

The 17th Postgraduate Conference in Sociolinguistics



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**THE 17TH POSTGRADUATE
CONFERENCE IN SOCIOLOGUISTICS**

18 JUNE 2012

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The 17th Postgraduate Conference in Sociolinguistics

Programme

Time	Author and Title
9:30 10:00	<i>Registration and Opening</i>
10:00 10:30	Ariel Vázquez Carranza Responding to the obvious: A treatment of pues as a sequential marker in Mexican Spanish talk-in-interaction
10:30 11:00	Negaar Ilghami An investigation into approaches to language ideology and attitude investigation
11:00 11:30	Kimberly Baxter Language attitudes of the Jamaican Diaspora
11:30 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 12:30	Elizabeth Sneller “Aw, Man!”: The effects of hometown affiliation on pronunciation of short /a/ in Holland, Michigan’
12:30 13:00	Esther van der Pol Language and Transgender: A Dutch Pilot Study
13:00 13:30	Emily Black Understanding what is not said: Exploring L2 comprehension of indirect meaning
13:30 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 15:00	Najla Al-ghamdi The Ghamdi diphthongs AY/AW in the city of Makka: Between preservation and variation
15:00 15:30	Rebeen Rasheed Loanwords in Kurdish: A case study in the Badinani Area
15:30 16:00	Gustav Jonsson Gullberg Sami language survival through education
16:00 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 17:15	Vineeta Chand Sociolinguistic stereotypes and their relevance for LVC: The case of (v/ w) in urban New Delhi Indian English elites
17:15 17:30	Closing

Social Event (18:30 onwards)

‘RESPONDING TO THE OBVIOUS: A TREATMENT OF PUES AS A SEQUENTIAL MARKER IN MEXICAN SPANISH TALK-IN-INTERACTION’

Ariel Vázquez Carranza
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The present study is framed within the methodological basis of Conversation Analysis. It reports on the analysis of the Spanish particle *pues* in Mexican Spanish talk-in-interactions. The general sequential context that is examined is *pues*-prefacing in the second pair part of an adjacency pair; in particular, the analysis examines *pues*-prefacing in the second pair part of an assessment sequence; and *pues*-prefacing in response to *wh*- and polar questions. The analysis shows that *pues*, prefacing an agreement, treats previous talk as obvious while indexing epistemic independence on the matter at hand. Similar to the English ‘well’, *pues* is used to index disagreement and to mark unstraightforwardness in response to questions. In straightforward responses, *pues* indicates that the answer is obvious while challenging the relevance of the question.

Ariel is in his third year of PhD studies in Sociolinguistics under the supervision of Dr. Rebecca Clift. His area of interest is conversation analysis.

‘AN INVESTIGATION IN APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE IDEOLOGY AND ATTITUDE INVESTIGATION’

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Key words: language variation and change, attitude, ideology, discourse analysis, data collection

Analyzing language variation and discovering probable pattern of language change is one of the pivotal areas of studies in sociolinguistics. Indeed, this linguistic phenomenon has been studied from several perspectives considering several linguistic and extra-linguistic factors. One of the social (extra-linguistic) factors considered as a probable source of language change is linguistic ideology and speaker’s attitude toward languages and varieties of languages. These terms are not defined and used in the same way in sociolinguistic investigation. Consequently, the current study is an attempt to review previous research and represent various views on ideology and attitudes, define them and differentiate them. The current study includes two types of investigations focusing on language/ideology and language/attitude: first, how language use can reflect ideologies and attitudes and how it can change speaker’s attitude and ideologies to power relation; the research area related to discourse analysis; and how linguistic ideologies and speaker’s attitude may lead to language change; research area fascinated mostly variationists. Therefore, the main questions of the study are the following: What are the different approaches to language attitudes and language ideologies investigation? What are the data collecting methods used to discover individual’s attitude to language? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each data collecting method? Finally, one of the data collecting methods is used to carry out a pilot study. The method of the study is content analysis and the relevant data are collected from books, papers, reliable websites and dissertations. The study highlights the main practical approaches to language ideology and attitude and provides a possible data collecting method for the field.

Negaar is an MA student in Sociolinguistics under the supervision of Dr. Vineeta Chand. Her areas of interest are language ideologies, attitudes and their impact on language variation and change.

'LANGUAGE ATTITUDES OF THE JAMAICAN DIASPORA'

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While Jamaican Patois is a very important part of Jamaican Culture, it carries with it the stigmatization of a centuries-old ideology, which regards it (and other Creoles) as “broken English,” as mentioned in several publications on the matter. (Cassidy 1961, Bailey 1966, Beckford Wassink 1999) There is much debate within the Jamaican community with regard to the domains in which Jamaican Patois should be used, and especially with regard to whether or not it should be taught as a written language.

However, the issue of language attitudes within the Jamaican community is not limited to those living on the island. While there are over 2.5 million people currently living in Jamaica, there are nearly twice as many Jamaicans (roughly 5 million) living abroad; yet despite this, there is a distinct lack of information regarding the language attitudes of those who no longer reside within the island nation. This study is a replica of the Language Attitude Survey of Jamaica (LASJ), taken in 2005 by the Jamaican Language Unit, and aims to document the language attitudes of the Jamaican Diaspora in such a way that the data would be comparable to the data taken from respondents currently living in Jamaica. The LASJ surveyed a total of 1000 respondents, male and female, from three age groups: 18-30, 31-50, and 51-80 years of age. The respondents came from rural and urban settings from the Western, Central, and Eastern regions of the island. The sample I take (Roughly 60 respondents, 30 each from UK and North America) will be separated into the same age groups, but for this research, respondents will be grouped according to the countries in which the respondents currently reside, rather than what region of Jamaica they hail from. The original survey administered in the LASJ was a written closed-question survey with the choice to opt out and give an explanation as to why:

“8. If the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance made his speech in Gordon house in Patwa would you think he is trying to:

- a) communicate better with the public?
 - b) talk down to the masses?
 - c) Other
- IF 1c) PLEASE EXPLAIN:”

(LASJ, 2005)

In addition to the original questions used in the LASJ, my questionnaire also includes questions in which the scenario takes place in the setting where the respondent currently lives, since *where* the language is being used is equally as important in this case as *what* language is being used.

By documenting the language attitudes of Jamaicans living abroad in the UK and in North America, this study aims not only to shed light upon their views, but to examine the differences between their opinions and the opinions of Jamaicans living in Jamaica and the potential reasons behind these differences.

Kimberly is an MA student in Sociolinguistics under the supervision of Prof. Peter Patrick. Her areas of interest are forensic linguistics, pragmatics, forensic stylistics and language attitudes and ideologies.

"AW, MAN!": THE EFFECTS OF HOMETOWN AFFILIATION ON PRONUNCIATION OF SHORT /A/ IN HOLLAND, MICHIGAN.

Elizabeth Sneller: *esnell@essex.ac.uk*
University of Essex

Past research into group affiliation and its effect on language has largely focused on linguistic differences between two opposing groups. Eckert (1989) showed a clear linguistic differentiation between the opposing high school groups of Jocks and Burnouts. Dodsworth (2005) showed that speakers in the suburb town of Worthington, Ohio use a higher or lower level of /l/-vocalization to show their affiliation with or against the encroaching city of

Columbus, while Fix (2010) showed white women appropriating AAVE features in direct correlation to their affiliation with their surrounding black neighborhoods.

Attitudes and affiliation clearly have an effect on linguistic practices. These past studies have shown that affiliation with a particular group can be a significant predictor of linguistic practices. But what about negative attitudes that do not have a target group to affiliate with? Does a negative affiliation away from a particular group affect linguistic practices in the same way that positive affiliations have been shown to?

This study is a look into the effects of negative affiliation. It investigates the linguistic practices of a single Community of Practice of high school boys in Holland, MI, to see how their affiliation toward the city of Holland affects their participation in the Northern Cities Shift (NCS). The NCS is a vowel shift in progress affecting much of the inland north of the United States, including Holland, Michigan. Many of the kids in this study relate a basic awareness of the most salient aspect of the NCS: the raising of short /a/, or as they say it, "I get made fun of for how I say 'Aw man!'"

The single friendship group investigated in this study is comprised of kids with positive and kids with negative attitudes toward Holland. This gives a unique opportunity to look at the effects of affiliation, since most other social factors are the same (age, gender, socio-economic status, hometown). If there is a difference in the rate of short /a/ raising in these kids, this difference can reasonably be attributed to the effects of hometown affiliation. The question is whether a negative affiliation and a basic awareness of a salient feature is enough to affect pronunciation. With no specific target accent to accommodate to, does an orientation against Holland affect the rate of short /a/ raising in these kids?

Elizabeth is an MA student in Sociolinguistics under the supervision of Dr. Vineeta Chand. Her areas of interest are language variation and change, language and identity and sociolinguistics.

'LANGUAGE AND TRANSGENDER: A DUTCH PILOT STUDY'

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University of Essex

Non-normative, *transgender* identities have been marginalized in the Language and Gender literature, even though they are very important to all the major theories that have been developed in this area (Hall 2003, 354). This is more striking when you consider that Language and Gender is an area of Sociolinguistics which has received a lot of attention. However, relatively recently, a few studies of transgender communities (cf Barrett 1995, Hall 1997 and O'Donovan 1996, Kulick 1997, Besnier 2003 and Gaudio 1997) have attempted to begin to make non-normative gender identities visible in the field of language and gender.

Strikingly however, there have not been any studies on Dutch, even though the Netherlands are often seen as one of the most progressive countries in terms of LGBT issues and visibility. Moreover, Dutch still remains a largely unstudied language in the field of Sociolinguistics. Therefore this study will focus on Dutch transgender speakers, and transsexual individuals in particular. More specifically, it aims to form a language and identity pilot study to develop further research questions and to start to understand how language is related to being transgender.

Questions that shall be explored are: Is language an important part of the transition and subsequent identity? Are they aiming for heteronormative language practice norms or for a different gender/sexuality presentation through language? How do they think they need to/are changing their language practices through these transitions? How do they contest or reify existing norms for how genders/sexualities 'should' talk? And do they see this as a personal or a group/social thing? Moreover, their personal attitudes and ideologies towards gender and views on society's normative gender norms (including language) shall also be addressed.

Esther is an MA student in Sociolinguistics under the supervision of Prof. Peter Patrick. Her areas of interest are language ideologies, attitudes and their impact on language variation and change.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS NOT SAID: EXPLORING L2 COMPREHENSION OF INDIRECT MEANING

Emily Black: *eblacka@essex.ac.uk*
University of Essex

Pragmatic competence is defined as a second language speaker's ability to both 'convey and interpret meaning in context' (Taguchi 2002). Research in this area has focused on use, with a great deal of work done comparing L2 speech act production with that of native speakers. In comparison, there has been little examination of second language pragmatic comprehension, with only a handful of studies that have investigated comprehension of implied or indirect meaning. Using naturalistic data in the form of video clips from the Channel 4 reality show 'The Family', this study will investigate the ability of Japanese second language speakers of English to recognize indirect meaning and compare their results with a group of native speakers of English. An additional aim of the study is to explore the strategies (e.g. paralinguistic cues) used to infer meaning and how they differ between the two groups under investigation. In this talk I will present the background and methodology of the study.

Emily is an MA student in Applied Linguistics and Intercultural Communication under the supervision of Dr. Beatriz de Paiva. Her areas of interest include intercultural and interlanguage pragmatics, sociolinguistics and language teaching.

'THE GHAMDI DIPHTHONGS AY/AW IN THE CITY OF MAKKA: BETWEEN PRESERVATION AND VARIATION'

Najla Alghamdi: *nmaalq@essex.ac.uk*
University of Essex

In this paper, I will present some of the results concerning the variables (aw) and (ay), which concerns the monophthongization of the diphthongs [aʊ] and [aj] as in [laʊn] ~ [lɔ:n] 'colour' and [bajt] ~ [bɛ:t] 'home'. The results were drawn from a sociolinguistic study that investigates the outcome of dialect contact in the city of Makka. In particular, it focuses on a group of migrants in the city, namely the Ghamdi tribe, who originally came from the south-western town of Al-Baha. According to Prochazka (1988), the Ghamdi dialect is grouped among the southern Hijaz dialects based on the reflexes of the Classical Arabic pattern that is C¹ aC² aC³. The two dialects in contact, Ghamdi and Makkan, differ at almost all linguistic levels, including phonology, morphology, morpho-phonemic and morpho-syntax. Following Labov, the linguistic changes were examined in correlation with social variables namely, age, gender and regionality. The regionality variable was chosen due to the differences between the speakers' place of birth and age of arrival to Makka. The regionality Index includes 7 components, Chambers (2000), helps in classifying Ghamdi migrants into indigenous, nearly indigenous, fairly indigenous, Interloper, nearly interloper and fairly interloper.

Najla is in her third year of PhD study in Sociolinguistics under the supervision of Dr. Enam Al-Wer. Her area of interest is linguistic change.

‘LOANWORDS IN KURDISH: A CASE STUDY IN THE BADINANI AREA’

Rebeen Rasheed: *rarash@essex.ac.uk*
University of Essex

The study is about the use of Arabic and English loanwords in the Kurdish Badinani dialect, which is spoken in the Akre speech community of Kurdistan, Iraq, that covers only 1991 up to 2011 period. For instance,

- (1) /pirosê/ "process" is borrowed from English.
- (2) /misecil/ "recorder" is borrowed from Arabic.

There is very little literature describing this phenomenon. Social and linguistic factors that influence the distribution of loanwords need to be explored. The study addresses the following questions:

What functions do loanwords play in Badinani?

What is the social profile of loanword use?

How does mass media in general use loanwords in TV, radio, newspaper and magazines from 1991 up to the present?

Is borrowing seen by speakers to deform the purity of the Kurdish language?

The data elicitation is based on twelve individual and four group interviews conducted in May 2012, as well as mass media data. The interview sample design takes age (3 generations), education (two levels; educated and uneducated) and gender into consideration. The mass media data consist of TV and radio programmes, newspapers and magazines since 1991 as evidence of how Arabic loanwords have been used in the recent past, and how English loanwords are now replacing many of these words. In addition, I interviewed broadcasters, editors and people in charge of developing Kurdish language policy and planning. Preliminary results and speaker justifications of borrowing will be examined.

Rebeen is an MA student in Linguistic Studies under the supervision of Prof. Peter Patrick. Her areas of interest are language variation and change, language attitudes and language ideologies and Language Rights.

‘SAMİ LANGUAGE SURVIVAL THROUGH EDUCATION’

Gustav Jonsson Gullberg: *gsjons@essex.ac.uk*
University of Essex

The Sami languages of northern Scandinavia are today spoken by a relatively few number of speakers, spread out over an area covering four countries. The Sami, as an ethnic group, is well established and numerous, but only a minority speak any of the Sami languages, and of the ten Sami languages, only three have any real prospects of surviving. This paper will look at the situation of the Sami languages in Sweden, and what is being done to ensure their survival; specifically, it will look at various educational initiatives to promote the Sami languages through teaching. It will examine the official educational policies towards minority language teachings, as well as specifically Sami initiatives towards teaching the language and culture. It will also compare the different approaches in Norway, where Sami language education is much more common than in Sweden and in some ways more successful.

Gustav is an MA student in Sociolinguistics under the supervision of Prof. Peter Patrick. His areas of interest are language rights, human rights and sociolinguistics.

‘SOCIOLINGUISTIC STEREOTYPES AND THEIR RELEVANCE FOR LVC: THE CASE OF (v/ w) IN URBAN NEW DELHI INDIAN ENGLISH ELITES’

Dr. Vineeta Chand: *vineeta @essex.ac.uk*

University of Essex

In this talk I will present the results of the quantitative variationist analysis of (w) and (v) in urban New Delhi elite speakers Indian English in terms of frequency, as well as competing internal and external factors which may motivation variation. (w/v) are suggested in pop media and non-quantitative descriptive literature, among other sources (see Chand 2009), as merged and/or variable in their realization quality. I use these findings to discuss the role of sociolinguistic stereotypes in sociolinguistic investigations of language variation and change, with implications for future sociolinguistic attention and research agendas.

SOCIAL EVENT!!!

The social event will be held at Enam’s home, beginning at about 18:30. ***All are invited!!!***

The address is on Brightlingsea Rd, on the 78/78x bus route. There are busses leaving from South Courts at 17:21, 17:57 and 18:28 and the bus ride is approximately 15 minutes. The closest stop is Thorrington Mill House and from there it is a short walk. The house name is ‘The Elms.’ More details will be provided at the end of the conference.