SLX16

The 16th Postgraduate Conference in Sociolinguistics

Organising Committee:

Deana Carey

Stefanie Lang

Marija Velkovica

PROGRAMME

TIME	AUTHOR AND TITLE
10:00–10:30	*Registration and Opening*
10:30–11:00	**ERICA SCHRAMMA** Bidialectalism and Accommodation in Children of American Parents Living in Essex
11:00–11:30	**JENNIFER AMOS** The Performance and Enregisterment of Dialect Features in Mersea Island English
11:30–12:00	**COFFEE BREAK**
12:00–12:30	**DEANA CAREY** LADO – An Overview
12:30–13:00	**YUKARI YAMAOKA** Language Rights of Ainu – The Indigenous People in a Northern Island of Japan
13:00–14:00	**LUNCH BREAK**
14:00–14:30	**ARIEL VÁZQUEZ CARRANZA** *Oye* in Naturally Occuring Spanish Talk
14:30–15:00	**FAWAS MOHAMMED MARTINI** Turn by Turn Development of Institutional Roles and Identities
15:00–15:30	**STEFANIE LANG** On the Delicacy of Assessing Proposals – An Interactional Analysis of Meeting Talk in a German Editorial Office
15:30–16:00	**COFFEE BREAK**
16:00–16:45	**ENAM AL-WER** The Fallacy of a Top-Down Approach in Sociolinguistic Analysis - Focus on Arabic
16:45–17:00	*Closing*

Social Event (6pm onwards)

BIDIALECTALISM AND ACCOMMODATION IN CHILDREN OF AMERICAN PARENTS LIVING IN ESSEX

Erica Schramma

University of Essex

The sociolinguistic study of second dialect acquisition (SDA) through accommodation is a phenomenon that has not been extensively researched, though it is a common occurrence due to modern population mobility. Children are the most capable of this process, often eventually sounding indistinguishable from a native. Several important studies reveal consistent patterns in dialect acquisition. Payne (1976, 1980) studied the acquisition of the Philadelphia dialect and revealed that even children who were born in the city but whose parents were not did not consistently apply the local dialect rules. Trudgill (1986) reveals how individualistic dialect acquisition is through studying the speech of English-born twins in Australia. Chambers (1988, 1992, 1995) established principles of dialect acquisition through a study of Canadian children in southern England. Tagliamonte and Molfenter's (2007) study on Canadian children acquiring a northern English dialect looks at very young children. While these studies and others (e.g. Shockey 1984, Starks and Bayard 2002) mentioned give a picture of what is gained through acquisition, they do not investigate exactly how much variation is possible in the children's dialects when accommodating to speakers of their parents' dialects and local native speakers of the target dialect.

This study will examine the current dialect status of four children of American parents living in Essex, who have each lived in the area for at least five years. The boys are aged 9-13, and moved to Essex at various ages, from 1 to 7. Because this age range falls into the normal definition of the critical period of language acquisition (also supported in the SDA literature in order to get most native-like pronunciation), it is possible the boys will accommodate their speech to varying degrees; the most extreme situation would be bidialectalism, where they speak American English at home and Essex English with their friends. This study will examine to what degree features of each dialect are present in the subjects' speech. The subjects will be recorded in casual conversation with the researcher (a speaker of an American dialect), their families, each other and other friends. There will be about 3-4 hours of recording for each speaker. Features to be systematically investigated include open vowel rounding, manifestations of /t/ and allophony of /l/. This research will give insight into systematic accommodation through distinct dialect usage and help support the fledgling field of second dialect acquisition.

Erica is a MA student in Varieties of English under the supervision of Prof. Peter Patrick. Her areas of interest are dialects of English, dialect contact, Phonetics and Phonology.

THE PERFORMANCE AND ENREGISTERMENT OF DIALECT FEATURES IN MERSEA ISLAND ENGLISH

Jennifer Amos

University of Essex

A primary focus in modern sociolinguistic investigation is the capture of unmonitored, natural speech. A common way that this is obtained is through sociolinguistic interviews, designed to elicit speech which is deemed as casual as possible. However, the structure and use of performed rote phrases and the emulation of stereotypes through language (both of which can be said to be highly monitored) can also enlighten sociolinguistic research.

Schilling-Estes describes a performance phrase as the use of "that register associated with speakers attempting to display for others a certain language or language variety" (1998:53) and that these linguistic performances are also steeped in social connotations. The link between certain linguistic structures and encoded social values has also been presented and discussed with respect to the notion of 'dialect enregisterment' (by, for example, Agha (2003), Beal (2009) and Johnstone et al (2006)), which also represents the tie between social aspects (such as locality, stylistics) and linguistic structure.

This presentation will discuss data patterns relating to three diphthongs in Mersea Island English:

1. The Canadian Raising patterns of (ɔ✝) and (ɔ✋)
2. The centralisation of (ʰ✋) in BOY morphemes
3. The monophthongisation and backing of (ɔ✋) in the lexical item 'Island'

Through the examination of data from both performance speech and casual 'unmonitored' speech, it will be seen that there is a difference between the enregisterment of contextual phonological rules and the enregisterment of general phonological rules. It will also be seen that some patterns of variation may not be subject to overt comment and thus may not be enregistered as a dialect marker.

Jenny is in her PhD completion year under the supervision of Dr Wyn Johnson and Dr David Britain. Her area of interest is the interface between Phonology and Sociolinguistics.

LADO – AN OVERVIEW

Deana Carey
University of Essex

This paper describes the process of language analysis to determine origin. In April 2010, an interdisciplinary group comprising linguists and lawyers from various fields met at an ESF (European Science Foundation) exploratory workshop entitled "*ESF Exploratory Workshop on Language and origin: the role of language in European asylum procedures*". Using issues raised at this conference as a framework and reviewing other relevant literature, this paper explores some of the most controversial aspects of language analysis in the asylum process. To illustrate some of the problems of using language as a tool to establish a person's origin a case study documented in Blommaert's 2010 paper will be used.

The most striking point to immerge throughout this paper is the need for further study and continuing evaluation of LADO processes and

fortunately it appears that this is indeed occurring. It may well be that precedents from the legal field shape developments in LADO as questions are asked about limits of its evidentiary value. Eades notes over the last three or four years the use of LADO in Australia has greatly reduced with political factors related to legal decisions playing a major part in this decline (2010:39). There may well be an immergence of a similar pattern in Europe although this seems unlikely especially for countries such as the Netherlands where LADO forms such an integral part of the asylum process.

Whatever the developments over time, one factor should remain at the spearhead of any debate about LADO and that is the need to remember that it can form part of a decision that has life threatening consequences. Thus it should remain high on the agenda of not only linguists and lawyers but also politicians and leaders, nationally and internationally.

Key words: language analysis; asylum seeker; linguistic mapping; native speaker.

LANGUAGE RIGHTS OF AINU – THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN A NORTHERN ISLAND OF JAPAN

Yukari Yamaoka
University of Essex

For the last few decades the human rights of Ainu, known as the people who have indigenously lived in a northern island of Japan, Hokkaido, have been of great concern both inside and outside of the

country. The few discussions that have taken place have focused on their language rights. It may be partially because the speakers of the language are decreasing in number and are aging. However, the fact that there are strong claims from Ainu for the establishment of educational language programmes and a movement for language revitalization enables us to understand that it is important to examine this issue from the view of language rights. By examining the language policy in Japan and the government's attitude towards international instruments, which are concerned with language rights, as well as comparing the case of Ainu with that of other indigenous groups, this report attempts to seek appropriate courses of action for improving the situation. Two actions are suggested in this report; the country should have a language policy which entitles all citizens to enjoy their language rights, such as by making international instruments part of national law; it also needs to establish educational programmes, which provide both Ainu and non-Ainu with opportunities to learn and have a better understanding of Ainu in addition to teaching their culture and the language.

Yukari is a MA student in Sociolinguistics under the supervision of Dr Rebecca Clift. Her areas of interest are Language Rights and Conversation Analysis.

OYE IN NATURALLY OCCURRING SPANISH TALK

Ariel Vázquez Carranza

University of Essex

Relying on the methodology of Conversation Analysis, this paper examines the Spanish particle *oye* in naturally occurring conversations. The lay conceptions of this particle indicate that it is merely an interjection; however, it turns out that *oye* is a sequential marker that systematically operates in conversation. In general, *oye* marks the start of a sequence: it prefaces an enquiry, and it may be accompanied by pre-shift tokens (Jefferson, 1983). In terms of the type of sequences where *oye* is used in conversation, the data shows that most of the sequences are topic shift related such as topic initial elicitor, itemised news enquiry and news announcements (Burton and Casey, 1985); however, *oye* seems to be involved in the opening of other type of sequences (e.g. request, invitation, complaint, assessment).

References:

Button, G. and Casey, N. 1985. Topic nomination and topic pursuit. *Human Studies*, 8, 3-55.

Jefferson, Gail (1993) Caveat speaker: Preliminary notes on recipient topic-shift implicature. *Research on Language and Social Interaction, 26*(1), 1-30.

Ariel is a 2nd year PhD student under the supervision of Dr Rebecca Clift. His area of interest is Conversation Analysis.

TURN-BY-TURN DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL ROLES AND IDENTITIES

Fawaz Mohammed Martini

University of Essex

Social and institutional identities, roles and tasks, are all realized through 'talk' (Schegloff, 1992). The interactional utterances that people produce do not only communicate meaning; these utterances communicate actions that orient people to specific social and institutional roles instituted and developed in their interaction on a turn-by-turn basis in (Drew & Heritage 1992). Thus, turn design and turn-taking system may have a great impact on realizing people's orientation towards certain tasks and institutional identities. Accordingly, any change in the turn-taking system or turn-design may result in a change in the attributes and characteristics of the institutional talk and consequently may lead to a change in the institutional identities assumed by interactants in a conversation. CA considers 'talk' as a locally managed activity within which local and institutional identities are established, realised and developed on a turn-by-turn basis. These institutional identities are transformable at any moment due to any contingent change in the turn-design or the turn-taking system which constitutes their talk (Drew & Heritage 1992).

By applying Conversation Analysis ethnomethodology the following argument casts light on the impact of the change in turn-design and turn-taking system on the realisation and development of the

institutional identities of interactants in one of the most highly restricted institutional forms of interaction: the 'news interview'.

Fawaz is a MA student in Applied Linguistics under the supervision of Dr Rebecca Clift.

ON THE DELICACY OF ASSESSING PROPOSALS – AN INTERACTIONAL ANALYSIS OF MEETING TALK IN A GERMAN EDITORIAL OFFICE

Stefanie Lang

University of Essex

Based on data collected in a German editorial office participants' linguistic behaviour in assessing other participants' proposals in an internal meeting will be explored. The focus will be on the management of negative evaluations, being a particularly delicate issue as they represent a face threatening act for the person having made the proposal (Brown and Levinson 1987; Pomerantz 1984). Professional competencies as well as personal relationships are at stake in such situations. Yet, if a proposal is made, the sequential organisation of the interaction demands an assessment as second pair part (Maynard 1984), may it be positive or negative. Thus, participants have to find a way to reconcile interpersonal relationships with the assessment of other colleagues' proposals. Adapting an interactional sociolinguistics approach, participants' strategies that serve to mitigate or forestall such face threatening acts and thus to maintain working relationships while making negative assessments will be illustrated.

A particular caution of participants can be observed when a proposal is made by a superior. In these cases, participants choose to completely withhold assessments. If doubts concerning the proposal are expressed by a member of staff, this happens on professional grounds, without displaying direct non-alignment.

In contrast to this, proposals put forward by other participants are assessed. However, it can be observed at various instances in the data that the person carrying out the negative assessment is interrupted by another participant who in turn makes another proposal, therefore aborting the face-threatening act.

Thus, participants have developed a strategy for making-up for face-threatening acts among colleagues which, however, they do not apply to their superior. They thereby show an orientation towards hierarchical status which consequently inhibits the free flow of communication, especially communication that is upwards directed.

References:

Brown, P. and Levinson, S. (1987). *Politeness: Some universals in language use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Maynard, D.W. (1984). *Inside plea bargaining: The language of negotiation*. New York: Plenum Press.

Pomerantz, A. (1984). Agreeing and disagreeing with assessments: Some features of preferred/ dispreferred turn shapes. In J.M. Atkinson and J. Heritage (Eds). *Structures of social action: Studies in conversation analysis* (pp. 57-101). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Stefanie is a MA student in Management and Professional Communication under the supervision of Prof. Peter Patrick. Her areas of interest are in workplace communication / institutional talk and Sociolinguistics.

THE FALLACY OF A TOP-DOWN APPROACH IN SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS - FOCUS ON ARABIC

Enam Al-Wer

University of Essex

Sociolinguistics as pioneered by William Labov in the 1960's has its foundations in traditional dialectology. It can be seen as the progression that introduced scientific and accountable methods into 'the study of language in its social context', drawing in the first instance on the contributions of early work in dialectology. But while we witness this progression in sociolinguistic research on many languages, most notably English, Arabic sociolinguistics has operated almost independently of Arabic dialectology. I argue that this unfortunate situation was precipitated by an approach to analysing variation in Arabic in a top-down fashion. This practice has relegated the huge amount of linguistic information available from research in Arabic dialectology to the periphery of sociolinguistic research. At the micro-sociolinguistic level the outcome in many cases has been to neglect the relevant information, for instance the social meanings of linguistic variables which were left unanalysed or treated as a mere by-product. In this presentation, I will address the issue from

theoretical and empirical perspectives, citing recently reported cases of linguistic variation and change in Arabic-speaking communities.