SLIN

NEWSLETTER

no. 48   November 2008

Contents:

Editor's note

I must apologize to you, dear Colleagues, for cancelling the Summer issue of the SLIN Newsletter due to a private loss. The present issue is, on the other hand, rather undersized for lack of materials and for this too I beg your forgiveness.

N. P.

1. SLIN Conferences and Seminars

14th SLIN National Conference
Università di Firenze
Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia

22-24 January 2009

The language of private and public communication

in a historical perspective

Aula Magna, Palazzo Fenzi
Via San Gallo 10
Firenze

**Thursday
22 January**

9.30	Registration
10.30	Welcome Address
11.00	Ingrid Tieken Boon van Ostade (Leiden), *Communicative competence and the language of eighteenth-century letter-writers*
12.00	Giovanni Iamartino and Angela Andreani (Milan), *In the Queen's name: the writings of Elizabeth I between public and private communication*

12.30	Koichi Kano (Komazawa, Japan), *Phonetic Spellings in the XVIIth-Century Private Correspondences in Norfolk*
13.00-15.00	Lunch
15.00-15.30	Paola Tornaghi (Milan-Bicocca), *Antiquarians sharing information and knowledge in the XVII century*
15.30-16.00	Alessandra Levorato (Florence), *Keywords, collocations and persuasion: an analysis of the Castlereagh Act of Union correspondence in its political context*
16.00-16.30	Marina Dossena (Bergamo), *"We beg to suggest" – Features of legal English in Late Modern business letters*
16.30-17.00	Coffee Break
17.00-17.30	Daniela Cesiri (Salento), *Address forms in Victorian 'royal' letters: between public and private communication*
17.30-18.00	Elisabetta Cecconi (Florence), *"What a story is this?": witness narratives in seventeenth century courtroom discourse*
18.30	Reception at British Institute (to be confirmed)

**Friday 23
January**

9.00	Laura Wright (Cambridge), *Shops and shopping in eighteenth-century London: non-*

standard language as evidenced by footmen,
coachmen and shopkeepers' bills

10.00-10.30 Roberta Mullini (Urbino), *"Gull'd by the*
enchanting Tongues of Quack and Zany": the
rhetoric of nostrum marketing in speech and
print in the English Renaissance

10.30-11.00 Udo Fries (Zurich), *English Newspapers in 1701*

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-12.00 Birte Bös (Rostock), *Personal perspectives – on the functions of first-person quotations in British news reports*

12.00-12.30 Francesca Benucci (Florence), *Creating a corpus of English Civil War Newsbooks*

12.30-13.00 Gabriella Mazzon and Geoffrey Gray (Cagliari), *Persuasive discourse and language planning in Ireland*

13.00-15.00 Lunch

15.00-15.30 Gabriella Di Martino (Naples Federico II), *Lady Blessington in Naples from 1823 to 1826*

15.30-16.00 Masimo Sturiale (Catania), *Language and Myth: The Representation(s) of Sicily in Early Modern English Travelogues*

16.00-16.30 Alicia Rodríguez-Álvarez (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria), *Mechanisms to render the meaning of the Spanish element in Early Modern English travel books*

16.30-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00-17.30 John Denton (Florence), *'Hail Mary' Goes Underground: from public to private Catholic discourse in Early Modern England*

17.30-18.00 Alice Spencer (Turin), *Etymology, Genealogy and Hagiographical **Auctoritas** in Bokenham's **Legendys of Hooly Wummen***

18.00-18.30 Tatyana Solomonik (Vilnius), *Prototypical Meaning of **sawel** in the **Prose Psalter***

Saturday 24 January

9.00-9.30 Antonio Bertacca (Pisa), *Charles Darwin's **Red Notebook** (1836-1837)*

9.30-10.00 Eleonora Chiavetta (Palermo), *"A simple and popular description": the Natural History Rambles of J.G Wood*

10.00-10.30 Ruth Henderson (Turin), *The private voice: reflections on the language of Jane Austen's letters*

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-11.30 Thomas Christiansen (Salento), *The evolution of a distinct Australian English lexis as seen in popular nineteenth century bush ballads and spoken verse*

11.30-12.00 Salena Sampson (Ohio State University), *The Role of Text Type in Early Modern English Gradable Adjective Variation*

12.00-13.00 Workshop

2. Other linguistic(s) Conferences

§ The XIXth International Conference on Historical Linguistics (10-15 August 2009)

Radboud University Nijmegen, Centre for Language Studies

Invited speakers

Theresa Biberauer (University of Cambridge)
Michael Dunn (MPI Nijmegen)
Russell Gray (The University of Auckland)
Giuseppe Longobardi (Università degli studi di Trieste)
Pieter Muysken (Radboud University Nijmegen)
Shana Poplack (University of Ottawa)
Gillian Sankoff (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia)
Antonella Sorace (University of Edinburgh)
John Whitman (Cornell University)
Charles Yang (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia)

First circular and call for papers

Abstracts are invited for papers of 30 minutes including discussion. Please send in an abstract of no more than 300 words, including your most important literature references. **The deadline for abstracts is 10 January 2009.** The conference will host a number of workshops and thematic sessions, which are listed below. Abstracts for these sessions are submitted, like those for the general sessions, to a separate abstract submission website.

The second circular will also contain more detailed about registration and accommodation.

Note the conference e-mail address: ICHL19@let.ru.nl.

The conference URL is: http://www.ru.nl/cls/ichl19/

Registration

The registration fee will be Euro 200/100 for students until 1 May 2009

After 1 May 2009, the fee will be Euro 250/125

Practical details concerning registration (through a separate website supporting credit card payment) will be linked to the conference webpage soonest.

Accommodation
We have made block bookings against reduced prices in the major hotels in and around Nijmegen, in various price ranges. Accommodation can be booked through our website. Details will be linked to this website soonest.

Social programme
The social programme will include two receptions, excursions on Wednesday afternoon 12 August, the conference dinner on Thursday 13 August, and a post-conference excursion on Saturday 15 August. Details will be posted soonest.

Local committee: Ans van Kemenade, with Griet Coupé, Marion Elenbaas (Leiden), Nynke de Haas, Haike Jacobs, Bettelou Los, Margit Rem and Angela Terrill

Workshops and thematic sessions

The origin of non-canonical subject marking in Indo-European
Convener: Jóhanna Barðdal (Bergen) E-mail: johanna.barddal@uib.no

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Jens Allwood (Göteborgs Universitet)
Pier Marco Bertinetto (Escuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)
Perpétua Gonçalves (Universidade de Maputo)
Colette Grinevald (Université de Lyon 2)
Johannes Kabatek (Universität Tübingen)

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Jose Pinto de Lima (Chair), Maria Clotilde Almeida, Luisa Azuaga, Margarita Correia, Carlos Gouveia (Secretary), Marina Vigário

SLE CONFERENCE MANAGER

Bert Cornillie (Leuven)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Bas Aarts (London), Peter Auer (Freiburg), Carlos Acuña-Fariña (Santiago de Compostela), Christopher Beedham (St Andrews), Enrique Bernardez (Madrid), Ivo Castro (Lisboa), Nicole Delbecque (Leuven), Violeta Demonte (Madrid), Gabriele Diewald (Hannover), Ursula Doleschal (Wien), Katarzyna Dziubalska-Kolaczyk (Poznan), Teresa Fanego (Santiago de Compostela), Isabel Hub Faria (Lisboa), Ekkehard König (Berlin), Elisabeth Leiss (München), Barbara Lewandowska (Lodz), Edith Moravcsik (Wisconsin, Milwaukee), Pieter Muysken (Nijmegen), Karl Pajusalu (Tartu), Emilia Pedro (Lisboa), Ian Roberts (Cambridge), Letizia Vezzosi (Perugia).

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers and workshops are invited on all topics belonging to the field of linguistics. Presentations will be 20 minutes plus 10 minutes question time.

We particularly welcome proposals for workshops, which should contain (i) an outline of the theme and (ii) a provisional list of workshop participants and their topics (see also below). We encourage workshop convenors to distribute an open call for papers on the LinguistList and other fora. For workshop submissions or questions, use sle@arts.kuleuven.be .

Paper abstracts should not exceed 500 words (exclusive of references) and should state research questions, approach, method, data and (expected) results. Abstracts will be reviewed anonymously.

The **deadline** for the submission of workshop proposals is **15 December 2008**. Notification of acceptance will follow within the week. The deadline for all abstracts (both for the general session and workshops) is **31 January 2009**. Notification of acceptance will be given by **31 March 2009**.

Submit your title through the Submit Abstract form and email your abstract as an attachment to sle@arts.kuleuven.be. The abstract should not mention the presenter(s) nor their affiliations or addresses. Abstracts are preferably in Word or .RTF format; if your abstract contains special symbols, please include a pdf version as well.

WORKSHOPS

Since we would like all conference participants to be able to attend individual workshop presentations, SLE workshops have to be compatible with the main conference programme. This means that the format of the workshops must be organized around 30 minute presentations (20 min. + 10 min. discussion). Each workshop should comprise:

1. An introductory paper by the convenor(s) or by a key-note speaker. It should summarize previous research, specify the approaches to be found in the workshop and explain the scope of the papers to be given.
2. At least 6 papers (20 min. + 10 min. discussion). The preference is for one-day workshops, but two-day workshops may also be considered.
3. A slot for final discussion on topics covered by the papers, methodological issues and questions for future research.

REGISTRATION

Registration will start from April 1 onwards. Registration fees are anticipated to be the following:

Early registration fee: from 1 April 2009 to 31 May 2009.

Regular	50 Euros (SLE members)
	180 Euros (non members)
Students (without salary or grant)	70 Euros (SLE members)
	100 Euros (non members)

Late registration fee (SLE members) (from 1 June 2009 to 30 June 2009):

Regular	180 Euros (SLE members)
	210 Euros (non members)
Students (without salary or grant)	100 Euros (SLE members)
	130 Euros (non members)

Become a member of the Societas Linguistica Europaea

The registration fee includes the conference materials, coffee/tea, lunch during the conference days, the conference reception, and an excursion to places of interest in Lisbon

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

There will be a reception (included in the registration fee) and a conference dinner. On Saturday afternoon there will be a post-conference excursion to Sintra and Mafra. Further information will be given in the second circular.

TRANSPORT

The Lisbon airport (Aeroporto da Portela) is located on the outskirts of the city, so that it is a short distance to the Cidade Universitária (where most Faculties are, including the Faculdade de Letras): ca 5 to 10 min. by taxi. The city centre itself is just ca 30 min. by Aerobus or 20 min. by taxi.

There is a direct link by Aerobus from the airport to the city centre (from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., every 20 min; ticket: 3 Euros). The first two stops (Entre Campos and Campo Pequeno) serve most of the hotels that are close to the University; the trip to these stops takes ca. 10 min. Alternatively, you can take a taxi from the airport to the hotel (from 6 to 12 Euros for most hotels, depending on the distance; for hotels near Entre Campos or Campo Pequeno, about 6 to 9 Euros.).

IMPORTANT DATES

15 December 2008:	deadline for submission of workshop proposals
31 January 2009:	deadline for submission of abstracts
31 March 2009:	notification of acceptance
1 April 2009:	early registration starts
1 June 2008:	registration (full fee)

CONTACT

SLE 2009 Local organizing committee:

Faculdade de Letras – Universidade de Lisboa

Departamento de Estudos Germanísticos
– SLE 2009

Alameda da Universidade
1600 – 214 LISBOA
PORTUGAL

Tel. +351 21 792 00 48 (Clotilde Almeida)
Fax +351 21 796 00 63
E-mail: sle2009@fl.ul.pt

SLE conference manager:
sle@arts.kuleuven.be

Dik Bakker
Dept. of General Linguistics
Universities of Amsterdam & Lancaster
tel (+44) 1524 64975 & (+31) 20 5253864
http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/d.bakker/
Societas Linguistica Europaea
Secretary/Treasurer
http://www.societaslinguistica.eu/

3. Reviews and bibliographical information
(from kind cooperation of Daniela Cesiri, University of Lecce)

Kortmann, Bernd / Schneider, Edgar W. Varieties of English (eds.) (2008), *Varieties of English*. 4 vols. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. ISBN 978-3-11-017269-0

These new multimedia textbooks cover the phonology, morphology and syntax of varieties of English around the world. The set consists of four volumes which are sorted according to regions and accompanied by an interactive cd-rom. The articles, written by widely acclaimed specialists, provide concise and comprehensive information on the phonological, morphological and syntactic characteristics of each variety discussed. They are followed by exercises and study questions that can be used for classroom assignments as well as for self study in preparation for exams.

The multimedia cd-rom contains sound samples, speech recordings, interactive and synchronized maps, an extensive bibliography on relevant research literature, and links to pertinent websites.

Moskowich-Spiegel, Isabel and Crespo-García, Begoña (eds.) (2007), *Bells Chiming from the Past. Cultural and Linguistic Studies on Early English*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

To understand the characteristics of present-day English language and culture we must have some understanding of the earlier stages of language use. <I>Bells Chiming from the Past</I> investigates the early development of English and covers different aspects of English medieval studies, from traditional philological concerns, to the most recent perspectives of modern linguistics applied to early English texts. Most of the papers are based on empirical research in English Historical Linguistics, and will contribute substantially to our theoretical and descriptive understanding of English varieties, both written and spoken.

The book focuses on the relationship and interaction of language and culture during the Middle English period. Some of the articles are clearly linguistically-oriented, but most could be included under a wider philological perspective since they study both language and the cultural milieu in which linguistic events took place. This book is aimed at an international readership and makes a desirable addition to the field of Historical Linguistics, featuring as it does contributions from an array of well-known professionals from different academic and scientific institutions.

Contents

Isabel Moskowich and Begoña Crespo: Introduction
Part 1. Linguistic aspects of early English
Agnieszka Pysz: The (im)possibility of stacking adjectives in Early English Ruth Carroll: Lists in Letters: NP-lists and general extenders in Early English correspondence Prancisco Alonso-Almeida: Middle English medical books as examples of iscourse colonies: G.U.L Hunter 307 Rosa Eva Fernández-Conde: The second-person pronoun in late medieval English drama: The York Cycle (c. 1440)
Isabel Moskowich and Begoña Crespo: Different paths for words and money: The semantic field of "Commerce and Finance" in Middle English
Part 2. Language and culture
John McKinnell: How might<I> Everyman</I> has been performed?
Isabel de la Cruz-Cabanillas: Shift of meaning in the animal field: Some cases of narrowing and widening
Maria José Esteve-Ramos: Different aspects of the specialised nomenclature of ophthalmology in Old and Middle English Nuria Bello-Piñón and Dolores Elvira Méndez-Souto: Complex predicates in early scientific writing Mª Victoria Domínguez-Rodríguez and Alicia Rodríguez-Álvarez: Sixteenth-century glosses to a fifteenth-century gynaecological treatise (BL, MS Sloane 249, ff. 180v-205v): A scientifically biased revision

Part 3. Philology and the study of medieval texts Donald Scragg: Rewriting eleventh-century English grammar and the editing of texts Francisco José Álvarez-López: DCL, B IV, 24: A palaeographical and codicological study of Durham's<I> Cantor's Book</I> Nils-Lennart Johannesson: The four-wheeled quadriga and the seven sacraments: On the sources for the 'dedication' of the<I> Ormulum</I> Juan Camilo Conde-Silvestre: Verbal confrontation and the uses of direct speech in some Old English poetic hagiographies Tom Shippey: Tolkien, medievalism, and the philological tradition

Levey, David (2008), *Language Change and Variation in Gibraltar*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins

While much has been written about Gibraltar from historical and political perspectives, sociolinguistic aspects have been largely overlooked. This book describes the influences which have shaped the colony's linguistic development since the British occupation in 1704, and the relationship between the three principal means of communication: English, Spanish and the code switching variant Yanito. The study then focuses its attentions on the communicative forms and functions of Gibraltarian English. The closing of the border between Gibraltar and Spain (1969-1982), which effectively isolated the colony, had important social and linguistic repercussions.
This volume presents the first full account of the language attitudes and identity of a new generation of Gibraltarians, all of whom were born after the border was re-opened. Adopting a variationist approach, this study analyses the extent to which the language use and phonetic realisations of young Gibraltarians differ from those of previous generations and the factors conditioning language variation and change.

Fitzmaurice, Susan M., Taavitsainen, Irma (eds.) (2007). *Methods in Historical Pragmatics*. Berlin: de Gruyter.

This volume represents a timely collective review and assessment of what it is we do when we do English historical pragmatics or historical

discourse analysis. The context for the volume is a critical assessment of the assumptions and practices defining the body of research conducted on the history of the English language within what might loosely be regarded as the framework of historical pragmatics. The aim of the volume is to engage with matters of approach and method from different perspectives; accordingly, the contributions offer insights into earlier communicative practices, registers, and linguistic functions as gleaned from historical discourse.

The essays are loosely grouped according to their orientations within the scope of the study of language and meaning in historical texts, both literary and non-literary. The structure of the volume thus represents a critical convergence of traditions of reading texts or analyzing discourse and this in turn exposes key questions about the methods and the outcomes of such readings or analysis. The volume contributes to the growing maturity of historical pragmatic research approaches as it exemplifies and extends the range of approaches and methods that dominate the research enterprise.

Facchinetti, Roberta (ed.) (2007), *Corpus Linguistics 25 Years On.* Amsterdam: Rodopi

This volume offers a state-of-the-art picture of work undertaken in the field of computer-aided corpus linguistics. While the focus is on English, central insights can be generalised to other languages, as well. As a work intended to mark the Silver Jubilee of ICAME, the 'International Computer Archive of Modern and Medieval English', the book combines surveys of the discipline by some of its major pioneers, including founders of ICAME itself, with cutting-edge work by younger scholars. It is divided into three sections: "Overviewing years of corpus linguistic studies", "Descriptive studies in English syntax and semantics", and "Second Language Acquisition, parallel corpora and specialist corpora". The book bears witness to the impressive advances that have characterised the development of corpus linguistics over the past few decades - from terminological issues to practical applications,

from theoretical and descriptive research to applied approaches, from monolingual to multilingual and specialist corpora, from corpus design to corpus exploitation tools.

Markku Filppula, Juhani Klemola, Heli Paulasto (2008). *English and Celtic in Contact.* Series New York: Routledge. Abstract:

This book provides the first comprehensive account of the history and extent of Celtic influences in English. Drawing on both original research and existing work, it covers both the earliest medieval contacts and their linguistic effects and the reflexes of later, early modern and modern contacts, especially various regional varieties of English.
Beal, Joan C. / Nocera, Carmela / Sturiale, Massimo (eds)
Beal, Joan C. / Nocera, Carmela / Sturiale, Massimo (eds) (2008), *Perspectives on Prescriptivism.* Berlin, etc.: Peter Lang

The colloquium *Perspectives on Prescriptivism* (20-22 April 2006) was hosted by the University of Catania - Faculty of Foreign Languages - in Ragusa. Until very recently, the received view among linguists was that prescriptivism was a 'bad thing', something only worth considering in order to condemn it as a product of unenlightened thinking. The organisers wished to encourage participants to look at linguistic prescriptivism from a wide range of perspectives. Some of the main questions asked were: To what extent is the concept of prescriptivism to be considered a typical product of the 18th century? What is the attitude of 21st-century scholars and language guardians towards linguistic 'correctness'? To what extent were books more prescriptive - rather than descriptive – in what has generally been described as 'the age of correctness'? Some of the answers are to be found in this volume.

Contents: Joan C. Beal: 'Shamed by your English?': the Market Value of a 'Good' Pronunciation - Marina Dossena: Prescriptivism a Century Ago: Business Correspondence Taught to Emigrants - A Case Study – Karlijn Navest: Ash's *Grammatical Institutes Grammatical Institutes* and 'Mrs Teachwell's Library for her young ladies' - Larisa Oldireva

Gustafsson: Phonoaesthetic Assessment of Words in 18th-century Prescriptions and Later – Carol Percy: Liberty, Sincerity, (In)accuracy: Prescriptions for *Manly* English in 18th-century Reviews and the 'Republic of Letters' – Laura Pinnavaia: Charles Richardson: Prescriptivist or Descriptivist? An Analysis Based on *A New Dictionary of the English Language* (1836-37) – Giuliana Russo: Joseph Priestley's *The Rudiments of English Grammar; Adapted to the Use of schools. With Observations on Style* (1761) – Massimo Sturiale: Prescriptivism and 18th-century Bilingual Dictionaries. William Perry's *The Standard French and English Pronouncing Dictionary* (1795) – Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade: The Codifiers and the History of Multiple Negation in English, or, Why Were 18th-century Grammarians So Obsessed with Double Negation? – Laura Wright: Social Attitudes Towards Londoners' Front-glide Insertion After Velar Consonants and Before Front Vowels – Nuria Yáñez Bouza: To End or Not to End a Sentence with a Preposition: An 18th-century Debate.

McIntyre, Dan (2008), *History of English. A Resource Book for Students.* New York: Routledge.

The volume will provide students with the historical and contextual background to the study of English and answers the questions of why and how the English language has come to be written and spoken as it is today. This book provides a fresh perspective and innovative insight into an area that is often dealt with in a prosaic and dry manner.

History of English covers:
-the origins of English and how it came to be spoken in the British Isles
-the change from Old to Middle English
-the influence of other languages on the development of English
-the standardization of the language
-the expansion of English into the global 'super-language' that it is today.

Whilst providing a general understanding of the development of English it will also describe and explain the changes that occurred within the language at all linguistic levels – phonology, grammar, semantics and pragmatics, as well as considering changes in orthography, register and discourse. Recent developments in the history of English will be addressed and this book will also look at international varieties of English. History of English is essential reading for all students of English language and linguistics.

Locher, Miriam and Strässler, Jürg (eds.) (2008), *Standards and Norms in the English Language.* Berlin: the Gruyter

The theme of this collection is a discussion of the notions of 'norms' and 'standards', which are studied from various different angles, but always in relation to the English language. These terms are to be understood in a very wide sense, allowing discussions of topics such as the norms we orient to in social interaction, the benchmark employed in teaching, or the development of English dialects and varieties over time and space and their relation to the standard language. The collection is organized into three parts, each of which covers an important research field for the study of norms and standards.

Part 1 is entitled "English over time and space" and is further divided into three thematic subgroups: standard and non-standard features in English varieties and dialects; research on English standardization processes; and issues of standards and norms in oral production. Part 2 deals with "English usage in non-native contexts," and Part 3 is dedicated to "Issues on politeness and impoliteness." The notions of standards and norms are equally important concepts for historical linguists, sociolinguists with a variationist background, applied linguists, pragmaticians, and discourse analysts.

Jucker, Andreas H. and Taavitsainen, Irma (eds.) (2008), *Speech Acts in the History of English.* Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Did earlier speakers of English use the same speech acts that we use today? Did they use them in the same way? How did they signal speech

act values and how did they negotiate them in case of uncertainty? These are some of the questions that are addressed in this volume in innovative case studies that cover a wide range of speech acts from Old English to Present-day English. All the studies offer careful discussions of methodological and theoretical issues as well as detailed descriptions of specific speech acts. The first part of the volume is devoted to directives and commissives, i.e. speech acts such as requests, commands and promises. The second part is devoted to expressives and assertives and deals with speech acts such as greetings, compliments and apologies. The third part, finally, contains technical reports that deal primarily with the problem of extracting speech acts from historical corpora.

November 2008 – Update

Pezzini, Domenico (2008), *The Translation of Religious Texts in the Middle Ages. Tracts and Rules, Hymns and Saints' Lives.* Berlin, etc.: Peter Lang. Series: Linguistic Insights, Studies in Language and Communication Vol. 69. Edited by Maurizio Gotti.

The transition from Latin to vernacular languages in the late Middle Ages and the dramatic rise of a new readership produced a huge bulk of translations, particularly of religious literature in its various genres. The solutions are so multifarious that they defy any attempt to outline general theories. This is particularly visible when the same text is translated or rewritten at different times and in different languages or genres. Through a minute analysis of texts this book aims at highlighting lexical, syntactic and stylistic choices dictated not only by the source but also by new readers and patrons, or by new destinations of the works. Established categories such as 'literalness' and 'fidelity' are thus questioned and integrated with these other factors which, while being more 'external', do nonetheless impinge on the very idea of 'translation', and consequently on its assessment. Far from being a mere transfer from one language to another, a medieval translation verges on a form of creative writing, and as such its study becomes a fascinating investigation into the very process of textual production.

Contents: Birgittine Tracts of Spiritual Guidance in Fifteenth-Century England - Book IV of St Birgitta's Revelations in an Italian (MS Laurenziano 27.10) and an English Translation (MS Harley 4800) of the Fifteenth Century - Two ME Translations of Aelred of Rievaulx's De Institutione Inclusarum: The Varieties of Medieval Translational Practices - David of Augsburg's Formula Novitiorum in Three English Translations - Three Versions of a Rule for Hermits in Late Medieval England - The Italian Reception of Birgittine Writings - The Prophetic Voice in St Birgitta's Revelations: An Analysis of Incominciano certi capitoli, a Late Fifteenth-Century Italian Compilation (Florence, Bibl. Naz. Centrale MS II, II, 391) - How and Why a Translation May Be Revised: The Case of British Library, Arundel MS 197 - Versions of Latin Hymns in Medieval England: William Herebert and the English Hymnal - Late Medieval Translations of Marian Hymns and Antiphons - Translation as Interpretation and Commentary: John Lydgate's Version of Vexilla Regis prodeunt and Christe qui lux es et dies - Bede's Vita of Gregory the Great in the Old English Version of Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum - «A Life of the Blessed Virgin» from the Revelations of St Birgitta - The Genealogy and Posterity of Aelred of Rievaulx's Vita Sancti Edwardi Regis et Confessoris.

Dossena, Marina / Tieken-Boon van Ostade, Ingrid (eds) (2008), *Studies in Late Modern English Correspondence. Methodology and Data.* Bern, etc.: Peter Lang. Linguistic Insights, Studies in Language and Communication Vol. 76. Edited by Maurizio Gotti.

The studies presented in this volume concentrate on aspects of Late Modern English correspondence in the usage of individuals belonging to different social classes, writing for different purposes, and finding themselves in different social contexts, both in Britain and in its colonies. As the growing body of research published in recent years has shown, analyzing the language of letters presents both a challenge and

an opportunity to obtain access to as full a range of styles as would be possible for a period for which we only have access to the language in its written form. It is an area of study in which all the contributors have considerable expertise, which affords them to present data findings while discussing important methodological issues. In addition, in most cases data derive from specially-designed 'second-generation' corpora, reflecting state-of-the-art approaches to historical sociolinguistics and pragmatics. Theoretical issues concerning letters as a text type, their role in social network analysis, and their value in the identification of register or variety specific traits are highlighted, alongside issues concerning the (often less than easy) relationship between strictly codified norms and actual usage on the part of speakers whose level of education could vary considerably.

Contents: Marina Dossena/Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade: Introduction - Arja Nurmi/Minna Palander-Collin: Letters as a Text Type: Interaction in Writing - Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade: Letters as a Source for Reconstructing Social Networks: The Case of Robert Lowth - Susan M. Fitzmaurice: Epistolary Identity: Convention and Idiosyncrasy in Late Modern English Letters - Richard Dury: Handwriting and the Linguistic Study of Letters - Anni Sairio: Bluestocking Letters and the Influence of Eighteenth-Century Grammars - Lyda Fens-de Zeeuw: The Letter-Writing Manual in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries: From Polite to Practical - Tony Fairman: Strike-Throughs: What Textual Alterations can Tell us about Writers and their Scripts, 1795-1835 - Anita Auer: «The letter wihch that I wrote»: Self-corrections in Late Modern English Letters - Marina Dossena: «We beg leave to refer to your decision»: Pragmatic Traits of Nineteenth-Century Business Correspondence - Stefan Dollinger: Colonial Variation in the Late Modern English Business Letter: 'Periphery and Core' or 'Random Variation'?.

Matsumoto, Meiko (2008), *From Simple Verbs to Periphrastic Expressions The Historical Development of Composite Predicates, Phrasal Verbs, and Related Constructions in English*. Bern, etc.: Peter Lang. Linguistic Insights, Studies in Language and Communication Vol. 81. Edited by Maurizio Gotti.

English offers verbal expressions in two basic forms: simple verbs such as walk and look, and periphrastic expressions such as have/take a walk and have/take a look. Which do we use, why, and how do particular usages arise or disappear? This volume explores the historical development of two important periphrastic verbal constructions, composite predicates and phrasal verbs, as well as related expressions, from the viewpoint of English historical linguistics. The approach is descriptive and interpretive, encompassing rich and varied data from Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, Late Modern English, and Present Day English, from sources such as the Chadwyck-Healey electronic corpus databases. The history of English is characterized by the development from synthetic to analytic. The role of this tendency in the development of verbal expressions is of particular interest.

Contents: Composite predicates - Phrasal verbs - The historical development of have/take a look - The verbs 'have' and 'take' in composite predicates and phrasal verbs - Composite predicates with body nouns - The origin of used to - The verbs meaning 'happen' - The verbs have and be.

Tieken-Boon van Ostade, Ingrid (ed.) (2008), Grammars, Grammarians and Grammar-Writing in Eighteenth-Century England. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. Series: Topics in English Linguistics [TiEL] 59.

The book offers insight into the publication history of eighteenth-century English grammars in unprecedented detail. It is based on a close analysis of various types of relevant information: Alston's bibliography of 1965, showing that this source needs to be revised urgently; the recently published online database Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) with respect to sources of information never previously

explored or analysed (such as book catalogues and library catalogues); Carol Percy's database on the reception of eighteenth-century grammars in contemporary periodical reviews; and so-called precept corpora containing data on the treatment in a large variety of grammars (and other works) of individual grammatical constructions. By focussing on individual grammars and their history a number of long-standing questions are solved with respect to the authorship of particular grammars and related work (the Brightland/Gildon grammar and the Bellum Grammaticale ; Ann Fisher's grammar) while new questions are identified, such as the significant change of approach between the publication of one grammar and its second edition of seven years later (Priestley), and the dependence of later practical grammars (for mothers and their children) on earlier publications.

The contributions present a view of the grammarians as individuals with (or without) specific qualifications for undertaking what they did, with their own ideas on teaching methodology, and as writers ultimately engaged in the common aim presenting practical grammars of English to the general public. Interestingly - and importantly - this collection of articles demonstrates the potential of ECCO as a resource for further research in the field.

González-Díaz, Victorina (2008), *English Adjective Comparison: A historical perspective*. Amsterdam: Benjamins. Current Issues in Linguistic Theory 299.

The present work contributes to a better understanding of the English system of degree by means of a study of a number of aspects in the evolution of adjective comparison that have so far either been considered controversial or not been accounted for at all. As will be shown, the diachronic aspects analysed will also have synchronic implications. Furthermore, unlike previous synchronic as well as diachronic accounts of adjective comparison, this monograph does not concentrate on the 'standard' comparative strategies (i.e. inflectional and periphrastic forms) only, but also deals with double periphrastic

comparatives, thus providing an analysis of the whole range of comparative structures in English.

Contents. Acknowledgements - Abbreviations - Chapter 1. Introduction - Chapter 2. The origin of periphrastic comparatives - Chapter 3. French influence and the spread of periphrastic comparatives in English - Chapter 4. Inflectional v. periphrastic comparison in EModE and LModE - Chapter 5. Inflectional v. periphrastic comparison in Present-day English - Chapter 6. Double periphrastic comparatives in English: Linguistic development - Chapter 7. Double periphrastic comparatives: A socio-stylistic analysis - Chapter 8. Comparatives and beyond - References - Index.

Momma, Haruko and Matto, Michael (eds.) (2008), *A Companion to the History of the English Language*. Oxford: Blackwell.
A Companion to the History of the English Language addresses the linguistic, cultural, social, and literary approaches to language study. The first text to offer a complete survey of the field, this volume provides the most up-to-date insights of leading international scholars:

- An accessible reference to the history of the English language
- Comprises more than sixty essays written by leading international scholars
- Aids literature students in incorporating language study into their work
- Includes an historical survey of the English language, from its Germanic and Indo- European beginnings to modern British and American English
- Enriched with maps, diagrams, and illustrations from historical publications
- Introduces the latest scholarship in the field

Contents

We are pleased to announce that *SELIM* 14 is already available in hardcopy and will be available online in due time. Please find detailed table of contents below.

Selim publishes articles, notes, reviews, book notes and other scientific papers that contribute to the advancement of Mediaeval English Studies and Comparative Medieval Studies. **Contributions for issue number 15 are already welcome**. Originals submitted for possible publication will be subject to peer reviewing, and should not have been sent to other journals or means of publications. Contributions are to be sent to the Editors (selim@web.uniovi.es). Please find Stylesheet and other relevant information in http://www.uniovi.es/SELIM/.

Table of Contents:

ARTICLES

Michiko Ogura (Chiba University): The *Paris Psalter* and the *Metres of Boethius*: are they formulaic as Anglo-Saxon verses?

Isabel de la Cruz Cabanillas (University of Alcalá de Henares): Semantic Primes in Old English: a preliminary study of descriptors.

Clara Molina & Manuela Romano (Autonomous University of Madrid): Old texts in new vessels: teaching and learning HEL online.

Laura Esteban Segura & Nadia Obegi Gallardo (University of Málaga): Absolute constructions in the Old English Gospels: a case-study.

Nils-Lennart Johannesson (Stockholm University): *Icc hafe don swa summ þu badd*: an anatomy of the Preface to the *Ormulum*.

Anna Hebda (Adam Mickiewicz University): On the excrescent Middle English *p*.

María Beatriz Hernández Pérez (University of La Laguna): Both human and divine: the conflict between confession and gossip in *The Book of Margery Kempe*.

Tamara Pérez Fernández & Ana Sáez Hidalgo (University of Valladolid): 'A man textueel': scribal readings and interpretations of *Troilus and Criseyde* through the glosses in manuscript British Library Harley 2392.
Edinburgh University Library MS 205.

NOTES
Andrew Breeze (University of Navarre): *Herebarde* in *Ancrene Riwle*.

REVIEWS & NOTICES
Tom Shippey (Saint Louis University): Álvarez-Faedo, María José (ed.) 2007: *Avalon Revisited: Reworkings Of The Arthurian Myth.*
Judit Martínez Magaz (University of León): North, Richard & Allard, Joe (eds.) 2007: *Beowulf and Other Stories. A New Introduction to Old English, Old Icelandic and Anglo-Norman Literatures.*
Agnieszka Pysz (Adam Mickiewicz University): Suárez-Gómez, Cristina 2006: *Relativization in Early English (9501250): the Position of Relative Clauses.*

Kind regards,
Santiago González Fdez-Corugedo & Trinidad Guzmán Editors