping project for electronic journals and newsletters, begun by Michael Strangelove, University of Ottawa, and carried on by the Association of Research libraries as of 1993. NewJour has expanded and continued that work and is now formally separate from the ongoing ARL Directory project, whose evolving web version may be found at:

[http:// arl.cni.org/scomm/edir/index.html](http://arl.cni.org/scomm/edir/index.html)

The backfiles of NewJour are archived and searchable through the kindness of the James Jacobs of the University of California (San Diego) library and may be found at <http://gort.ucsd.edu/newjour>

§§§ K. Lenz, R. Mohlig, *Of dyversitie & chaunge of language*, Essays presented to Manfred Görlach, on the occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, C. Winter, Heidelberg. It contains contributions from, among others, R. Hogg, H. Sauer, D. Kastovski, M. Rissanen, I. Tieker-Boon, A. Fischer, H. Jurgen-Diller, R. Hickey, I Taavitsainen, T. Nevailanen, N. Blake, J. Smith.

Orders for personal use only until April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002.

\* We join the undertaking with our best wishes to our friend Manfred for a long life of scholarship.