

# SociolinguistEssex XIII - 2008

## Abstracts

Jenny Amos & Heather Grainger



### It's not up North but it's down South, ain't it? A regional examination of auxiliary versus negator contraction

This paper reports on a quantitative analysis of variation in auxiliary (AUX) and negator (NEG) contraction. We consider the present tense of verbs BE (examples 1-3 below) and HAVE (examples 4-6 below) in declarative environments. We also examine so-called 'secondary' contraction (e.g., Cheshire 1982.) in both declarative and tag question environments, and explore the relationship between levels of NEG contraction and secondary contraction.

- [1] 'it's not going to come out' (AUX)
- [2] 'it isn't going to be a retired publican' (NEG)
- [3] 'he in't going to be able to afford it you know' (Secondary)
- [4] 'I've not got an accent' (AUX)
- [5] 'you haven't got to worry about that' (NEG)
- [6] 'but I ain't got a date there' (Secondary)

We present new data from urban and rural locations throughout England, in regions hitherto unexamined for this variable. Our objective is to fill in some of the gaps left by previous studies (e.g. Tagliamonte and Smith 2002; Cheshire 1982.). The locations examined are:

- North West - South Lancashire (St Helens); East Wirral (Various)
- Midlands - Staffordshire (Burntwood); Worcestershire (Redditch)
- East Anglia - Fens (Various); Suffolk (Ipswich); N.E. Essex (Mersea Island)
- South West - Dorset (Various); Somerset (Nailsea)

Although there are some reports that the frequency of AUX contraction increases the further north one goes, much of this is based on casual observation rather than empirical work (as highlighted by Trudgill 1978). Tagliamonte and Smith found little evidence in their data to support these claims. Contrary to their findings, however, our data provide quantitative results that would suggest the reality of a North-South continuum regarding the level of AUX contraction. Moreover, we find high levels of secondary contraction for southern locations and lower levels further north, thus reinforcing the notion of a North-South continuum.

## Antonis Polentas



### Clitic doubling in the Balkan Linguistic Area: how areal linguistics can inform descriptive analyses.

“Clitic doubling” (or, “pronoun reduplication”, Lopashov 1978) was pointed out as an areal feature of Balkan languages since the early studies of the Balkan Sprachbund. Nevertheless, as Lindstedt (2000) and others have observed, the semantic/ discourse conditions under which the reduplication of a noun phrase by a pronominal clitic is possible differ from language to language. Specifically, as Friedman (2007) argued, there is a grammaticalization cline, with the languages with the highest number of areal features, showing a higher degree of grammaticalization of clitic doubling (i.e. in languages such as Macedonian or Albanian, pronominal clitics behave more like object agreement affixes). The main argument of this presentation will be that theoretical approaches to the description of clitic doubling in Balkan languages would benefit if they take into account insights from areal linguistics and they should at some level incorporate them in their analyses. In this line of research Tomić (2006, 2008) has sketched ways in which generative approaches can benefit from taking into consideration the areality of various grammatical features. I will propose to follow the same line of research but from the perspective of linguistic theories that take constructions as linguistic primitives. Specifically, a continuum between left- and right-dislocation constructions and clitic doubling constructions will be postulated, in contrast with some formal analyses which view these constructions as separate. Clitic doubling constructions will be seen as syntacticized (“grammaticalized”) versions of left- and right-dislocation constructions, and the degree of syntacticization will be shown to depend on the position and the sociolinguistic status of the language in the Balkan Sprachbund. The conditions on clitic doubling largely depend on the discourse status of the doubled NP (Tomić 2006 among others), so clitic doubling can be seen as a type of the more general phenomenon of Differential Object marking (DOM), a feature which appears in other linguistic areas, e.g. the North Iran-Araxes Sprachbund (Stilo 2005). The conclusion of the discussion will be that the areal dimension of some grammatical constructions is worth a closer look by descriptive linguists and typologists.

## References

- Friedman, V. A. (2007). Balkanizing the Balkan Sprachbund: A closer look at grammatical permeability and feature distribution. In Aikhenvald, A. Y. and R. M. W. Dixon (eds.), *Grammars in Contact. A cross-linguistic typology* (pp. 201-219). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lindstedt, J. (2000). *Linguistic Balkanization: Contact-induced change by mutual reinforcement*. In Gilbers, D., J. Nerbonne, and J. Schaeken (eds.), *Languages in contact* (pp. 231-246). Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Lopashov, I.A. (1978). *Mestoimennye povtory dopolneniia v balkanskikh iazykakh*. Leningrad : Nauka. [Pronoun reduplication in the Balkan languages]
- Stilo, D. (2005). Iranian as a buffer zone between the universal typologies of Turkic and Semitic. In Csató, E. A., B. Isaksson and C. Jahani (eds.), *Linguistic Convergence and Areal Diffusion: Case Studies from Iranian, Semitic and Turkic* (pp. 35-64). Routledge Curzon.
- Tomić, O. Mišeska (2006). *The Balkan Sprachbund morphosyntactic features*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- Tomić, O. Mišeska (2008). An integrated areal-typological approach. Local convergence of morphosyntactic features in the Balkan Sprachbund. In Muysken, P. (ed.), *From Linguistic Areas to Areal Linguistics* (pp. 181-219). Amsterdam/ Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Antonios Polentas is currently in his completion year under the supervision of Prof. Robert Borsley. His main areas of interests are Morphosyntax, areal linguistics and typology.

## Joanna Ryfa



### The BATH vowel in Redditch New Town - has a new dialect emerged?

Recent trends in modern British dialectology place dialect contact (Trudgill 1986, Britain 2005) and new dialect formation (Trudgill 2004, Britain and Trudgill 2005, Kerswill and Trudgill 2005) at the centre of the argument to explain ongoing linguistic changes. Consequently, some researchers have investigated New Towns as a locale for looking at the creation of new dialects. However, up until now, linguists have looked at places which sit firmly in the same dialect region as a large conurbation and consequently the outcomes of the contact in New Towns have not been as dramatic.

My research explores the dialect of the New Town of Redditch, which is located in a different dialect area to the nearby conurbation (Birmingham), but which has drawn the greatest proportion of its new residents from there. Redditch sits in the linguistic south, whereas Birmingham is classified as a northern dialect. Therefore, my study investigates a New Town with a more radical and diverse mix of incomer dialects and looks at the linguistic consequences of the contact over 40 years after the designation of Redditch as a New Town in 1964.

Here, data will be presented for the BATH vowel from four groups of speakers defined by age: corresponding with the subsequent generations of migrants to the New Town, as well as elderly inhabitants of Old Redditch and their offspring, in order to establish whether focusing for this feature has occurred in the speech of the Redditchians. In addition, I will consider the demographic history and the current demographic situation of the locality, as well as speakers' attitudes towards the development of the New Town, as means of accounting for the changes occurring for the vowel discussed.

## References

Britain, David. 2005. 'Language/Dialect Contact'. In Keith Brown (ed.) *Encyclopaedia of Language and Linguistics (2nd edition): Volume 6*. Oxford: Elsevier, 651-656.

Britain, David and Peter Trudgill. 2005. 'New dialect formation and contact-induced reallocation: three case studies from the Fens'. *International Journal of English Studies* 5 (1), 183-209.

Kerswill, Paul and Peter Trudgill. 2005. 'The birth of new dialects'. In Peter Auer, Frans Hinskens and Paul Kerswill (eds). *Dialect change: Convergence and divergence in European languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 196-220.

Trudgill, Peter. 1986. *Dialects in contact*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Trudgill, Peter. 2004. *New-Dialect Formation: The Inevitability of Colonial Englishes*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

## Caroline Piercy



### /a:/ and /r/ in Dorset English

This paper examines two variables in Dorset English:

- the presence or absence of non-prevocalic/coda /r/ (rhoticity)
- the quality and length of the vowel in the BATH lexical set.

Accents in the southwest of England are characterised as being rhotic (e.g. Wells 1982) and having the long front vowel /a:/ in the BATH lexical set (e.g. Wakelin 1986). This research aims to see to what extent this generalisation is still true and whether there is change in progress with regards to these variables. Research from other traditionally rhotic areas e.g. Exeter (Sullivan 1992) and the Isle of Wight (Williams 1991) suggests that rhoticity is dying out. This talk reports on data collected in 2006 which shows that rhoticity is indeed in decline being all but absent from the younger age group. Rhoticity amongst the older speakers demonstrates a decline as predicted by an urban to rural hierarchy of linguistic change.

However, a subsequent auditory analysis of the same speakers for the vowel in words of the BATH lexical set, has shown very different initial results. Unlike rhoticity, the traditional variant /a:/ is still found in the younger age group. In this group some speakers used solely /a:/ and others a long back vowel /ɑ:/ with a further group using both. Conversely with regards to the results for rhoticity, it was found that the traditional variant was being used more in the most urban location suggesting contra-hierarchical diffusion of linguistic change.

The implications for these differing findings will be discussed and the direction of on-going research presented.

### References

Sullivan, A. (1991) *Sound change in progress: a study of phonological change and lexical diffusion, with reference to glottalization and r-loss in the speech of some Exeter schoolchildren* Exeter: University of Exeter Press

Wakelin, Martyn. F. (1986) *The southwest of England* Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company

Wells, J.C. (1982) *Accents of English* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Williams, Michael. (1991). Postvocalic (r) in the urban speech of the Isle of Wight. *Wellington Working Papers in Linguistics* 3, 56-66

## Dave Elder-Vass



### From speech community to intersecting linguistic circles

This paper examines the relationship between social groups and linguistic practice. Motivated in part by the challenges of linguistic intersectionality, it introduces the concept of linguistic circles as an alternative to the speech communities model and a complement to the communities of practice model. It deploys a critical realist social ontology, developing Simmel's account of intersecting social circles to argue that the standardisation of linguistic practice is caused by the impact of linguistic circles on linguistic behaviour. By contrast with

some versions of the speech communities model, the model proposed here is well placed to account for linguistic intersectionality, it enables us to theorise both linguistic commonalities and variation, it is compatible with both linguistic stability and linguistic change, and it provides a clear account of the respective roles of, and interactions between, social structure and human agency.

Dave Elder-Vass  
Department of Sociology  
University of Essex  
2 May 2008

## Dave Sayers



### From language rights to language survival: a typology of acquisition planning

Building on Nancy Hornberger's integrative framework of language planning, and expanding on Freeland & Patrick's distinction between 'language rights' and 'language survival', this paper offers a five-point typology of language acquisition planning.

The typology begins with 'integration' measures for linguistic minorities, designed to incorporate the mother tongue into education in order to facilitate better acquisition of the dominant language, primarily to improve employment prospects. This may come with positive overtones about the minority language, but carries no explicit interest in its long term maintenance. Examples include Spanish bilingual programmes and African American Vernacular English 'dialect readers' in the USA.

A range of language planning efforts are then considered which place successively greater emphasis on the importance of the language itself, with a correspondingly weaker attachment to the rights or welfare of the people speaking them: from Catalan and Welsh language planning - catering to partially bilingual populations - right through to Cornish, which aims to propagate a language across an almost exclusively English-monolingual population in Cornwall.

The rhetoric of these various efforts is briefly considered, and how these different efforts are advertised to their respective interest groups. This will hopefully open out a distinction not well made in the literature, between allowing people to speak their own language to make their lives easier and asking or requiring people to speak a language in order to keep that language alive.

## Gareth Price



### Language Policy and its Discontents: A Case Study of Taiwan

Languages in Taiwan have long been the site of fierce contestation of political power and national and cultural identity. From colonisation by the Dutch in the 17th century, through nominal Chinese control for the next two hundred years, Japanese colonisation in the first half of the 20th century and Martial Law under the Chinese Nationalist government (KMT) in the second, successive regimes have attempted to impose repressive language policies on Taiwan that have reflected their political aims and ambitions.

Following political reform and democratisation in 2000, the DPP government introduced yet another language policy. In keeping with the ethos of promoting inclusiveness and democracy, DPP language policy attempted to reverse the decline of non-Mandarin languages - such as Holo, Hakka, and indigenous Austronesian languages - by mandating their study in the general school curriculum, requiring broadcasters to produce proportions of their programming in these languages, and encouraging their use in wider society. This policy, however, was not without its own political agenda: the DPP's stated goal of declaring full independence from China relied on successfully fostering a unified Taiwanese identity that transcended ethnic divisions: an inclusive language policy was seen as a primary way to achieve this. In addition, the DPP embarked on an ambitious programme to promote English language education, even floating the suggestion in 2002 that it be made a second official language alongside Mandarin, a policy that is also politically motivated, as independence is only possible with recognition from the wider international community, for whom English is the global lingua franca.

This paper uses data from sociolinguistic interviews, media reports, and policy documents to examine how successful these policies have been over the last eight years. It argues that the DPP's language policy failed to truly achieve its stated goals of equality and inclusiveness, for a number of political, social, and institutional reasons. The role of English as a 'gatekeeper' to higher education and employment is analysed, as are the political relationships between those responsible for formulating policy, and those responsible for its implementation. It goes on to speculate on the future direction of language policies in Taiwan, in light of the DPP's defeat in the March 2008 presidential and legislative elections.

## Vasiliki Georgiou



### Circularity in the reproduction of language ideologies: the case of Greek Cypriot TV series

Drawing from work on language ideologies (e.g. Kroskrity, 2000; Schieffelin et al, 1998; Blommaert, 1999) and CDA (Fairclough, 1995; 2003; Wodak et al, 1999), the aim of this paper is to show how the complex relationship between language ideologies, linguistic practices and media politics contributes to the reproduction of evaluations of the Cypriot-Greek dialect as a ‘non-serious’ linguistic variety; not suitable for discussing ‘serious’ matters, despite the latter’s increased visibility on television since the mid-1990s with the proliferation of private TV channels in Cyprus.

More specifically, language ideologies guide what is (not) possible to be said/done in the public sphere and function both as a resource and a constraint for the public representation of languages on television (and their evaluation). These, in combination with concerns of channels with cost, audience share, time zones etc, have consequences for the production of publics which in turn legitimate public representations (Gal & Woolard, 2001).

The data for this paper come from a corpus of interviews conducted within a larger project investigating language ideologies in Cyprus. The analysis here is based on loosely-structured group interviews with ‘ordinary’ people, focusing on their evaluations of the content and language used in the TV series, and on a fairly structured interview with the managing director of a private TV channel, focusing on the rationale behind policy decisions. Insights from these interviews (complemented by the TV series, the channels’ websites and other individual interviews conducted within the wider research project), in combination with the sociolinguistic context of Cyprus show that the complex links that motivate the production and evaluation of these TV series reproduce and perpetuate the current status of the Cypriot Greek dialect.

### Key words

Language ideologies, media politics, representation of language varieties

Vasiliki Georgiou is a 3rd year PhD Student at the University of Southampton under the supervision of Prof. Patrick Stevenson. Her areas of interest are: language ideologies, language policy and planning, language and identity construction, language and history/nationalism, (critical) discourse analysis, ethnographic approaches to language and communication.



## Pam Knight



### Doctors expectations of their roles and patients roles in diabetic consultations

Several interactional asymmetries have been cited in support of the existence of an asymmetric relationship between doctors and patients in medical consultations including; quantitative dominance, i.e., doctors talk more and ask more questions than patients do ; sequential dominance i.e., doctors ask specific questions and thus restrict patient responses (Marvel et al 1999) and participatory dominance i.e., doctors interrupt patients' turns (Beckman and Frankel 1984). The findings often relate, however, to a traditional style of consultation in which doctors practice using the biomedical approach.

Studies have often been carried out in acute visit clinics. In such clinics it might not be surprising to find sequential dominance since the emphasis is on diagnosis of a new problem for the patient, and thus they often feature a predominant information-gathering phase. This type of clinic contrasts with a long-term illness clinic in which a patient returns several times a year for an ongoing illness and for which there is little similar linguistic literature.

There are two noteworthy points that emerge from these observations: (1) Doctors are now encouraged to practice using the biopsychosocial model of care, which emphasises the person as a holistic being (symptoms interrelated), and which means, potentially, adaptation of new approaches to care for doctors. (2) New approaches to long-term illness management acknowledge the expertise that patients have in the everyday management of their illness and thus encourage patient- doctor partnerships in long-term illness care. This means the potential for patients to be more active in consultations. These factors change the ways in which doctors and patients interact with one another and can potentially lead to a more equal consultation in terms of participation.

This presentation comes from a work in progress which examines the interaction that takes place between doctors and patients in diabetic clinics. Seven semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven doctors who have been in general practice for an average of sixteen years. The aim was to elicit discussion on the topics of:

- caring for someone with diabetes;
- the diabetic clinic;
- perceived roles in the management of diabetes,
- and meanings relating to the interaction that takes place in consultations.

Four specific questions, adapted from Anderson and Funnel (2005), were asked towards the end of the interviews. In addition to eliciting discussion on these specific topics, the four questions were also used to assess the degree to which the doctors' practice reflected the traditional model of care. In total, 100 minutes of data were transcribed, using conventions adapted from Gail Jefferson (1984).

From detailed analysis of prosodic as well as lexico-grammatical features, idioms, discursive strategies and explicit statements within the texts, I show that doctors don't always see themselves as authoritarian practitioners, practicing within the sphere of the traditional model, but rather as having different dynamic roles within consultations. Their expectations of patients are that patients will participate in consultations and management of their own long-term illness.

## References

Anderson R. and Funnell M. M. (2005) Patient Empowerment: reflections on the challenge of fostering the adoption of a new paradigm. *Patient education and Counselling* 57:153-157

Beckman H. B. and Frankel R.M. (1984) The Effect of physician behaviour on the collection of data. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 101: 692- 696

West (1984)

Itakura H. (2001) Describing conversational dominance *Journal of Pragmatics* 33 : 1859-1880

Marvel, M.K. et al (1999) Soliciting the patients agenda: Have we improved? *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 281 (3) 283-287

## Ariel Vázquez Carranza



### Social Deixis: T/V distinction in the Mexican University Context

The sociolinguistic analysis of speech styles takes into account the referential and stylistic functions of pronouns whose usage is determined by the relationship established between the speaker and the addressee. Brown & Gilman's (1960) pioneering work on pronominal social deixis in Indo-European languages described the overlapping of the solidarity semantic dimension (T-T) with the power semantic one (V-V); it also predicted a tendency towards the shift to a reciprocal T form of solidarity. A more recent study conducted by Orozco (2006) in Mexican Spanish reinforces what the former authors argued. Both studies suggest that younger generations with a university level of education are more likely to use reciprocal (T-T) in a given relationship; therefore, we may predict that in a university context people would address and be addressed with the T form; however, through observation, we notice variation in the address forms in the Mexican university context.

The analysis I present is based on the observation of the pronominal forms of address in three university settings: The Facultad de Lenguas of the UAEM, the University Council of the same university and a private university, IUFIM. The findings of this study support the claim that the shift towards T form (suggested in the studies above) has spread to other contexts such as home, work, or with fellow students, etc. but not in the relationship between teacher and student in a university. That is why it is worth analyzing this relationship to see what path it has followed, solidarity, respect or politeness. In the Facultad de Lenguas, we notice that there is indeed a shift to mutual T. However, some teachers are addressed with T while others with the V form depending not only on how old they look, but also on how the students perceive them. Students will always be addressed with T form despite their age. In the UAEM University Council, formed by teachers and students, I found that all participants address each other with mutual V form due to the fact that everyone has the same status in this context. Finally, in the private university, IUFIM, usage of pronominal address forms is constrained by the University policies, where reciprocal (T-T) is banned between teachers and students. There are, however, some young 'rebel' teachers that go against these rules and do let their students address them with the 'prohibited' form.

Ariel Vázquez Carranza is on his first year of study at the University of Essex under the supervision of Dr. Rebecca Clift. His main area of interest is Conversation Analysis.

Dr Rebecca Clift



### Grammar in time: the non-restrictive 'which' clause as an interactional resource

This paper examines the interactional implementation of the non-restrictive relative 'which'-clause. In interaction this clause is commonly produced as an increment: that is, after a main clause has come to prosodic completion. Such usage in an initial data set is found to satisfy two potentially conflicting interactional constraints: the principles of minimisation and of progressivity. Extended examination of the placement of this increment reveals the extent to which it is implicated in the interactional projects of alignment and disalignment.