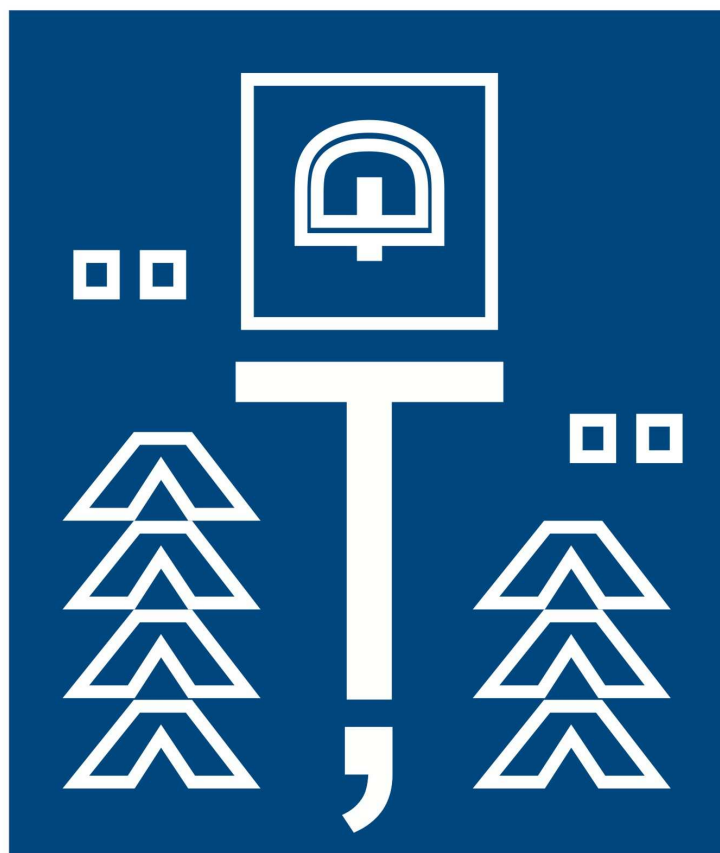


# Languages in Contact



Edited by  
PIOTR P. CHRUSZCZEWSKI  
ZDZISŁAW WĄSIK

WROCLAW 2010

WYDAWNICTWO  
WYŻSZEJ SZKOŁY FILOLOGICZNEJ  
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Languages in Contact 2010:  
A Book of Abstracts



*Languages in Contact*



**MAY 22-23, 2010**  
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**of Higher Education in Wrocław**  
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*A Book of Abstracts*  
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*and Zdzisław Wąsik*

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## Politeness and tentative language use

by **APRÓNÉ G. ÁGNES**

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Effective and good communication in business meetings is regarded as essential for establishing and maintaining harmonious international relations. It is partly a matter of knowing certain special expressions, but also a matter of knowing some of the ways we change the basic message. Malcolm Goodale (1987) summarized these features of language use characteristic of meetings conducted in English as follows:

- using *would*, *could* or *might* to make what you say more tentative;
- presenting your view as a question not a statement;
- using a grammatical negative (adding *n't*) to make a suggestion more open and therefore more negotiable;
- using an introductory phrase to prepare the listener for your message, adding, for example, *I'm afraid to make clear that you recognize the unhelpfulness of your response*;
- using words which qualify or restrict what you say to make your position more flexible (*a bit difficult*, *a slight problem*);
- using not with a positive word instead of the obvious negative word (*not very convenient*, *I don't agree*);
- using a comparative (*better*, *more convenient*) to soften your message;
- using a continuous form (*I was wondering*) instead of a simple form (*I wondered*) to make a suggestion more flexible;
- using stress as an important way of making the message more effective (*It is important ...*).

The aim of this presentation is to examine how these linguistic features correlate to politeness concepts and strategies that have been widely researched within the field of pragmatics. Finally, based on a two month fieldwork, it will consider to what extent these features characterize the speech of native Hungarian businessmen and women.

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### Target culture inclusion in Egyptian EFL classes – the dream and the reality

by **ADEL ABD ALHALIEM ALSHEIKH**

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The study aimed to shed light on Egyptian EFL teachers' cultural competence and awareness concerning teaching performance in English classrooms. Four research tools were devised by the researcher to answer the study questions. A Native Culture Competency Test for EFL Teachers was used to determine the Egyptian EFL teachers' native

cultural competence. A Target Culture Competency Test for EFL Teachers was employed to determine the Egyptian EFL teachers' target cultural competence. A Cultural Awareness Survey Scale for EFL Teachers was utilized to assess the Egyptian EFL teachers' cultural awareness exhibited during teaching.

A Strategy Identification Questionnaire for incorporating target culture in EFL classes was made use of to find out the strategies that Egyptian EFL teachers allocate to the target language culture in their classrooms. The study sample consisted of eighty participants. Results revealed that EFL teachers' native and target cultural competence are not high enough to provide sufficient leverage to interact with their students when dealing with cultural aspects. Results also showed that on the cultural awareness spectrum, EFL teachers generally fall into a low category, which casts doubt as to their ability to help learners adhere to principles of tolerance and peaceful co-existence. Probing into the strategies allocated to the target culture in EFL classrooms disclosed a negligence of these strategies by most teachers. The study recommends that culture-teaching methodologies should be stressed. EFL teachers should realize that raising students' awareness of their culture leads to understanding and accepting other cultures.

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### **Judeo-Spanish proverbs as an example of the hybridity of Judezmo language and Sephardic culture**

by **AGNIESZKA AUGUST-ZARĘBSKA**

*University of Wrocław &*

*Philological School of Higher Education in Wrocław, Poland*

The aim of my paper is to present some selected features of Judeo-Spanish as a result of the hybrid condition of the culture of the Sephardim. The Jews who were expelled from Christian Spain in 1492, or who decided to leave it later, used to speak Castilian or other Romance dialects. Their use of Hebrew and Aramaic was limited to prayers, liturgy and official contacts between rabbis. Outside their motherland, their Spanish evolved in its own way and started to differ from that used in Spain. The new language which developed in this way, called Ladino, Judezmo or Judeo-Spanish, combined Hispanic, Hebrew-Aramaic and Arabian elements with the influences of the languages of the peoples which the Jews co-existed with in new countries. It reflects the history of the Sephardim and the hybrid character of their culture. In the so-called western Diaspora the descendants of the Spanish Jews, after one or two centuries, adopted local languages (e.g., French, Dutch, German, etc.). In the former Ottoman Empire as well as in North Africa they continued to speak Judezmo until WW II. Nowadays there are still people in the world who can speak it and treat it as their heritage. In my presentation, different components of Judeo-Spanish will be described with the help of Sephardic proverbs – treated as samples both of the popular culture and speech of the Jews in Diaspora.

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### The epenthetic and paragogic vowels of Pijin – internal development or contact induced?

by **ANDREI A. AVRAM**

*University of Bucharest, Romania*

The occurrence in the Solomon Islands Pijin of epenthesis and paragoge as repair strategies for avoiding consonant clusters and closed syllables is indisputably the outcome of the influence exerted by its substrate languages. The combined effect of epenthesis and paragoge yields CV syllables, typical of most of these languages (Jourdan and Keesing 1997, Lynch et al. 2002, Jourdan 2007).

Previous studies (e.g., Jourdan 2007, Jourdan & Selbach 2008) have explained the quality of the epenthetic and paragogic vowels of Pijin in

terms of the rules of vowel harmony. Since vowel harmony does not occur in the substrate languages (Lynch et al. 2002), the rules accounting for the selection of particular epenthetic and paragogic vowels in Pijin cannot be traced back to its substratal input and therefore represent an independent, language-internal development.

The present paper argues that these analyses are empirically inadequate since they fail to correctly predict the nature of the actually occurring epenthetic and paragogic vowels. This alternative account identifies three factors determining the choice of epenthetic and paragogic vowels: vowel copying, labial attraction and the use of default vowels. All these patterns appear to be attested in the substrate languages as well. This is illustrated by a comparison with the epenthetic and paragogic vowels found in loanwords in, e.g., *To'aba'ita* (Lichtenberk 2008) and corroborated by the evidence provided by instances of epenthesis and paragoge in varieties of Pijin (Keesing 1991, Jourdan & Keesing 1997) heavily influenced by the first language of the speakers, such as 'Are'are, Kwaio, Lau or Maringe.

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**The origin and currency of Old English “music” nouns: A corpus study**

by **MARIUSZ BEĆLAWSKI**

*University of Warsaw, Poland*

The present paper discusses Old English nouns denoting “music” in a quantitative perspective, considering the provenance of the relevant terminology. The aim of the study, based on the texts in the Dictionary of Old English Corpus (on CD-ROM), is to investigate the frequency of use of the “music” nouns in relation to the context and type of text. The data for this study were collected using the Antconc concordancing program. The core vocabulary comes from Padelford (1899) who pioneered the linguistic analysis of Old English musical terminology and who concluded that “The Old English were a music-loving people. Music was as natural to them as the intense and passionate character which made it inevitable” (Padelford 1899: 1). The present study embraces only the nouns whose main reading was “music,” while peripheral meanings are disregarded. Additional sources include the two standard dictionaries of Old English.

The terminology under discussion will also be looked at from an etymological angle so as to challenge the widely known hypothesis that the currency of a lexeme determines linguistic and cultural changes. As Fitch (2007: 665–667) claims: “Quantitative relationships between how frequently a word is used and how rapidly it changes over time raise intriguing questions about the way individual behaviors determine large-scale linguistic and cultural change.”

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## **Contact linguistics as an academic discipline**

**by Piotr P. Chruszczewski**

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Many contact languages, by definition, can come into existence only in a multilingual context. It is contact linguistics which investigates not only the linguistic outcomes of contact conditions but also the extralinguistic circumstances necessary for new languages to emerge.

Contact linguistics is a relatively new scientific discipline which can be divided into:

- linguistics of external-social contacts, including creolinguistics as a subdiscipline investigating the creation mechanisms of pidgins, creoles, and mixed languages; and macro-sociolinguistics (including sub-disciplines studying, e.g., language death mechanisms triggered by contacts between politically stronger and weaker languages);
- linguistics of internal-social contacts, including micro-sociolinguistics as a subdiscipline studying the ethnography of speaking, communicative events, linguistic politeness, etc., and pragmatolinguistics, dealing, among other issues, with the description of the immediate situational embedding of produced texts.

It has to be noted that the subject matters of the discussed subdisciplines are not mutually exclusive. What is more, for the sake of the thoroughness of the conducted research, the subject matters of the subdisciplines under question should be investigated from various points of view, by means of a number of research perspectives.

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### Recent English loanwords in Irish and the interchange of initial segments

by **MAGDALENA CHUDAK**

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The problem of the interchange of initial segments, like in the word *balla/falla* ‘wall’, though accounted for by many Irish dialectologists (Sommerfelt 1952, Hickey 1982, de Bhaldraithe 1966) has never been analyzed thoroughly in interdialectal perspective. Within the Irish lexicon, one group of words seems to be particularly susceptible to this change, namely loanwords. In this presentation, the mechanism of assimilation of selected English loanwords with respect to their initial

segments will be analyzed. Also, an attempt will be made to show what influence, if any, the decline of Irish has had upon the phenomenon of the interchange of initial segments.

For the most part, the replacement of the initial segment is dictated by mutation patterns. Mutations, lenition and eclipsis are morpho-syntactically conditioned alternations of initial segments. For instance, a singular feminine noun is lenited after a definite article: *bean* [ban] '(a) woman' vs. *an bhean* [ən van] 'the woman'.

One of the symptoms of the Irish language's (and other Celtic languages) decay, as reported by Seosamh Watson (1983) and Nancy Stenson (1990), is the resistance of English loanwords to mutations. These studies show, for Scottish East Ross Gaelic and Ráth Cairn dialect respectively, that initial segments vary with respect to their susceptibility to mutations, e.g., [f]-initial borrowings rarely undergo lenition, and [p]-initial ones are readily lenited. We will support Watson's claim that speakers do not mutate loanwords in order to prevent the interchange of initial segments: 'The main consideration governing the over-ruling of mutations in the cases mentioned is that of avoiding ambiguity with regard to what the actual radical initial in question is' (cf. Watson 1983: 111).

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**Factors contributing to the retention of traditional phonetic features in Acadian French**

by **WLADYSŁAW CICHOCKI** and **LOUISE BEAULIEU**

*University of New Brunswick &  
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Acadian French is a minority variety of French spoken in the Atlantic region of Canada. Since the 1700s, Acadian communities have been scattered in small isolates that are spread across several provinces. Coexistence with English dates to the early stages of settlement and varies by region. Acadian French is linguistically distinct from its well-known neighbour, Québec French, which is spoken in regions located to the north and west of the Atlantic Provinces. In addition to having borrowed a number of English features, Acadian French is characterized by the conservation of traditional phonetic French features, that is, features that are not found in general contemporary French.

Flikeid (1997) has proposed a socio-historical model of levels of conservatism among Acadian communities that is based on degree of contact and mixing over time with other French-speaking populations and on amount of institutional support for French due to its minority status. This paper provides an empirical test of this model. It also examines the role of two demographic factors in the retention of the conservative phonetic features: local proportion of French speakers, and rate of assimilation of francophones to English.

Ten traditional phonetic variables are studied. These include diphthongization of oral vowels, mid-vowel raising before /r/ “ouisme” of /o/, and palatalization of /k, g/. Data are from the Atlas linguistique du vocabulaire maritime acadien (Péronnet et al 1998), which contains responses to over 350 questions by 54 speakers from 18 localities. Multivariate statistical techniques – correspondence analysis and cluster analysis (Greenacre 2007) – are used to establish clusters or groupings among the localities on the basis of the phonetic data, and to find associations between these groupings and the social factors.

The results show three main groupings of Acadian communities that are characterized by varying degrees of use of the traditional phonetic features. The socio-historical model accounts for these groupings, but

only in part. A significant correlate of retention is the local proportion of French speakers: areas with lower proportions of French speakers – indicative of greater degrees of contact with English – are more likely to retain traditional phonetic features than are areas with higher proportions. Similarly, localities with higher rates of assimilation to English also show a tendency to retain certain traditional features. This study demonstrates that the retention of traditional Acadian features is related to intensity of contact with both French and English.

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### **The Csangos from Moldavia, in front of bilingualism**

by *IOAN DANILĂ*

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In Moldavia, more precisely in Siret Valley and Trotuș Valley, lives a population with a specific background. From a religious point of view, the inhabitants are Romans-Catholics and from the ethnic point of view, over 90% declare themselves Romanian. They came from Transylvania – in two successive waves – where they learnt Magyar (Hungarian) but in Moldavia they were put in the situation having to learn the Romanian language again. This has resulted in a mixed idiom in which there are recognized elements both from the Romanian and Magyar (Hungarian) languages. The simultaneous usage of Romanian and the Csango idiom has led to a special bilingualism in which there are predominant Romanian idioms.

The paper makes evident the answers of some studies made in villages near Bacău, especially in the Siret Valley (Luizi-Călugăra, Cleja, Faraoni, Gheorghe Doja, Ciucani, Fundu-Răcăciuni, etc.) and the Trotuș Valley (Nicorești, Bahna, Tuta, Târgu- Trotuș, Satul Nou). Also studied by linguistic report were communities from Neamt (Săbăoani, Pildești, Gherăiești, Adjudeni, Tămășeni, etc.) Iași (Mircești, Butea, Iugani, etc.) Vrancea (Vizantea Mănăstirească and Ploscuțeni) and Vaslui (Corni-Huși).

The questionnaires that I applied in conformity with The New Linguistic Romanian Atlas emphasized important characteristics for cataloguing the Csango idiom even speech and not subdialect or just language. The paper examines linguistic phenomena (phonetics, lexis, morphology and semantics) less familiar to Romanian and Magyarian dialectologists.

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## **Indian youth and the English language**

by **MARTA DĄBROWSKA**

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India is one of the most multilingual countries in the world, currently with 22 official state languages apart from English. With this highly complex linguistic situation English has come to play a vital role in the process of communication between people of various cultural

backgrounds in the country, the Hindi language being resisted as a national language particularly in the southern states.

English has also gradually become the language of education in India, being introduced in most primary schools from the earliest ages. Indian children and youths are exposed to English both in schools and universities where most subjects are taught in English, and in everyday life, with English used customarily in the media, administration, various institutions as well as in the streets side by side with the local languages.

The objective of my short study is to analyze the perception of the English language among Indian college students, based on the findings generated by a brief questionnaire concerning the role and status of English administered at two educational institutions: Lords Universal College Malad, Mumbai, Maharashtra and Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam, Kerala. Two groups of students in their late teens and early twenties were asked to specify the contexts in which they used the English language themselves, and in what situations the language was used in general in their environment. They were also requested to reflect upon the status of English in their lives and their attitude towards English as well as the two state languages, Hindi and Malayalam, respectively. The paper surveys the opinions provided by the respondents to the above questions, thereby contributing to the ongoing discussion about the role of English in the modern world, especially in the countries belonging to Kachru's "outer circle", as viewed by the users themselves, it also additionally examines the students' abilities to use the language in view of their habitual exposure to it.

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**Vanishing Cheshire dialect words****by** *STEPHEN DEWSBURY**University of Opole, Poland*

Due to the very nature of language and dialect change dialectologists such as William Labov (1980) stress that they can only effectively keep pace of change if there are earlier dialectology records for the area. The role of field linguists and particularly the collection of data for interpretation is therefore naturally of paramount importance. As Trudgill (1983) has noted one of the strongest features of dialectology is the supply of data which aids sociolinguists' research. Hence, if dialectology is to fulfill its overall aim it must, as Orton et al. (1978) have stated, "demonstrate continuity and historical development of the language" and "serve as a historical baseline against which future studies be measured." Making a dissection into language and dialect in flux, recording and documenting findings is a priceless "must" in aiding the work of historical linguists. It is therefore the aim of this paper to present such a dissection, recording and documentation of a dialect. Cheshire, a county in the north-west midlands of England does not particularly possess a unique or special climate of isolation from the mainland culture of the United Kingdom, it is quite a typical English county. Nevertheless dialectologists are also most definitely interested in the ordinary and in the spirit of language change the documentation of a standard dialect such as that spoken in Cheshire is needed to support notions such as Labov's "the more we know, the more we find out." Hence, in 2005 a survey of 42 Cheshire dialect lexical items were tested on a sample population of 13 Cheshire dialect speakers. The speakers were chosen based on established tried and tested methods of dialect sampling such as applying the concept of NORMs (non-mobile, old rural, males) and the lexis was selected based on earlier dialect surveys of Egerton Leigh's *A Glossary of Words used in the Dialect of Cheshire* and Harold Orton's *A Survey of English Dialects*. This paper presents Cheshire dialect words in change and suggests which words are perhaps vanishing from use and which have perhaps vanished. It also considers possible causes and reasons by taking into consideration notions such as language and dialect contact.

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### Centrifugal forces in language change under contact

by **MICHAEL DUNN** and **FIONA JORDAN**

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On the human level, social contact gives rise to contradictory impulses: to be more like those we are in contact with, as well as to delimit ourselves from them. But contact-induced language change most frequently results in some degree of linguistic convergence. The opposite result – contact induced linguistic divergence – does also occur, but it remains much more difficult to make generalizations about as a process. In studying variation on the level of community or language group there have been proposals about the factors favoring strengthening ties with neighbors, versus those favoring the intensification of boundaries. On a different scale, similar phenomena obtain between subdivisions of these communities (according to the familiar categories such as age, gender and social class). Here the literature on, for instance, covert prestige can explain the innovation and/or persistence of linguistic expressions deprecated by the wider community. There are fewer accounts of linguistic variation at the community or language group level that treat contact induced diversification. In linguistics this phenomenon is sometimes discussed under the rubric of “esoterogeny” (Thurston 1989, Ross 1996); this remains an area requiring development: While the

correspondence between emblematicity and esoterogeny ... is appealing, and many examples can be presented to make the correspondence seem convincing, we have a long way to go before we can say that we have explained all instances of linguistic diversification according to this model (Crowley & Bower 2009: 288).

In evolutionary biology, the process being analogous in many ways to esoterogeny is known as “character displacement.” This refers to the phenomenon of accelerated outwards drift of two species inhabiting the same ecological niche (Brown & Wilson 1956). In this paper, we attempt to identify regular patterns of contact induced linguistic diversification among members of the Austronesian family of languages. The amount of change embodied by the branches of the Austronesian family tree is quantified using computational phylogenetic methods. We quantify notions of niche competition for language groups using a metric derived from geographic information and from ethnographic data about subsistence patterns and economy. We predict that language groups, which are in close proximity, and which have highly similar subsistence patterns, can be considered to be in competition for a “social niche”; in such situations, we predict an increase in the rate of diversification language (and perhaps other emblematic aspects of culture). Sociolinguistic variation is so tightly integrated into every level of language structure that communication is in practice non-existent without the extra layers of social signaling of these contradictory social impulses. The ubiquity of variation suggests that there must be an adaptive value in language variation, including complex, stratified language-internal variation.

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## **Representations of the magical power of words – mechanisms and implications**

by *MARIBEL FEHLMANN*

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As anticipated by Henry M. Hoenigswald in his Proposal for the study of folk-linguistics 1966: when examining the fields of mythology and religion the researcher “may expect data having to do with word magic and with taboo.” However, one needs not to turn specifically to these areas to make such findings: as a matter of fact, although traditionally pertaining to the “primitive mind” (Izutsu 1956, Frazer 1922) or even to the pathological one in some cases (Fónagy 2001) belief in word magic appears to be widespread in Western societies, as shown by research aiming at uncovering the mechanisms and implications of such a belief. Contrary to what is generally stated, the results show that it has nothing to do with educational level, hence nullifying in this respect the traditional opposition between so-called “primitive” and “evolved” minds. According to Roy D’Andrade (1987), informants usually do not have an organized view of the folk models (of the mind in D’Andrade’s case, of word magic here) which they unconsciously draw from.

However, one should consider these models as “ (...) worth pursuing if they provide us with a conceptual apparatus that can be used to describe, and thus (better) understand or explain a given range of phenomena.” (Duranti 2005). Accordingly, the research presented here aims at shedding light on some recurrent observable facts amongst speakers, such as fearing the evocation of possible bad events or insisting on the importance of ‘positive thinking,’ for example. As to the mechanisms of such a belief, it has been shown that emotions may be

a trigger (cf. Fehlmann 2008), metaphorical thinking being another possible root of the whole process. The implications of the representation of word magic are multifaceted, both on individual and interindividual aspects as well as in cross-cultural settings.

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### **Multilingualism and phonic perception**

by **PATRICIA LOPEZ GARCIA**

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Multilingualism has been the subject of many researches in sociolinguistic, psycholinguistic or neurolinguistic ambits. These researches try to characterize the behavior of the multilingual subject. Most studies on multilingualism have focused on the description of the multilingual behavioral speaker's, characterization of the subject in production. It has been the so-called “active” skills which were mostly the subject of research. The multiple studies and the results obtained are evidence of the difficulty of the task. Nevertheless, perception is obviously a step compelling language activity but in particular in the

study skills on perceptual behavior, bilingual subjects have not been the object of much research. Certain definitions expose (explain) that the bilingual perceive things in the same way as the monolingual. It thus seemed to us interesting to analyze if this conception of multilingualism is true effectively for phonic perception. In order to characterize the trilingual subject's and monolingual subject's perception and detect perceptual differences between the two populations, we based our work on the notion of "optimal frequency," the frequencies areas where the perception comes true according to perceptual model prototypes. We wanted to observe if these "optimal frequencies areas" are really the same for the two populations, if the two populations (monolingual and multilingual) perceive things in the same way. We suspect that if the "multilingual subjects" and the "monolingual subjects" perceive things differently, that the mother tongue affects perception in the same way learning a second language does, and even if the subjects really have multilingual competences, there would be nonetheless a mother tongue incidence in the perception.

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### **Authentic illustrations and glosses as ways of rendering culture-specific content**

by *OLGA GAVRILOVA*

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Fairy-tale character names form a unique type of lexical units representing a rich cultural background. They are associated with a wide range of actions and relations hardly ever explicitly expressed in the original, yet important for the understanding the encoded cultural experience. That is why finding English translation equivalents which would match the semantic cohesion established for fairy-tale character names in the Russian culture is a serious challenge. Transcription (or transliteration) as a traditional way of rendering Russian culture-specific names into English leads to the loss of a significant stratum of information necessary for the correct identification of the character, its functions in the context, etc. The presentation reveals two ways of achieving the greatest possible accuracy in rendering referential as well as culture-specific pragmatic meanings into English, viz. the combination of descriptive translations with glosses (based on the data of the componential analysis of possible target language equivalents) and authentic Russian illustrations.

**Language contacts in the light of evolutionary linguistics****by PIOTR GĄSIOROWSKI***Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland*

In this paper, I shall argue for a model of the history of language which regards the “genetic relationship” of languages versus “contact effects” as a false dichotomy, resulting from the idealization of “a language” as a bounded, fixed and synchronically well-defined entity that preserves its genetic integrity when passed from generation to generation. While such assumptions are justifiable in many cases, no general validity can be claimed for them. Instead, I adopt a consistently evolutionary perspective in which the very existence of distinct languages is not a fundamental given fact but an emergent consequence of the historical patterns of linguistic replication in their social environment.

“A language”, far from being the actual unit of linguistic evolution, is a convenient simplification – a notion which can be operationalized but not comprehensively defined. The entity that we call a language neither can nor should be rigorously demarcated in all cases, and the historical origin of its parts may be traced to different sources.

Consequently, language contacts and their effects (including multilingualism, code-switching, borrowing and creolization) will not be seen here as secondary disturbances superimposed on “deeper” (and theoretically privileged) genetic relationships but as an omnipresent component of mankind’s linguistic history. Any model that neglects their significance and fails to recognize the mosaic nature of language systems is not only unrealistic but fundamentally flawed. In this light, the question of “linguistic replicators” and their relative autonomy will be discussed.

**Kormakiti Maronite Arabic and Cypriot Greek in contact: the use of the voiceless uvular fricative [χ] in the Kormakiti Maronites' Cypriot Greek**

by *CHRYSO HADJIDEMETRIOU*

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The present study focuses on an outcome of the contact between Kormakiti Maronite Arabic (KMA) and Cypriot Greek (CG) in the Cypriot Greek of Kormakiti Maronite Arabic speakers in Cyprus. The outcome of contact in the phonological system of the Cypriot Greek of the KMA speakers refers to the use of the voiceless uvular fricative [χ], a sound not found in the phonemic inventory of Cypriot Greek and possibly transferred from KMA into the CG of the bilingual speakers.

The study draws information from sociolinguistic interviews with bilingual Kormakiti Maronites where some speakers alternated between a voiceless velar fricative, [x], and a voiceless uvular fricative, [χ]. The [χ] variant does not occur in monolingual CG speech. The speech of 35 KMA speakers was analyzed in order to investigate [χ] usage. For each of the 35 speakers, 75 tokens were transcribed. Only 6 of the 35 speakers transcribed exhibited usage of [χ] in noteworthy percentages. The analysis revealed that the sound does not depend on the phonological environment in which it appears. There are instances where the variant appears word-initially, word-medially, or as in a consonant cluster.

An auditory test was also employed to assess whether native speakers of Greek would be able to distinguish [χ] from [x] as the alternation appeared in the data collected. For this purpose, native speakers of Greek were asked to listen to four extracts from a recording with one of the speakers who exhibited the [χ]-[x] alternation. After the speakers listened to the recordings, all of them were able to identify the lexical items in which [χ] occurred, and those in which [x] occurred. Additionally, four linguists were consulted and they were also able to distinguish between the two sounds.

The occurrence of this variant in the Cypriot Greek of KMA speakers is possibly due to transfer from KMA into CG due to its relative similarity to the CG [x]. According to Major (1994), when structures present in an L1 and L2 exhibit similarity, it is more likely that

interference phenomena will be observed. As in the case of the CG [x] and the KMA [χ], there is little phonetic difference, which explains the occurrence of both variants in the CG of some bilingual speakers.

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### **Transformation as a stage of language death? Some examples from Poland and Latvia**

by **MICHAEL HORNSBY**

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Activists among linguistic minorities are increasingly concentrating their efforts to revitalize their languages on the school systems in their respective countries, since intergenerational transmission of such languages can no longer be assumed to be happening in a family setting. This is due to a whole host of reasons, among them the pressures of globalization and political upheavals and changes in the latter half of the twentieth century. Tensions can arise in situations of linguistic minoritization since the means of language transmission and the variety of the language that is developing as a result are often not seen as “traditional” and “authentic” by older members of the speech community in question. This view is, of course, as much based on personal ideologies of language as it is on external linguistically-based criteria.

This paper attempts to compare the situations of two minority languages – one Finno-Ugric, one Slavonic – which are undergoing revitalization

attempts in the twenty-first century. The Kashubian language in Poland, which was recognized as the country's only regional language, though over a dozen other minority languages are listed in the recent ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (cf. Wicherkiewicz, in press), presents an interesting case study of a previously neglected minority language which has suddenly received much more state intervention (Nestor & Hickey 2009). Language planners in Kashubia now face the same problems about the standardization of Kashubian as did their counterparts in western Europe much earlier and debates over the nature of the changes happening in the language have emerged (Treder 1997). Much less of a top-down initiative and much more grassroots in nature is the Livonian language revitalization movement in Latvia, which receives little state support but which does benefit from the efforts of a small but very hard-working group of activists who are determined to preserve the linguistic inheritance of the approximately 20 remaining speakers of the language. Livonian has always demonstrated contact features from Latvian (de Sivers 2001; Moseley 2002) but from recent fieldwork I have carried out in situ, it would appear these features are on the increase. What such transformations might mean in both situations of linguistic minoritization are explored in the concluding section of the paper.

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***Of ðæm or bi him: On the scribal repertoire of Latin-English equivalents in the Lindisfarne Gospels***

by **JOANNA JANECKA and ANNA WOJTYŚ**

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The Lindisfarne Gospels is a collection of interlinear glosses to four gospels produced by Ældred in the tenth century Northumbrian dialect. Instead of providing one final target language text, however, many a time the scribe offers a number of variants for a Latin word or phrase, whether a result of indecision or a conscious choice to leave a margin for interpretation. The variants offered gloss both lexical and grammatical words, but also more complex syntactic structures.

The author of the present paper discusses the choice of English equivalents to Latin grammatical words used in the Lindisfarne Gospels. From the process-oriented point of view, the study is expected to reveal whether the English variants of one Latin term are consistently employed throughout the whole text, or whether they are context-dependent.

From the product-oriented perspective, the analysis focuses on the reasoning behind the scribal interpretation, in other words, whether or not it results from the ambiguity of source language terms. The two perspectives shall constitute a general image of Ældred's scribal behavior and systematized glossal tendencies as regards closed class items in both the source and the target languages.

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### **Fantastic beasts in Middle English poetry: Semantic changes in the category DRAGON**

**by Justyna Karczmarczyk**

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Fantastic beasts, such as dragons, played an important role in Middle English literature, art, as well as in people's beliefs and consequently, a considerable number of words denoting these creatures were used. The semantic category DRAGON included both general and highly specific terms, like *dragon*, *drake*, *nāddre*, *fende*, *worm*, *shrimpe*, *dragonet* and *serra*. Many of these lexemes underwent changes of meaning, moving to different positions with respect to the centre of the category. The changes affected the peripheries and the core, including even the most prototypical word. Eventually, the central position in the category, occupied by *drake* at the beginning of Middle English, was taken over by *dragon*, a loanword from French.

The aim of the present paper is to establish the temporal and regional distribution of lexemes denoting a dragon in Middle English poetical texts because dragons as literary characters appeared mainly in that genre. Additionally, an attempt is made to determine the position of particular items with respect to the category core and also to account for shifts in the membership status of certain lexemes. The lexico-semantic changes are explained with reference to Burnley (1992), Geeraerts (1997) and Traugott–Dasher (2005). The data for the analysis come from the textual material of Chadwyck – Healey's English Poetry Full-Text Database, the Middle English Compendium and The Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Middle English.

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### Uriel Weinreich and the birth of modern contact linguistics

by **RONALD I. KIM**

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Most scholars of contact linguistics today agree that the fundamental concepts and research agendas of the field were first laid out by Uriel Weinreich in his groundbreaking 1953 monograph *Languages in Contact*. Unfortunately, Weinreich's premature death prevented him from returning to his 1951 Columbia University dissertation, in which he first set forth the principal themes of his subsequent scholarship. This dissertation contains a detailed report on language contact in Switzerland, especially contact between German and French along the linguistic boundary in the west of the country, and between German and Romansh in the canton of Grisons (Graubünden). Over months of travel and fieldwork, Weinreich became intimately familiar with the full spectrum of everyday life in the villages and towns, from traditional customs and material culture to modern political and social attitudes and cultural

innovations. Only thus, he believed, could one understand the linguistic outcomes of language contact, the ways in which speakers themselves incorporate elements of one language into another, and the forces promoting or retarding language shift.

Weinreich's approach to the study of language contact marked a revolutionary departure from the then prevailing view, that that the structures of languages largely, or even entirely, determine the possible outcomes of contact between them. The author of this paper, who along with William Labov is currently preparing this dissertation for publication, will present some examples of the methods by which Weinreich examined the relation between social, economic, and political factors and the direction, extent, and nature of language contact. The lecture will conclude with an evaluation of Weinreich's results in light of subsequent developments in Switzerland, as well as a discussion of their continuing significance to contemporary debates in language contact.

### **Jamaican Creole from the perspective of contact linguistics**

by **ALEKSANDRA R. KNAPIK**

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In the 17th and 18th centuries the British Empire was rapidly expanding its domains (including the distribution of its many cultural and linguistic practices) in the Caribbean, thus many English-based pidgins and creoles were born in that area. Jamaican Creole arose out of a number of various types of linguistic and extralinguistic contacts mainly between the English colonizers (traders, soldiers, sailors, outcasts, etc.) and their African captives. "It was the contact between the European languages of the explorers and colonizers, on the one hand, and the non-European languages of people with whom they came into contact, on the other (...) that gave rise to the emergence of these pidgins and creoles" (Arends et al. 1995: 15). The aim of the presentation is to show the dynamics of a linguistic change under contact conditions.

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### An analysis of corporate discourse

by **JACEK KOŁATA**

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Nowadays one could easily distinguish quite a number of highly dynamic and changing discourses, such as political discourse, journalistic discourse and so on which use various specific and discourse-dependent texts. The aim of my presentation is to suggest a direction in the text-oriented studies of corporate discourse regarding multifarious written interactions existing in a large worldwide corporation (Nestlé) which produces processed food, liquid seasoning, ice-creams and beverages.

It is also to be observed that the company is a huge international venture, and its factories, distribution centers and head offices are located in 80 countries and employ over 275 000 people, which has forced its management board to choose one universal language in order to facilitate

the processing of information flow within the corporation. Moreover, the above-mentioned company has been developing its own version of English, i.e., “Nestlish.”

The development of the inner language system was feasible because members of the board realized that the company’s efficiency and prosperity fully depended on the transparency of its communication processes. Thus, an additional aim is to present and highlight those characteristics of the inner language system which enables Nestlé’s employees to communicate with each other successfully. The subject matter of the presentation is to describe how a corporation achieves communicative goals, or in other words, how it organizes its texts in order to realize them successfully. It is obvious that each text has its own communicative goal or goals.

Thus, the major aim of instruction is to instruct people, guidelines are published in order to describe the most appropriate ways of behavior or to inform people about all possible dangers, policies are developed to regulate the corporation’s functioning and support its management or manufacture processes, etc. However, the above communicative goals may be achieved only on condition that all documents belonging to the same group possess a similar structure which is, in the case of my analysis, represented by general argument development models.

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**The disintegration of a Jewish Polish immigrant identity and  
reinvention of a postmodern American hybridized self in Eva  
Hoffman's autobiography *Lost in Translation: Life in a New  
Language***

by **ELŻBIETA KLIMEK-DOMINIAK**

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Despite the calls, as, e.g., those of Werner Sollors (1997), or James Robert Payne (1987, 1992), for comparative analysis of multicultural and/or ethnic American life writing relatively few studies have been devoted to contemporary Central or Eastern European immigrant autobiographies. Although many Central or Eastern European immigrant autobiographers are university educated (some of them are even Nobel Prize winners such as Czesław Miłosz or Joseph Brodsky) and express their “passing into a new language” in quite complex multilayered narratives, their autobiographies have been analyzed primarily in comparison to other ethnic American life narratives of visible minorities such those written by Richard Rodriguez (1981) or Maxine Hong Kingston (1989 /1976/). Such a comparative analysis disregards some of the intricacies of European ethnic backgrounds (e.g., Jewish Polish) and peculiarities of assimilation and resistance to American culture.

Eva Hoffman's autobiography *Lost in Translation: Life in a New Language* (1989) is a good example of such a case. Hoffman's life narrative has been termed “semiotic memoir” by Stanisław Barańczak as we exposed in the article of Danuta Zadworna Fjellestad (1995) to highlight the significance she ascribes to the second language acquisition and learning of new cultural codes in forming of her hybridized

immigrant self. Significantly, her immigration first to Canada at the age of 13, then to the United States to get a college education, was enforced by her parents, Holocaust survivors. Hoffman minutely analyzes her linguistic alienation accompanied by the emotional disintegration she experienced in the new countries, making intertextual comparisons to other immigrant narratives, for example Mary Antin's (1997 /1912/) book *The Promised Land*. She looks back on her childhood in Cracow (Poland) with nostalgia for the loss of familiar places, understandable cultural codes and favorite words untranslatable into English (like Polish *teżsknota* which she often incorporates into her English narration). Even though she recalls few cases of Polish antisemitism, she describes her early life in Poland as a basically safe place offering her prospects for a career as a concert pianist and thus her account of her unwilling emigration records her initial degradation in status, fewer career opportunities and even loss of her female attractiveness as she finds it difficult to conform to American standards of feminine beauty.

Hoffman, a Harvard PhD graduate in English literature and writer for *The New Yorker*, vividly describes the painful split ("the entrophy of articulateness") she has experienced between the languages of her "private" Polish and Yiddish self and that of her "public" American persona until she eventually constructs her new hybridized identity of a New York intellectual, "a partial American, a sort of resident alien".

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## **Law as a site of language contact**

by **MARIA ŁOJKO**

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The law is a profession of words. In common law, the language of the profession is English. The manifestation of law is nothing but a matter of language, be it in the form of statutes or decisions of courts. Compared with other generally recognized professions, the legal profession demands of its practitioners the highest standard of language proficiency.

Legal language itself is a well-studied field, and intercultural communication, especially recent developments in that field, including its “discursive turn” and its current preference for qualitative studies, has made a significant contribution to multilingual/multicultural studies. In particular, the globalization of the workplace and the growth of multinational and multilingual corporations have strengthened the perception of legal English as the “lingua franca.” The presentation discusses particular areas of developments: the growth in the use of legal language and the analysis of that use and its impact on legal discourse; the shift from the analysis of written to spoken discourse; the increasing need to study the way that law and language interact to produce language contact and associated practical/pedagogical applications.

## **Shall in Present-Day English**

by **MAJA LUBAŃSKA**

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It has become received wisdom in linguistics that the English auxiliary system is undergoing a reorganization (Bolinger 1980, Givón 1993, Krug 2000). Christian Mair and Geoffrey Neil Leech (2006) have reported a significant rise in the frequency of occurrence of the quasi-modals and a decrease in the frequency of occurrence of the modal auxiliaries. Of all modal verbs, *shall* experienced the most dramatic fall in frequency from the early 1960s till the early 1990s: 43.7% in written British English and 43.8% in written American English.

According to Collins (2009: 135), the frequency of *shall* is noticeably smaller than that of *will*, with the ratio of tokens 1:24.8. Such a decline in the use of *shall* is far from unnatural since closed classes typically reduce in size when one member increases in productivity and displaces other members, taking over their functions (cf. Bybee et al. 1994: 8). This, however, raises the question of the future of *shall*. The aim of this paper is to assess *shall*'s chances of survival in the English auxiliary domain. I will examine the use of *shall* in Present-Day English to show that there are contexts in which it cannot be replaced by *will* as *will* is not and has never been appropriate in these contexts.

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### **Resurrecting and saving moribund and dead languages**

by **ALFRED F. MAJEWICZ**

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Languages as living social organisms originate, develop, and thus are doomed to change in time and eventual death – and lamentations are pointless: the absolute majority of the languages of the past disappeared, with little or no traces left. At present, more than half of the world's ethnolects with the possible status of independent languages face immediate extinction and virtually nothing can be done to save them: because in the absolute majority of cases they remain not only uninvestigated but also unrecorded, they seem irreversibly doomed to oblivion. Or, perhaps, not necessarily ?

There are two ways of saving these irreplaceable assets of mankind civilization:

- (1) to urgently start recording such ethnolects still remembered and record as much as possible from elderly informants of what they remember from the languages of their youth but is no longer passed to younger generations (having them recorded we can analyze the data and reconstruct and describe such languages later), and
- (2) to reconstruct unpublished data recorded when today's moribund or dead languages were still used naturally in all domains of everyday life.

Either of these measures cannot prevent language death but both can be extremely instrumental in rescuing the languages in question, even if

in petrified form. Examples of successful results are fortunately growing in number (Nekes-Worms-McGregor 2006 or Cauquelin 2008 may serve as such) and the paper intends to illustrate the problem with the reconstruction of Bronislaw Pilsudski's records of now extinct or facing death aboriginal languages of Sakhalin, Hokkaido, and Lower Amur region dated back to 1894–1905 (Majewicz 1998–2008). The background of the discussion is the current linguistic portrait of the world as seen in Majewicz 1989 and the newest global language atlas (Asher & Moseley 2007 /1993/).

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### The original homeland of the Indo-Europeans

by **WITOLD MAŃCZAK**

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According to James P. Mallory and Douglas Q. Adams, *The Oxford Introduction to Proto-Indo-European and the Proto-Indo-European World* (Oxford, 2008: 460–461), “currently, there are two types of models that enjoy significant international currency [...] There is the Neolithic model that involves a wave of advance from Anatolia c. 7000 BC, at least for south-eastern and central Europe, argues primarily for the importation of a new language by an ever growing population of farmers.

This part of the model has reasonable archaeological support in that there is a fair amount of archaeologically informed consensus that derives the earliest farming communities in the Balkans from somewhat earlier communities in Anatolia [...] Alternatively, there is the steppe or kurgan model which sees the Proto-Indo-Europeans emerging out of local communities in the forest-steppe of the Ukraine and south Russia. Expansion westwards is initiated c. 4000 BC by the spread from the forest-steppe of mobile communities who employed the horse and, within the same millennium, wheeled vehicles.”

The purpose of my paper is to draw attention to the matter of my attempts to solve the problem of the original homeland of the Indo-Europeans by using a new method of linguistic and ethnogenetic research which I proposed, viz. the method of comparing vocabulary in parallel texts. After having established that (a) Italian, which arose in the cradle of Romance peoples, has the greatest number of lexical similarities with other Romance languages, and (b) Polish, which arose in the original homeland of the Slavs, has the greatest number of lexical resemblances with other Slavic languages, I examined which of the living Indo-European languages has the greatest number of lexical similarities with other Indo-European languages. I compared parallel texts (fragments of the Gospel) in Albanian, Armenian, German, (Modern) Greek, Hindi, Irish, Italian, Lithuanian, and Polish, each branch of the Indo-European family being represented by one language. Modern languages were preferred to the old ones in order to eliminate chronological differences. From the statistical point of view, the lexical similarities between these languages were as follows: Polish 3337, Lithuanian 3070, German 2890, Italian 2683, Irish 2123, Greek 2007, Hindi 1952, etc. The main conclusion which results from these data is that the original homeland of the Indo-Europeans is to be identified with that of the Slavs.

## **The nature of English as a foreign language in Poland**

by **ELŻBIETA MAŃCZAK-WOHLFELD**

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Much research has been devoted to the description of English used as a second language, i.e. in the Outer Circle, however, not much attention has been paid to the form of English used as a foreign language in the Expanding Circle. Therefore it is the aim of the present paper to describe one of its many varieties, namely English used in Poland, so-called Polish English. We will focus on both phonetic and lexico-grammatical features of this variety of English. It is the first attempt of this sort and for this reason the subject will be covered in a very general and tentative way.

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## **Is there any difference between a threatened dialect and a threatened language (?): On the basis of Övdalian's struggle for survival**

by **DOROTA MELERSKA**

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Övdalian, as one of the most peculiar Swedish dialects, has gained much attention among linguists and laymen for the last 30 years. It differs so greatly from the standard Swedish – phonetically, grammatically and lexically, that it is practically unintelligible for other Swedes and therefore could be regarded as a separate language. The uniqueness of the variety has triggered a fierce debate whether Övdalian should preserve

the status of a dialect or should be upgraded to the status of a separate language.

With around 2500 speakers its existence is nowadays severely threatened. Moreover, it is mostly used by older people, which makes the language shift even more rapid. All the attempts to achieve the status of a regional language according to *The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* aim at strengthening its position before it is too late. I carried out questionnaire research last autumn in order to examine what linguistic consequences the attempts so far have had. Acknowledgement as a regional or minority language would undoubtedly entail special protection and would raise Övdalian's status.

In my paper, I focus on the language policy that is being carried out by various linguists and politicians as well presenting the point of view of Övdalian's users. I analyze what has already been done and what steps should be taken in the language maintenance process in future. Since Övdalian is still treated as a dialect it requires more efforts to reverse language shift. Why hasn't Övdalian been taken into consideration when ratifying *The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*? Is it justified to recognize it as a minority language? Does it really matter if Övdalian is going to be treated as a dialect or as a language? I try to find answers to these questions in my paper.

I base my answers mostly on the results from my questionnaire research conducted among school children, their parents and their teachers in 2009 and compare them with works by John Hultgren and John Helgander from 1970's. This enables us to understand in which directions the changes in Övdalian society are going. Moreover, I analyze the political aspect of being a dialect or a regional language and what consequences it may have as far as Övdalian is concerned.

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## **Oral and literate culture: where do their boundaries overlap?**

by **JACEK MIANOWSKI**

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The dynamics of orality and literacy differ fundamentally. Originally, human mind is not equipped with any chirographic tools and these become available only if one comes in contact with a literate culture. Although distinguishing characteristic features of these cultures requires much scientific effort, the real problems appear when one begins to deal with oral societies achieving the point of evolution where the adoption of a writing system is only a matter of time. According to Walter Ong (2002 /1982/), only about 78 languages out of over 3000 spoken nowadays have developed their own literature. A change of that magnitude does not happen overnight and its outcomes leave numerous traces in almost every aspect of human reality and existence.

The aim of this discussion is twofold. The first part attempts to explain the most important differences in the functioning of oral and literate societies. The second part tries to distinguish the phases of oral-literate shifts, and attempts to characterize a culture where both oral and literate elements overlap, creating a social semi-literate hybrid.

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### **Cultural patterns in the discourse of early English official correspondence**

by **URSZULA OKULSKA**

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Diachronic insights into communicative styles and behaviors that evolved across the centuries as modes and vehicles of social exchange reveal much evidence for the parallel development of languages and cultures, as well as for their mutual influence. In this light, the socio-historical context of human interaction is an important conditioner of linguistic variation and a potent stimulus to discourse formative processes working in it. Such an interplay between language and the extra-linguistic world is observed in the present research, which traces reflections of the early English public life in the discourse of official correspondence from the 15–17th centuries.

A sample of over 200 letters from the Corpus of Early English Correspondence is explored with the aim of studying the impact of the socio-cultural conditions of the Late Middle English (LME) and Early Modern English (EModE) periods on the formation and shape of selected epistolary genres functioning in the public domains of the periods under scrutiny. The data include letters of narrative and directive types (Okulska 2007, 2008) illustrating communication in the fields of the crown, government, state administration, church, and defence. From the natural (text) linguistic viewpoint (see Dressler 1989, 1990, 1994; Dressler, Mayerthaler, Wurzel & Panagl 1987), the letters evince

cognitive transformations of events from the socio-political world producing semiotic analogies between the language-external phenomena and their textual renditions. They are visible especially in the linguistic modelling of early English social hierarchies and institutions, which can be reconstructed from the symbolic and iconic representations in the discourse of the epistles studied.

The linguistic picture of the LME and EModE reality is drawn, for instance, through specific modality choices as well as pragmatic markers, including in/direct style, hedging or speech acts, all reflecting the nature of interpersonal relations and character of social contacts in selected areas of early English public life. Moreover, the discourse of the letters encodes in its diagrammatical structures, types of thematic progression, intertextual cues and discourse schemata, traces of human experience, such as culturally rooted professional and daily activities, states and emotions, as well as social rituals and values which find their symbolic expression in the official correspondence of the time. This duality of linguistic and extra-linguistic patterns makes the discourse of the early English letters a social semiotic (Halliday 1978), which triggers in the texts examined their dominant discursal lines and recurrent generic units, all tailored by the joint operation of contextual (viz. socio-cultural), interactive and cognitive forces. It will be argued that the performative role through which the narrative and directive epistolary genres transmit, establish and reinforce communicative conventions assigns them the status of macro-speech acts (e.g., van Dijk 1997a, b) that textually transfer historically rooted cultural scripts (Wierzbicka 1983, 1999), as the key to retrieving and understanding the nuances of social life from centuries before.

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**A few aspects concerning the lexical system of the Lippovan Russian idiom from the locality of Mila 23, Tulcea county, Romania**

by **THEODOR OLTEANU** and **GEORGE MOTROC**

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The present paper describes the lexical physiognomy of the idiom, by referring to onomastics, and, at the same time, proposes a rigorous classification of these language aspects. The material under discussion is related to the macro system (the common Russian language, with its dialectal dia-system and the standard variant) and, where necessary, to the Romanian linguistic environment, decisive from many points of view for this idiom. Until recently the Lippovan idioms from Romania were ignored. Only in 1958 there was published the first article that deals with linguistic problems based on the data gathered from the Lippovan Russians. Starting from this date, a series of actions have been directed to the study of the Lippovan idioms. A number of researchers organized trips to the localities with a Lippovan population and, following in situ studies, elaborated remarkable papers.

Written sources show that the oldest locality with a Lippovan population in Romania is the village of Lipoveni (formerly called Socolinți), from the county of Suceava, where the Russian immigrants settled as early as 1724. The villages of Sviștovca and Periprava date

back to the same period. If the above-mentioned localities are considered the oldest Lippovan colonies, we can undoubtedly consider that the village of Mila 23, situated in the Danube Delta, is the most recent Lippovan settlement in our country. Although it separated from its original ethno-linguistic roots about three centuries ago, the idiom currently spoken by the Lippovan Russians from Mila 23 is, in all its compartments, an idiom of the South-Velico-Russian type. It is characterized by a series of features (phonetic, morphological, syntactic, lexical) specific to the South-Velico-Russian idioms.

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### **Language contact phenomena in the speech and writing of trilinguals: oral and written texts in the Turkish, German, and English of adolescents in Berlin**

by *CAROL W. PFAFF*

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This paper will report the initial results of a research on the later language development of children and adolescents with and without a “migrant background”, which has been based on the methodology of earlier studies conducted in Germany and France and Turkey (cf. Akinci, Pfaff, Dollnick 2008; Pfaff 2009; Pfaff, Schroeder & Dollnick 2009).

In this presentation, I will focus on language contact phenomena in texts in three languages, Turkish, German and English as spoken and written by secondary school pupils, 7th, 10th and 12th graders, whose parents or grandparents migrated from Turkey and who are fluent speakers of all three languages. I will take into consideration the hypotheses about what contact phenomena might be expected and examine evidence of which features are actually realized in texts primarily in the “monolingual mode” in the Turkish and German (contact) varieties which are developing in this environment and on contact phenomena, apparently influenced by German and/or Turkish.

I will illustrate some of the phonological, orthographic and morphosyntactic phenomena we have observed and, consequently, discuss how these fit into models of language contact sensitive to both social and linguistic factors. In particular, I will focus on cross linguistic transfers and the hypercorrection of three features from German, the dominant school language:

- syntactic: V2 word order with pre-posed adverbial expressions;
- phonological/orthographic: final devoicing in the written texts in all three languages;
- typological, lexicosyntactic: clause linking with analytic conjunctions vs. agglutinative converbials in Turkish.

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## **The possible impact of globalization on the German neo-purist movement**

by *FALCO PFALZGRAF*

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Our research has shown that the unification of '89 can be regarded as the main reason for the origin of a new form of linguistic purism in Germany. For this particular, new form of German Sprachpurismus, we have suggested the term *Neopurismus* because of the particular way in which discourses that are characteristic of linguistic purism manifest themselves in publications by self appointed language protectors. In its time, German unification was of course only one part of a much larger, world-wide socio-political change: the disintegration of the eastern and western blocs. Their disappearance led to an unprecedented expansion of the "American way of life," often referred to as "Globalization" or "Americanization." Some self-appointed language protectors claim that their neo-purist activities are merely a counter reaction to the perceived "Americanization" of the German language and culture. Would it, therefore, be possible that it is not only German unification but also Globalization which has led to neo-purist tendencies in Germany? Our paper will explore ways of answering this question.

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## **Language contact and language death in Ancient Italy: The case of Oscan**

by **DARIUSZ PIWOWARCZYK**

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Oscan, one of the Sabellic (earlier also called Oscan-Umbrian) languages, attested in Ancient Italy mostly in Samnium and Campania from around the 4th century BC until the 1st century BC (approx. 460 inscriptions) along with the neighboring Italic languages (most notably Latin and Umbrian) and non-Indo-European Etruscan, presents a very interesting case of language contact and language death. In this paper, I intend to outline the general linguistic situation in Ancient Italy concentrating on Oscan and show, as far as possible, the external influences on the language (esp. Latin and Etruscan) and the history of the language until it became extinct due to the influence of the more prestigious Latin, the language of the conquerors of the Samnite tribes.

I will also try to answer the question of to what extent we are capable of speaking about the sociolinguistics of a residual, arcane language (also within its dialectal variation) and the mechanism of its contact with other

languages and finally its “death.” Mention will also be made of the spread of the writing system in Ancient Italy since Oscan is attested in three different alphabets: the native one (derived from Etruscan), Greek and Latin.

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### **Americanization of British English: A corruption or a normal change?**

by **DANIELA POPESCU**

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Languages are all affected by different changes and influences of social, political, economic, religious or technical nature. They do not exist in a vacuum. It goes the same in the case of the American and British variants of the English language. Linguistically speaking, the whole world nowadays witnesses an interesting time for English. Exposure on the Internet and via mass media to a range of varieties of English, the allure of the culture of cyberspace, and greater awareness of dominance issues all contribute to a change in what “English” is.

Historians of the English language recorded that British English and American English showed the greatest divergence between 1800 and 1925. After this period several unifying factors came into play and made that divergence become less and less obvious. These factors undoubtedly carried the mark of the American way of doing things, due to the great number of people who spoke the American variant of the English

language, and who became a model to follow for the rest of the world in the different fields of sciences, arts and fashions. The impact of radio and television broadcasting, the growing influence of the press, the advertising and the Hollywood film industries, together with the increase in political, military, and economic strength of the United States of America, they all opened a perfect channel of communication between the two related nations, facilitating the passage of many American words or expressions into British English. Finally, the tremendous influence of America was favored by a relative decline of Great Britain in the domains already mentioned. The influence of American English on British English is a fairly difficult matter and one can not operate with a certain dichotomy due to a multitude of factors: on the one hand, British English is the most conservative variety of English and native speakers of British English are reluctant to accept other English varieties; on the other hand, the technological revolution contributes to the tendency of simplifying English, as seen in American English, but this new English differs both from American English and British English and is considered to be an international, world English. For more than 200 years, right up through Prince Charles, people have complained that Americans trash the English language. But the question is: does this imply a corruption, or is it simply a normal change?

### **On the morphology of Dutch and Afrikaans**

by *STANISŁAW PREDOTA*

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As regards the morphology of the noun, one can name six differences between Dutch and Afrikaans. In Afrikaans, (a) there is no grammatical gender; (b) there is no genitive ending *-s* used to express possessiveness; and Dutch, as opposed to Afrikaans, is missing: (a) the following three endings: *-e*, *-ere*, and *-ens* which are used to construct the plural form of nouns; (b) the apocope [t] in singular forms; (c) the syncope [x] in plural

forms, and the interconsonantal vocalization [d] in plural forms of certain nouns.

Contrasts between the two languages are much more visible as regards the verb than the noun. E.H. Raidt mentions four phenomena which distinguish Afrikaans from Dutch: (a) there is no inflection; (b) there is no *imperfectum* and *plusquamperfectum*; (c) uniformity in the creation of *participium perfecti*, and (d) shortening of the infinitive.

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## **Constructing an Australian indigenous universe in Aboriginal English**

by **WALDEMAR SKRZYPCZAK**

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The aim of the paper entitled Constructing an Australian Indigenous Universe in Aboriginal English is to present the linguistic and pragmatic aspects of Aboriginal English in Australia against the general background

of Aboriginal languages, Creoles and Cultures on the one hand, and mainstream Australian English, on the other. A brief presentation of the two polarized background domains, will lead to a closer characterization of contemporary Aboriginal English in terms of its potential to convey the universe of Aboriginal traditional concepts and how it aspires to meet the demands of contemporary Australian discourses. Emphasis will be placed on those aspects of Aboriginal English which require a greater cross-cultural sensitivity on the part of non-Aboriginal users of English visiting Aboriginal communities. These ‘sensitivity factors’ will also be addressed with regard to legal affairs and educational policies.

### **Palatalisation of consonants in Polish before /i/ and /j/**

by **ŁUKASZ STOLARSKI**

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From an articulatory perspective palatality is a gradable feature. Such an opinion has been expressed in many works on Polish phonetics. For example, Sawicka (1995) suggests two possible realizations of // preceding /i/ or /j/ – either the “fully palatal” or the “palatalized” sound. Indeed, such a division into the two degrees of palatalization among Polish consonants is common (cf. Steffen-Batogowa 1975, Dukiewicz 1995, Pilich 1975, Wiśniewski 1977, etc.). The choice of one type of pronunciation over the other may sometimes be dependent on the individual articulatory characteristics of a given speaker or the tempo of his or her speech. Still, the degree of consonantal palatalization in Polish is, first and foremost, connected with its phonetic context. This is assumed to be the strongest in consonants located in front of /i/. On the other hand, the palatalization of consonants preceding /j/ is often reported to be comparatively weaker and less regular. Additionally, the discussed type of assimilation may take place in other contexts. Consonants in Polish may also be palatalized at the end of words followed by words beginning with /i/ or (less frequently) /j/, but the assimilation in such contexts is less certain.

Moreover, some authors (e.g., Stieber 1966) propose that consonants may be partially palatalized when they directly precede other palatal consonants (both within words and on the border between two words), but such palatalization is even less obvious than in the above described situations. The degree of palatality may be measured acoustically. This is associated with the enhancement of the spectrum amplitude around F2 for the vowel /i/, i.e., between 2100 and 2800 Hz (cf. Szczepankowski 1985, Rocławski 1976). The stronger the enhancement, the more a given consonant is palatalized. The major aim of this paper is to measure the degree of palatality in two phonetic contexts: before /i/ and, secondly, before /j/. Even though palatalization is assumed to take place in both of these positions, consonants preceding /j/ may undergo the process in a less regular way and to a smaller extent. In order to complete the task a series of acoustic measurements has been carried out and the degree of palatalization in the two phonetic environments has been analyzed statistically.

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### **Societal vs. individual multilingualism in Switzerland**

by **AGNIESZKA STEPKOWSKA**

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“Unity in diversity” is the phrase often used with reference to the language situation in Switzerland. Perhaps multilingualism per se is not an extraordinary phenomenon in Europe or in the world, but certainly there are fewer rather than more countries pursuing an officially declared multilingual policy. Besides, at least in Europe, modern nation-states have always been identified with a single ethnic group that speaks one common language. Even today, when given a second thought, this fact stands in contrast with the multilingual principle that is being kept alive with success in Switzerland.

In order to secure the balance in the relations between different language groups, the Swiss Federation has adopted a territorial approach. Each language group, with the exception of Romansh, is a majority and the dominant language within its own territory or canton (Schmid 2001). However, the Territoriality Principle also raised several problems. Specifically, it has led to inflexibility with respect to language teaching programs, and the predominance of individual monolingualism, as well as failed to assure protection for non-territorial language minorities (cf. Watts 1991). At the same time, one needs to remember that the right to use one’s own language is a relative concept, as there can be no complete self-determination for an individual living in a society. In that sense, the concept of language “territoriality,” in the Swiss context, puts some limits on language liberty.

In my paper, I shall reflect on the multilingual situation in Switzerland, both from the “macro” and “micro” perspective. The distinction between societal and individual multilingualism appears

particularly intriguing in the Swiss context, as these two concepts tend to be regarded too often as identical. Leo Pap (1990: 121) points out that this distinction has not been “sufficiently heeded in some of the literature.” In fact, today Switzerland remains a multilingual state, surely in a “societal” sense, but perhaps much less in the ‘individual’ one.

According to Watts (1991: 86), most individuals are essentially monolingual with varying degrees of proficiency in one or another of the national languages. Indeed, it is true that the language conditions in Switzerland are mostly described in terms of societal multilingualism, i.e., different language areas, the communication models between parts of the population, and their mutual attitudes. On the other hand, in such multilingual settings, there is always a question of individual bilingualism or multilingualism, which is the degree of proficiency in two or more languages demonstrated by given individuals, as well as their decisions concerning the matching up of the social contexts to the use of distinct languages from their repertoires. Therefore, I shall attempt to investigate to what extent the Territoriality Principle might stand in contradiction to the freedom of languages. Also a brief reference shall be made to the presence of English in the Swiss multilingual environment.

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## **The vanishing languages of Italy: Diglossia, bilingualism, and shift**

by **MARCO TAMBURELLI**

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For most of the 20th century, Italy was a largely diglossic country. For the majority of Italian citizens, the Tuscan/Italian language represented a high variety (H) which co-existed alongside various local Romance languages (e.g., Piedmontese, Sicilian, and Venetian, among others) perceived to be low varieties (L). Virtually everyone was a native speaker of some L, and their level of proficiency in H differed widely depending on schooling and social background (Marcato 2002). However, as it often happens in multilingual societies, Italians have been gradually shifting away from their native languages, and the number of H monolinguals has been increasing steadily over the years: from 18% in 1946 to 40% in 2000 (Marcato 2002: 85).

In this paper, I discuss the importance of the distinction between diglossia and societal bilingualism, as developed by Hudson (2002), and suggest that such distinction is central to understanding the dynamics of the Italian situation. Building on Hudson's work, I suggest that the basis for language shift in Italy is to be found in the displacement of a classic type of diglossia (à la Ferguson 1959) and the consequent establishment of societal bilingualism. Moreover, I propose that the links between diglossia and bilingualism are better understood as a continuum rather than a "two-by-two" relation (contra Fishman 1967). I suggest that the extremes of the continuum offer a safe position for both the majority and the minority language, whilst the centre is the area within which endangerment operates.

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## **The familyhood of humanity through language**

by **LUMINITA TARCHILA**

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This study intends to show that whenever people do not learn a foreign language, they are, in a sense, ignorant about their own language, because they are not able to realize its specific structure and its distinctive traits. A comparison between two languages shows them that there is not a perfect synonymy. The suitable words from two languages seldom refer to the same objects or to the same actions. They cover different domains which interpenetrate each other and which offer the multi-colored perspective of their own experience. The name of the object can not lay claims to express the nature of the object, to express the truth of it. The function of a name is always limited to the accentuation of a peculiar aspect of the object and the value of the name depends exactly on this restriction and limitation. The function of a name is not that of referring exhaustively to a concrete situation, but to select and insist on a certain aspect, action, a fact which is not negative but positive. This is the result of the fact that, in the act of denomination, people select from the multitude and the defuse character of the sensorial data some fixed centers of the memory. These centers are not the same as those of logical or scientific thinking, but they are the “land marks” which guide people on the road that leads toward the scientific concepts. These terms are those by which people acquire their first objective and theoretical vision of the world. Such a vision is not simply “given,” but it is the result of an intellectual constructive effort which could not reach its purpose without the steadfast help of the language. From this level on, it is possible to ascend to superior levels of abstraction, to more general names and ideas, which is a difficult and a laborious task. Human speech has evolved from a relative concrete state to a more abstract state. This ascent to universal concepts and categories seems to be very slow in the development of the human speech, but any new advance in this direction leads to a more comprehensive perspective, to a better orientation and organization of peoples’ perceptible world.

It is only this evolution that could enable man to aspire to a universal language, because this endeavor makes a better man, who is able not only to speak, but also to communicate. Probably, this is the only way towards a universal language: its changing towards a function which must be one of communication, love, compassion, understanding and of the feeling that each human being is part of the whole, and the whole is inside each man.

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### **Consequences of language contact**

by *DORINA TARNOVEANU*

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Language contact will most often result in phenomena such as borrowing, transfer, convergence, code-switching, or interference. These phenomena are to be dealt with at the level of the individual as well as the community level. Interference is a product of the bilingual individual's use of more than one language in everyday interaction.

At the level of the individual interference may be sporadic and idiosyncratic. Over time, the effects of interference in a bilingual speech community can be cumulative, and lead to new norms, which are different from those observed by monolinguals who use the language

elsewhere. Some scholars (Clyne 1967) use the term *transference*, considered as the adoption of any elements or features from the other language. Others (Sharwood-Smith & Kellerman 1986) suggest the more neutral term *crosslinguistic influence* for the cases where one language influences another.

The term *transfer* has been used particularly in connection with the study of second language acquisition. Interference can be found at different levels of language, which, however, are not discrete: influence which appears to affect one area, e.g., intonation, may have consequences for other components of language. Lexical borrowing may also affect syntax and semantics. Cross-linguistic interference in pronunciation may result in a so-called foreign accent, with different consequences: under-differentiation, over-differentiation, re-interpretation and substitution. Prosody may be affected by cross-linguistic influence. Differences between stress and intonation between two languages lead to transference of patterns from one language to another. Intonation patterns may convey affective and social meanings, which have consequences in different areas of the language.

Cross-linguistic influence may take place at the pragmatic level, sometimes involving a mismatch in communicative competence. Cross-linguistic influence at the syntactic level is reflected in word order divergence. Borrowing plays an important role in language contact. There are different items that can be borrowed; lexical material is the most easily borrowed, while syntax seems the least diffused aspect of language. As for motivation of borrowing, prestige seems to be the primary one, if we consider language as a mark of social class. In long-term situations, intensive language contact may result in a mixed language. Radical restructuring may give birth to a pidgin or a creole. In analyzing code-switching one has to take into account the speaker's attitude toward the phenomenon, and the status it is assigned by the members of the community.

There are several types of code-switching – tag-switching, inter-sentential and intra-sentential. All types of code-switching imply a certain degree of competence in the two languages, while borrowing may occur in the speech of monolingual speakers, too. Bilinguals use different strategies when code-switching, which represent ways of solving the problem of combining material from two different languages. The functions played by code-switching are also important, as they give

information about the context in which the switch takes place, its character, the degree of the speaker's involvement in the message, or the hierarchy of the two languages.

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### ***Good : ill and healthy : ill. The fates of a Scandinavian loanword in medieval English***

by **JERZY WEŁNA**

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The rivalry of evil and bad as the negative counterparts of good continued throughout Middle English. The 12th century witnessed the arrival of yet another important rival in the competition, the loanword *ill* from the North, ultimately a reflection of Old Norse *illr*, which became very frequently used in the Northern counties.

Although etymologically unrelated *evil* and *ill* “have from the 12th century been synonymous, and *ill* has been often viewed as a mere variant or reduced form of *evil*” (OED, *ill*). The Scandinavian intruder soon spread to the south (Dance 2003) where it became a successful rival of the adjective/noun *evil* (native) and *bad* (of obscure origin). Very frequently found in contrasting pairs displaying the opposition *good : ill*, at the end of Middle English *ill* acquired a new sense and became the antonym of *healthy*.

The paper is a continuation of the present author's earlier contribution relating the competition of the three synonyms (*evil : bad :*

*ill*) in the language of English mediaeval drama (cf. Wełna 2009). It also supplements another study on the competition of *evil* and *bad* in the mediaeval language of prose and poetry (Wełna, forthcoming). One of its sections contains a discussion of the rise of the new contrast healthy: ill. The study data come from standard sources like Innsbruck Corpus of Middle English Prose (Full version of 2008) and the Chadwyck-Healey Corpus of Middle English Poetry and Drama (1992).

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- Wełna, Jerzy (forthcoming) On the origin of *evil* and its competition with *bad* in Middle English.”

## **The names of the New World in Czech texts from the 16th century**

by **MATEUSZ WIŚNIEWSKI**

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The main aim of the project is to analyze linguistic aspects of Czech names of the New World in the first Czech texts according to which the new discoveries were made. Since Christopher Columbus discovered the New World in 1492, there were a lot of other people, such as Ferdinand Magellan or Amerigo Vespucci, who tried to reach more unknown lands and explore them. All of them were widely spoken about in 16th century Europe, especially in West-European courts and in big cities. Such small countries as the Kingdom of Bohemia had hardly any information about these phenomena, which were changing the history and ways of thinking.

The first Czech texts about these new discoveries were the Czech issue of Sebastian Münster's *Cosmography*, translated by Zikmund from Púchov, and Mikuláš Bakalář's *Spis o nových zemích a o Novém světě*. In these two old prints, there are many names for the New World (such as Sancta Maria Rotunda, Irwakan, Jukatan, Santo Domingo) which were entirely unknown before. According to traditional linguistic theories, words and expressions which are to be incorporated into the system of a new language must be fitted into its grammatical structure. Thus, they are a very useful material which shows how these new words were adapted to the Czech grammatical system on each level: phonetic, morphological and syntactic. The analysis of these lexical items will enable us to present linguistic changes both in speech and writing. Some of these words were fully adapted, some of them – only partially, the other ones – in a small degree.

The other aim of my research is to examine the relation between language and culture regarding completely new and unknown things. The names of the New World in the analyzed texts are proper names which can be classified as exonyms. An exonym is a name for a place that differs from that used in the official language within that place. Exonyms, as all proper names, have their onomastic functions, and there is always one dominant function which refers to the receivers of the communication process. The 16th Czech texts on the New World were created in order to inform people about the new phenomena which were to change their cognition.

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### **Different development of Chinese characters and a probe into their phonetic rationale and form-meaning rationale**

*BY WU WEI-CHING and LONG YE*

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Chinese Characters succeed in having maintained their form-meaning motivation in their process of development, thus forming a different process of development from other words in the form of letters. This article holds that motivations of languages and their words or characters are different from one to another, which are caused by the different needs of different languages. Hence, languages and their words are tied by some motivations, but not totally arbitrary. It has been found through analysis in this article that letter writing is used and served well in those languages with letters as writing form only because generally letters have no more form-meaning rationale in those languages, instead they merely stand for the voices of speech. And it is so due to the fact of the morphology (language pattern) that those languages have internal inflections within the words themselves. Internal inflections enable the languages to express meaning in two ways: words and grammar. Hence, letter writing is necessary for those languages with internal inflections.

Comparatively, Chinese words are not of internal inflection, and so the Chinese express meaning only through the use and choice of words. Hence, Chinese words do not need to be obliged to stand for the voice of speech, and possibility comes in this case that the shapes of Chinese characters (fonts) can directly show the meaning without the help of voice. That is the reason why Chinese characters without internal inflections have two ways of rationale, phonetic rationale and form-meaning rationale. Obviously, Chinese has weak phonetic rationale compared with those languages of phonetic alphabet letters, while

Chinese has a unique form-meaning rationale. As stated above, this paper reaches the conclusion in the end that by studying the historical evolution or development of the rationale of all the languages, it has been learned that though all the writing texts of all the languages originated in a similar way, picture or sign, etc., they have developed in quite different ways and directions, thus forming various writing text symbolism systems, distinctive but stable; and they will continue to develop in their own ways.

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### **An analysis of the phenomenon of the unique nature of the Tianjin dialect isolated island and its origin**

**by YANG JIANHUA and ZHOU HONGJIE**

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Tianjin is the third biggest city of China, with a population of over 13,000,000. In such a big city, its dialect is unique both in China and in the world, in that it is not merely a typical dialect island, but an island isolated from the surrounding dialect around it with its own unique form. Surrounded by two very important dialects, Peking dialect and Jinghai dialect, for 600 years the Tianjin dialect has maintained its own unique nature as a dialect island.

This article first textualizes and analyzes the unique feature of Tianjin and its origins. The uniqueness of the Tianjin dialect involves the words, the tone in speech, and the speed of speech, etc. But the outstanding feature of Tianjin is its unique voice and tone. According to the Dialect Language-line, the Tianjin dialect shares the same four tones with modern Chinese, but differs in the tone value (the actual pronunciation of

each tone), in that Yinping tone (first tone) the tone is high in pitch and high and flat in tone in standard Chinese (Mandarin), while in Tianjin it is low and flat.

This article holds that though Tianjin, like other dialects, also originated from immigrants, and its mother dialect should be the one in Suzhou, Anhui Province of China, it retains its own unique nature. Quite different from other language islands formed by immigrants, Tianjin was formed by immigrants of nearly the same profession, army men, and the same army profession formed the common character traits. Thus, Tianjin not only shows the speech features of army men such as being concise, simple, economical and effective, but shows the character traits of the group of people using this dialect. Tianjin represents the outward manifestation of the character of Tianjin folk; and this is the reason why even though far more immigrants with other dialects other than Tianjin have flooded into Tianjin, a city of immigrants, for hundreds of years, though Tianjin is very near to Beijing, the capital city of China, and though standard Chinese (Mandarin) has been vigorously promoted in China for years, Tianjin still remains an isolated island. As stated above, this paper arrives at the conclusion that the relevance of Tianjin to professional and character traits enables Tianjin to come into being and remain isolated as a dialect island till today.

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**The ecology of minority languages: Experience of the Republic of Karelia****by OLGA B. YANUSH***Kazan State Power Engineering University, Russia*

Language dimensions play a priority role in mechanisms of political regulation and management of cultural diversity at international, national and regional levels. One cannot but note a number of factors that actualize these problems for the Russian Federation and its regions. Firstly, globalization as one of the key tendencies of contemporaneity, on the one hand, leads to necessity in direct communication realized through common language; on the other hand it is accompanied by the growth of tendencies towards localization and regionalization, new impulses of identities and initiatives, necessity in preservation and development of linguistic diversity. Secondly, complex territorial allocation of language diversity is far from corresponding with territorial-political frontiers (more than 180 peoples, speaking more than 100 languages and dialects, live on the Russian territory). Thirdly, Russia experiences need in the preservation of federal educational space and harmonization of language situations. All of this leads to the necessity to research language relations and the processes that are taking place in the regions of Russia.

The choice of Karelia is not casual: the Karelian language does not have official (national) status as distinct from all the other republics' languages. Only the Russian language is a national language in this matter and the Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages get state support. The author of this report examines the language situation in the Republic of Karelia (its feature is that number of Karelians is less than 10% of the whole population); the vitality of the Karelian language; a complex of measures that are directed to the preservation and development of the Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages (including the law "About state support for the Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages in the Republic of Karelia" and earmarked for a specific purpose program of the same name for 2006–2010; activities of national public organizations directed toward support of the Karelian language ("Karelian Congress," "Young Karelia," "Congress of Karelians", etc.); cases of politicization of the language question, that are bound with graphic base of the Karelian

language (Cyrillic or Roman alphabet) and giving it the status of a national language; positions of different political actors; participation in the international Finno-Ugric movement.

**English-Polish language contact, the young generation and the new media: the use of English in Polish Internet blogs written by young people**

by *MARCIN ZABAWA*

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It is a well-known fact that English nowadays is in contact with many European languages, including Polish. Such contact is normally manifested through the influence of one language upon another (or both mutually influencing each other). As might be expected, the Internet is far from free from such influence. Thus, the aim of the present paper will be to discuss the use of English elements (with special emphasis placed on English lexical and semantic borrowings) in texts taken from Polish Internet blogs. As is generally believed, the most objective method of studying loanwords in a language is the use of a corpus, as it enables a linguist to formulate hypotheses on solid bases. It is then not only possible to state the existence (or non-existence) of a given feature, but also to provide evidence that would not be available without a corpus. Thus, the basis for the present analysis will be a corpus composed of texts taken from Internet blogs. To make the corpus as homogeneous as possible, it was decided to restrict the research to blogs written by young users (adolescents). Care was taken to include only spontaneous written language (i.e. all kinds of formal texts, literary texts, e.g., poems and stories, etc., were excluded from the analysis). In fact, the texts comprising the corpus can be classified as being on the borderline between the written and spoken modes of expression. They contain quite a few instances of the influence of English upon Polish, which makes them a very interesting area of research.

The loanwords will be analyzed both quantitatively as well as qualitatively. As for the former analysis, all the borrowings will be counted and presented in percentage terms. Additionally, their frequency will be discussed, both absolute (i.e. in relation to the total number of words of the corpus) and relative (i.e. in relation to other loans found in the corpus). As for the latter, special attention will be placed on the semantic areas of the borrowings. In conclusion, the author will compare the results of the present study with those for Internet message boards (both general and intended for Poles living in the United Kingdom) and those for spontaneous, spoken Polish.

**Fluctuation or variability: patterns of article choice in L2 English by Polish learners**

by *LECH ZABOR*

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The present study investigates patterns of article choice and article omission by Polish learners of L2 English as a second language (L2). The paper is organized as follows. The first section discusses the early studies of L2 learners' use of articles in English based on Derek Bickerton's (1981) binary semantic system [+specific referent, +hearer knowledge] for noun phrase reference. The author summarizes the studies by Tom Huebner (1983) and Richard Young (1991), which consider the presence/absence of articles in obligatory contexts in relation to the semantic or linguistic context in which they appear. The next section examines the Fluctuation Hypothesis (FH) and the premises underlying the Article Choice Parameter (Tania Ionin et al. 2004). According to this hypothesis, learners of L2 English whose first language (L1) lacks articles go through a period of "fluctuation", where articles can express both definiteness and specificity. They appear to fluctuate between their use of definite and indefinite articles, specifically between the two settings of definiteness and specificity. In consequence, they select *the* in

both definite and indefinite specific contexts and *a* in both definite and indefinite non-specific contexts. Table 1 illustrates the Fluctuation Hypothesis in terms of the four types of the determiner phrase.

Table 1. The Fluctuation Hypothesis (based on Tania Ionin et al. 2004)

Determiner phrase (DP) type	Definiteness setting in English	Fluctuation in L2 English
I. Definite specific	THE	THE
II. Definite non-specific	THE	A/THE
III. Indefinite specific	A	A
IV. Indefinite non-specific	A	A/The

Section three of the paper describes the present study whose aim is to examine the patterns of article use in two groups of intermediate and advanced Polish learners of English, in the four types of context presented in Table 2 (the examples come from Marta Tryzna 2009: 71).

Table 2. Patterns of article use in four types of context

DP type	Pattern	Examples of article use
I	+definite, +specific	I want to talk to the winner. She is a good friend of mine.
II	+definite, -specific	If you want to talk to a/the winner, wait until the end of the race.
III	-definite +specific	I'm looking for a/the hat. I must have left it here yesterday. (The dialogue takes place in a lost and found office)
IV	-definite - specific	I'm looking for a hat to go with my new coat

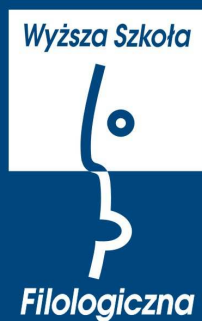
The specific research questions concern: (1) The accuracy of the learners across the contexts. Will the learners overuse the *in* specific indefinite contexts and *a* in non-specific definite contexts as predicted by the FH? (2) Differences in the accuracy between the intermediate and advanced learners. Since fluctuation is a temporary property of the learners' interlanguage system, can we expect that longer exposure will fix the appropriate value of the parameter and the advanced learners will outperform the intermediate learners? (3) The influence of other factors on learners' article choice. What is the role of the learners' L1, their perception of definiteness and specificity as well as processing mechanisms in article production? The study concludes with a detailed

group and individual results analysis. The available data suggest that L2 English article choice largely involves the optional use of the definite or indefinite forms, omission rather than the overuse of articles and it is characterized by a great deal of variability rather than fluctuation.

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The attempts to classify mankind are numerous.  
Franz Boas

Of all aspects of culture, it is a fair guess that language was the first to receive a highly developed form and that its essential perfection is a prerequisite to the development of culture as a whole.  
Edward Sapir

The development of a comprehensive written visual language caused civilization to grow more complex. (...)  
Literacy gives cultures the privilege of knowing the past.  
Denise Schmandt-Besserat

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