

## The Chameleon

Edition # 12

January 2011

1. [Appeal for updates](#)
2. [Maintaining your membership](#)
3. [New members](#)
4. [News of members](#)
5. [New historical linguistics journal](#)
6. [Publications by members](#)
7. [Profile: Manuel Delicado Cantero](#)
8. [Editorial: Robert Mailhammer](#)
9. [Events](#)
10. [Recent theses](#)
11. [Studies in Language Change series](#)
12. [Book Notes \(by Harold Koch\)](#)

### Appeal for Updates

Disappointingly, the response to the call in the last Chameleon to supply us with updated information for our Projects page got very little response. Claire Bowern has kindly renewed her offer to undertake the task of updating the page—but in order to do so, she needs information from you about what projects are completed, which ones are still in progress, and any new projects. This is a great opportunity to inform historical linguists about what you are currently doing—anyone googling on ‘historical linguistics’ or ‘language change’ finds the CRLC very quickly. Please send your information to <mailto:clairebowern@yale.edu>.

### Maintaining your membership

Our Members page lists some associate members whose original term of membership has expired and who may not be interested in renewing their membership. If you are a former student, for example, we would have changed your status from full member to associate member upon graduation, and you may not be involved in historical linguistics anymore. As part of keeping our webpage up to date (and also to avoid sending you email that you have no interest in), we are undertaking a review of our list of members.

If you are an associate member whose original membership (whether full or associate) dates back for five years or more, please let Cynthia Allen ([cynthia.allen@anu.edu.au](mailto:cynthia.allen@anu.edu.au)) know if you still wish to be listed as an associate member of the CRLC. If you do wish to continue your membership, you’ll also need to supply a brief description of your current involvement in a project in some area of historical linguistics. There is no need to take this action, however, if you have communicated with us within the last year—we know you are still interested! No need for full members to do anything either, although an update on your current projects would be much appreciated.

If we don’t hear from inactive associate members by 15 March 2011, we’ll remove them from our members page and our mailing list.

### New members

A warm welcome to these new members:

**Edith Pineda-Bernuy**, PhD candidate in linguistics, School of Language Studies, ANU (full member).

**Manuel Delicado Cantero**, Lecturer in the Spanish program, School of Language Studies, ANU (full member) (see [profile](#))

**Elisabeth Mayer**, Lecturer in the Spanish program, School of Language Studies, ANU (full member).

## News of members

**Cynthia Allen** has been appointed to the editorial board of Oxford University Press' series 'Studies in Diachronic and Historical Linguistics'.

**Claire Bowern** has been promoted to Associate Professor at Yale. Claire's Pama-Nyungan comparative database recently passed 500,000 items. Claire recently joined Joe Salmons in presenting a plenary symposium on historical linguistics at the 2011 annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Claire will also be involved in the symposium on [Hunters and Gatherers and Language Change](#).

**Mark Donohue** is now a Senior Research Fellow (equivalent to Associate Professor) at the Australian National University. Mark was recently awarded an Australian Research Council funded Future Fellowship, which will allow him to commence a project addressing human history in Asia through linguistic investigation.

This project will calibrate our understanding of linguistic change, and explore social interaction in Asia in areas and times for which there are no written records. It builds on interdisciplinary work rewriting the Austronesian expansion across Southeast Asia (Current Anthropology), recent breakthroughs in the computational treatment of linguistic data, and ongoing collaborative work assessing the Asia/Melanesia dichotomy. It will assess linguistic evidence with geographic, biological and ethnographic materials, at selected sample points. This will improve our understanding of social interactions within and across Asia, and will advance our quantitative understanding of language change – a major objective for linguistic theory.

**Rachel Hendery** received an ARC discovery project grant and postdoctoral fellowship for the project 'Change in language, culture and identity in a small isolated speech community: Palmerston Island English'

This project will investigate language variation and change through a case study of Palmerston Island, a small, isolated community in the Cook Islands, where a new dialect of English has developed. Palmerston Island was settled by an English sailor and his three Cook Island wives in the mid 1800s and since then has maintained a population of around 50 people. Palmerston Islanders speak a dialect of English with roots in Leicestershire English and significant influence from Cook Island Maori. The extreme isolation of the population and the availability of written samples of the dialect from the 1880s onwards, as well as recordings from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s, and 2010, make it a wonderful case study for new dialect formation and linguistic change. The aims of this project are to identify factors conditioning linguistic variation on Palmerston Island; to investigate whether these same factors have influenced historical change on the island; and to explore the relationship between cultural, social and linguistic identity.

**Harold Koch** organised a book launch of Harold Koch and Luise Hercus (eds), 2009, *Aboriginal placenames: Naming and re-naming the Australian landscape* (Aboriginal History Monograph 19) Canberra: ANU E Press and Aboriginal History Inc. This took place on 22 May 2010 at University House, ANU, Canberra. The book was launched by the Kevin Rudd (the then Prime Minister) in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the ANU. A

subsequent media release resulted in the editors giving about 12 media interviews on Aboriginal placenames: mostly for radio, two for newspapers, and one podcast at Ann Jones' Thought Bubble 21.09.2010

[http://podcasts.sca.ecu.edu.au/thoughtbubble/Site/Podcast/Entries/2010/9/21\\_Thought\\_Bubble](http://podcasts.sca.ecu.edu.au/thoughtbubble/Site/Podcast/Entries/2010/9/21_Thought_Bubble)

Harold has been appointed as member of editorial advisory board of the new [Journal of Historical Linguistics](#).

Harold has submitted this report on the 'AustKin' Research Project [involving CRLC members and associates in boldface]:

The Australian Research Council-funded Discovery Project (DP0878556) on Australian kinship terminology—'Tracing change in family and social organization in Indigenous Australia, using evidence from language' is in its third and final year. Participants are: Harold **Koch** and Ian Keen (Chief Investigators), Patrick **McConvell** (Research Associate .5), Rachel **Hendery** (Research Assistant (.8), Joe Blythe (Research Fellow for one year), Partner Investigator Laurent Dousset in France, other collaborators Jeanie Bell (Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education), Barry **Alpher** (Washington), Claire **Bowern** (Yale).

The project's on-line database is described in [Dousset](#) et al. 2010 (see publications).

The project also organised a 'Forum on working with archival materials' at ANU, 10 June 2010, with contributions from linguistics, historians, and anthropologists. A volume of papers based largely on a workshop held at the 2009 Nijmegen International Conference on Historical Linguistics, *Kinship systems: change and reconstruction*, has been submitted to University of Utah Press. Edited by project team members Patrick McConvell, Ian Keen, and Rachel Hendery, it contains chapters by each of the editors, plus CRLC members Harold Koch and Barry Alpher. A book proposal for the volume resulting from the project, to be authored by Keen, Koch, and McConvell and tentatively titled *Australian Indigenous kinship through time*, has been submitted to Berghahn Books.

**Robert Mailhammer** is now Assistant Professor at Arizona State University as well as a Visiting Fellow, Australian National University. He has been awarded a Postdoctoral research fellowship (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) on Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal English. His new projects include a book project with Theo Vennemann (working title: 'The Semitic component of Proto-Germanic'). He gave these invited lectures:

'Subgrouping Indo-European: A fresh perspective at 1st ALP conference at the MPI in Leipzig, Germany, 16 September. (written-up version available at <http://email.eva.mpg.de/~wichmann/Mailhammer-IE.pdf>).

'The breakdown of phonological quantity in English: Implications for historical phonology, Faculty Exchange Series, University of Arizona, 22 October .

'Sprung from a common source? The sources of passive constructions in English and German', 16th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics, Pécs, 23-27 August.

**Elisabeth Mayer** has recently received news that her [PhD thesis](#) has been accepted subject to revisions. She has begun a new project with co-researchers Dr. Rodolfo Cerrón-Palomino and Luis F. Andrade Ciudad (Catholic University of Lima (PUCP), Peru) focusin on variation and stability in Andean Spanish, a continuum which has been serving as the mediating language between Quechua and Spanish and as the only communication language for almost 500 years. Another aim of the project is to compare conclusions reached in previous work in a migratory setting with data from contact in situ.

**Stephen Morey** was recently awarded an ARC Future Fellowship for the project entitled 'A multifaceted study of Tangsa - a network of linguistic varieties in North East India'. The India-Myanmar border is an area of mostly little-described languages and significant linguistic diversity within the Tibeto-Burman group (Sino-Tibetan). Most of the Tangsa communities speak their own variety - some mutually intelligible with others, and some not. Currently Tangsa is listed as a single language with a single ISO code, but the situation is much more complex and the aim of this project is to investigate that complexity, test and perhaps extend the traditional methods of historical linguistics, and give a window to the past history of these languages

**Gunter Senft** has started a new series on 'Culture and Language Use: Studies in Anthropological Linguistics' as series editor with John Benjamins. Book proposals are invited!

### **New historical linguistics journal**

Members are encouraged to send articles to the new *Journal of Historical Linguistics*: [http://www.benjamins.com/cgi-bin/t\\_seriesview.cgi?series=JHL](http://www.benjamins.com/cgi-bin/t_seriesview.cgi?series=JHL). The editors are Silvia Luraghi (University of Pavia) and Jóhanna Barðdal (University of Bergen CRLC member Claire Bower is an associate editor.

### **Historical publications and conference presentations by members**

Allen, Cynthia L. 2010. Substantival adjectives in the history of English and the nature of syntactic change. In *Grammatical change: theory and description*, ed. by R. Hendery & J. Hendriks. Studies in Language Change 6. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. 9-25.

Bower, Claire 2010a Correlates of language change in hunter-gatherer and other 'small' languages. *Language and Linguistics Compass*. August issue.

-----2010b Historical linguistics in Australia: Trees, networks and their implications. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society (B)*. 365, 3845-3854

Donohue, Mark, and Tim Denham. 2010. Farming and language in Island Southeast Asia: reframing Austronesian history. *Current Anthropology* 51 (2): 223-256.

Douset, Laurent, Rachel Hendery, Claire Bower, Harold Koch, and Patrick McConvell. 2010. Developing a database for Australian Indigenous kinship terminology: The AustKin project. *Australian Aboriginal Studies* 2010/1: 42-56.

Hendery, Rachel & Jennifer Hendriks (eds). 2010. *Grammatical Change, Theory and Description*.

This volume comprises a collection of papers on the theme of grammatical change that evolved out of a workshop sponsored by the Centre for Research on Language Change (The Australian National University). The papers extend the boundaries of what has been addressed under the label of 'grammatical change' by applying theories and models of grammatical change to new evidence; by illuminating the historical relationships between grammar and other levels of linguistics; and by extending the range of languages that have been examined from the perspective of grammatical change. Languages discussed include Murriny Patha, Walpiri, Gurindji, Walmajarri, and Kayardild, Lardil, Yukulta, English, Dutch, German, Afrikaans, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Slovenian, Albanian, Greek, Old Church Slavonic, Tocharian, Mandarin, Cantonese, Quechua, Basque, and Tok Pisin.

Contributors include several CRLC members: as well as the editors, there are papers by CRLC members Cynthia Allen, Heidi Quinn, and Patrick McConvell.

Koch, Harold. 'Etymologies of some Australian Kinterms'. Australian Languages Workshop, Kioloa NSW. 11-14 March 2010.

----- 'The Etymology of kinterms: framework and examples of complex kinterms'. 1<sup>st</sup> Etymological Symposium at Kioloa, NSW. 16-18 April 2010.

----- 'Interpreting old wordlists: problems and methods'. Forum on working with archival materials, ANU, Canberra. 10 June 2010.

----- 'The diachronics of Arandic kinship terminology'. Australian Linguistic Society Annual Conference, Brisbane. 7-9 July 2010.

----- 'Kinterms reconstructible in subgroups of Pama-Nyungan'. Austkin research project workshop, Canberra. 26 October 2010.

Mailhammer, Robert. Die etymologische Forschung und Lehre zum Germanischen in Deutschland am Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts. *Studia Etymologica Cracoviensia* 15 (2010), 37-65.

----- (ed.) *English historical linguistics 2008: Selected papers from the fifteenth International Conference on English Historical Linguistics (ICEHL 15), Munich, 24-30 August 2008.. Volume I: The history of English verbal and nominal constructions*, Current Issues in Linguistic Theory 314, Amsterdam/Philadelphia (2010): John Benjamins [co-edited with Ursula Lenker and Judith Huber]

The fourteen studies selected for this volume - all of them peer-reviewed versions of papers presented at the 15th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics 2008 (23-30 August) at the University of Munich - investigate syntactic variation and change in the history of English from two perspectives that are crucial to explaining language change, namely the analysis of usage patterns and the social motivations of language change. Documenting the way syntactic elements have changed their combinatory preferences in fine-grained corpus studies renders the opportunity to catch language change in actu. A majority of studies in this book investigate syntactic change in the history of English from this viewpoint using a corpus-based approach, focusing on verbal constructions, modality and developments in the English noun phrase.

The book is of primary interest to linguists interested in current research in the history of English syntax. Its empirical richness is an excellent source for teaching English Historical Syntax.

----- Subgrouping Indo-European: A fresh perspective  
[<http://email.eva.mpg.de/~wichmann/Mailhammer-IE.pdf>]

Senft, Gunter. *The Trobriand Islanders' ways of speaking*. Trends in Linguistics. [TiLDOC] 27. DeGruyter. <http://www.degruyter.de/cont/fb/sk/detailEn.cfm?id=IS-9783110227987-1> and <http://paperc.de/9105-the-trobriand-islanders-ways-of-speaking-9783110227994> (e-book for free reading). At least two chapters (one on the language of magic and its genres and one on the language of the spirits of the dead and its genre) are relevant for language change.

Bronislaw Malinowski claimed in his monograph *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* that to approach the goal of ethnographic field-work, requires a 'collection of ethnographic statements, characteristic narratives, typical utterances, items of folk-lore and magical formulae ... as a corpus inscriptionum, as documents of native mentality'.

This book finally meets Malinowski's demand. Based on more than 40 months of field research the author presents, documents and illustrates the Trobriand Islanders' own indigenous typology of text categories or genres, covering the spectrum from ditties children chant while spinning a top, to gossip, songs, tales, and myths. The typology is based on Kilivila metalinguistic terms for these genres, and considers the relationship they have with registers or varieties which are also metalinguistically distinguished by the native speakers of this language.

Rooted in the ‘ethnography of speaking’ paradigm and in the ‘anthropological linguistics/linguistic anthropology’ approach, the book highlights the relevance of genres for researching the role of language, culture and cognition in social interaction, and demonstrates the importance of understanding genres for achieving linguistic and cultural competence.

In addition to the data presented in the book, its readers have the opportunity to access the original audio- and video-data presented via the internet on a special website, which mirrors the structure of the book. Thus, the reader can check the transcriptions against the original data recordings. This makes the volume particularly valuable for teaching purposes in (general, Austronesian/ Oceanic, documentary, and anthropological) linguistics and ethnology.

### **Profile: Manuel Delicado Cantero**

My interest in linguistics started during my first year of university in Spain. As part of the core program for Spanish Philology, we had to take General Linguistics. From that moment on, I remained fascinated with the formal(izable) aspects of language, especially syntax. Years later, three courses on the history of Spanish came my way and, when the time arrived to think of the future, the opportunity arose to start postgraduate studies and the idea of ‘historical syntax’ began to shape up in my mind.

After completing the equivalent to an M.A. in Spanish in Spain, I switched continents and enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Spanish (Hispanic Linguistics) at the Ohio State University, with Dr. Dieter Wanner as my advisor. While teaching as a T.A., I researched the history of the combination between functional and lexical prepositions and finite clauses, with particular attention to the actual role of case in the explanation. At first, I planned to concentrate only on Spanish, but soon I noticed that relevant data from related languages such as Portuguese, French or Italian, and more distant ones such as Swedish, Norwegian or Danish, proved crucial in trying to evaluate the validity of the categories and explanations available in the literature on the topic. What started in the diachronic axis extended to a diatopic dimension, in an exercise that resulted in an examination of historical stages of several Romance and Germanic languages and their corresponding current (and variable) states.



My interest in syntax has materialized in some recent works, including the syntax of colloquial relative clauses in Spanish, the variation on number marking in Afro-Bolivian Spanish (with Sandro Sessarego), the syntax of binominal predicates in Spanish (with Melvin Gonzalez Rivera), and the syntax/phonology interface in focus marking in Venezuelan Spanish (with M. Carmen Parafita and Fraibet Aveledo). In addition, I am a member of the ESRC Centre for Research on Bilingualism in Theory & Practice in Bangor University (Wales, UK), which I am visiting in January 2011.

On a non-academic note, I enjoy reading –mystery novels have caught my attention lately– and getting to know my new adopted country of Australia, including its inverse seasons, rich native fauna, literature and cinema.

### **Editorial (by Robert Mailhammer)**

Arizona State University

#### **More bad news for at least one concept of Universal Grammar: language change**

The current debate about Universal Grammar (UG) has so far not included language change. This is perhaps not surprising, given the points raised by Evans & Levinson (2009), but it

made me wonder what role UG plays in modelling language change, especially since UG was conceived as part of a theory of language acquisition, and hence should *eo ipso* be able to say something about language change. Somewhat surprisingly, however, the literature on this topic is not exactly copious.

According to the basic concept (King 1969), language change is largely a case of imperfect transmission.<sup>1</sup> Children initially form their own grammar of the language they're learning, as they employ their innate UG to make sense of the impoverished input they are given. This grammar is a simplified – optimised – version in line with UG, but in the course of the acquisition process it changes in order to match the input language. However, some changes persist, altering the system of the input language.

In this model the precise nature of UG is pivotal, because it is uncontested that children do something with the input they receive, thereby potentially changing it. Basically, it comes down to how much linguistic specialisation is attributed to UG. Successive modifications of generative grammar have changed the concept of UG drastically, to a point where its linguistic character is much more general than it originally was, being closer to a more general cognitive human faculty also handling language acquisition. Even fairly specific-sounding principles like the Head Preference Principle (van Gelderen 2008: 246), could potentially be manifestations of more general cognitive principles, which would also be applied outside language. This raises the question whether UG should actually be considered as a more general language-learning faculty, i.e. in the sense of O'Grady's (2004) 'general nativism' (which is contrasted with a more specific concept of UG, called 'grammatical nativism'):

What remains to be determined is whether some of these constructs [UG's principles, R.M.] have the status necessary to justify continued adherence to the traditional conception of Universal Grammar. (O'Grady 2004: 54)

If this is not the case, then the only issue that remains is whether humans have a specific faculty for learning language or whether humans learn language just like anything else (see O'Grady 2004 for a discussion including references). But it is not clear that UG isn't still relatively specific. For instance, Boeckx (2006: 14) describes UG under the Minimalist Program as follows:

UG provides the language learner with fixed set of principles (rules of grammar, if you wish) valid for all languages. These principles come as a menu, a set of courses that the learner can combine in a limited number of ways (the 'parameters') on the basis of well-defined properties of the linguistic input so as to match the language of her community' .

Be that as it may, the assumption of a fixed set of specifically linguistic principles (Boeckx's 'rules of grammar'; a complete list does not seem to exist, see van Gelderen 2008) is highly problematic from the perspective of language change, because it would be difficult to explain how one and the same language can split in two separate languages.<sup>2</sup> If all children have

---

<sup>1</sup> This model has been slightly modified in the works of David Lightfoot, who essentially has tried to determine when changes occur. More recently, generative grammar has attempted to account for variation and language contact by assuming that a speaker has several competing grammars in their head (see Kroch 2001 and Lucas Ms.). It is, however, unclear how a competing grammar approach would work for language change, since children can still only form one and the same grammar from the same input, in accordance with the principles of UG. Thanks to Cindy Allen (ANU) for alerting me to Kroch (2001) and to Elly van Gelderen (Arizona State University) for clarifying discussions of UG and language change.

<sup>2</sup> Criticism against a grammatical nativist concept of language change has been directed against the postulate of language improvement and against the fact that the proposed rule changes are purely descriptive and not explanatory (McMahon 1994: 43). While the non-explanatory nature isn't a real problem (though doubtless a shortcoming), the fact that languages aren't getting simpler and simpler is a clear problem that hasn't been convincingly solved (*pace* King 1969: 86). In addition, language variation and language contact, especially grammatical borrowing, also present big problems for UG-driven accounts (Lucas Ms. deals mainly with second language acquisition).

access to the same fixed set of specific linguistic principles and get fed the same input, they should all implement the same changes, and given a certain degree of homogeneity, e.g. a standard language which all children receive as input (adults can only make very limited changes to the language, see King 1969), by and large the same changes should survive in all cases. Consequently, it's difficult to imagine how communities can drift apart and even more so within fairly short amounts of time.

A grammatical nativist theory of language change would firstly have to come up with a catalogue of specific linguistic principles (and parameters), a ranking of principles (i.e. which take precedence over others), and secondly specifications of which changes survive the process of matching the initial UG-like grammar of children with that of adults. Only then one could try to account for language splits, which is a key element of language change. But the grammatical nativist notion that UG provides everyone with exactly the same set of grammatical rules that are used to learn language stands in the way of being able to do that. Therefore, language change is another piece of bad news for a grammatical nativist UG, because it can't account for all its aspects.

## References

- Boeckx, Cedric (2006), *Linguistic minimalism: Origins, Concepts, Methods, and Aims*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- King, Robert (1969), *Historical linguistics and generative grammar*, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
- Kroch, Anthony (2001), Syntactic change, in: *The handbook of contemporary syntactic theory*, M.R. Baltin & C. Collins (eds.), Malden, MA: Blackwell, 699-729.
- Lucas, Christopher (Ms.), Contact-induced grammatical change: towards an explicit account, unpublished manuscript, Department of Linguistics, University of Cambridge.
- McMahon, April (1994), *Understanding language change*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- O'Grady, William (2004), The Radical Middle: Nativism without Universal Grammar, in: *The Handbook of Bilingualism*, Malden, MA: Blackwell, 43-62
- van Gelderen, Elly (2008), Linguistic Cycles and Economy Principles, in: *Grammatical Change and Linguistic Theory*. The Rosendahl Papers, Thórhallur Eythórsson (ed.), Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins

## Events

### Etymological Symposium

The 1<sup>st</sup> Etymological Symposium, organised by CRLC member Robert Mailhammer, was held at Kioloa, NSW. 16-18 April 2010. Papers from this seminar are to be published in the CRLC Studies in Language Change series:

Mailhammer Robert, ed., *Sprung from a common source? Studies on structural and lexical etymology*.

## Upcoming Conferences and Activities

### Hunter-Gatherers Symposium

The project on hunter-gatherers and language change, in which CRLC members Claire Bovern and Patrick McConvell, will be holding a symposium at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in Washington, DC February 17-21.

See [http://www.aaas.org/meetings/future\\_mtgs/](http://www.aaas.org/meetings/future_mtgs/)

**The Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference 17 (GLAC 17)** will be held at the University of Texas at Austin, April 15-17, 2011. Details about the conference will be posted at <<http://laits.utexas.edu/glac17/index.html>> as they become available. The deadline for abstracts was January 15, 2011.

#### **AFLiCo IV**

The fourth International Conference of the French Cognitive Linguistics Association will be held in Lyon, France, 24th-27th May 2011. CRLC member Nick Evans is an invited speaker. Conference website: [http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/colloques/AFLICO\\_IV/](http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/colloques/AFLICO_IV/).

**The International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHLXX)** will take place on 25-30 July 2011:

National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU), Osaka, Japan

Workshops are now listed (Nov. 17, 2010).

The deadline for abstracts for general sessions was January 15, 2011.

Register before March 31, 2011 to get the early registration rate!

website: <http://www.ichl2011.com/>

#### **ISLE 2**

The International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE) will be holding its second triennial conference in Boston 17-21 June 2011. The theme is *Methods Past and Current*. Conference website: <http://www.isle-linguistics.org/conference/2011.asp>.

#### **HiSoN (Historical Sociolinguistics Network)**

The research project 'Brievens als Buit/ Letters as Loot' will be organising the next Historical Sociolinguistic Network Conference at the University of Leiden in June 2011. This time, the theme of the conference will be Touching the Past. (Ego)documents in a Linguistic and Historical Perspective. [Conference webpage http://hum.leiden.edu/lucl/hison-conference/](http://hum.leiden.edu/lucl/hison-conference/).

#### **The Summer School in Historical Sociolinguistics**

The University of Bristol's 5th HiSoN summer school in Historical Sociolinguistics will take place on the Greek island of Lesbos from Aug 20-27th, 2011. Further information and registrations forms are available at <http://www.bris.ac.uk/german/hison/summerschool2011>.

Canberra will be the venue for the next **ALS conference**, from Dec 3-5 2011, and we hope to see work on language change highlighted there. Immediately after the conference, from Dec 6-10, we will be running two week-long masterclasses (each roughly 4 hours/day), both of interest to scholars of language change:

Joan Bresnan (Stanford): Probabilistic Syntax

Fiona Jordan (MPI for Psycholinguistics Nijmegen): Phylogenetic approaches to language and culture

#### **CRLC Seminar Series**

##### **CRLC Seminar series 2010**

Seminar co-ordinator Harold Koch <[harold.koch@anu.edu.au](mailto:harold.koch@anu.edu.au)>. Send Harold an email if you would like to present a seminar!

3 Feb2010

**Jutta Besold**, PhD student in Linguistics, School of Language Studies, ANU

Philology and the reconstitution from archival sources of NSW south coast languages

ABSTRACT

The languages of the New South Wales South Coast consist of four, possibly five, languages: Dharawal, Dharumba, Dhurga, Djirringanj and Dhaawa. These languages are part of what Schmidt (1911) classified as the Yuin-Kuri (*yuwinj* and *kuri* ‘man’ in the southern and northern languages respectively) language group. Because my analysis is based on exclusively archival written material (published and unpublished) that was collected between the 1830s and 1900, my language work is based on an ongoing philological analysis of the historic material. In this seminar, I would like to proffer some of the challenges and victories that present themselves when working from and with archival material. Identifying quality of rhotic sounds in historic written material is one of the challenges; detecting morphological patterns, and functions, in blocks of texts is just one of the joys of working with this material. The South Coast languages (SCLs) are closer in grammatical and lexical form to some of the other coastal languages of NSW like Darkinyung and Gadhang, rather than the central NSW languages Wiradjuri, Ngiyampaa and Gamilaraay. Whereas Dharawal has pronominal enclitics that can be found on the first word in a clause, there is no evidence to suggest that this is also the case in the other SCLs. Phonologically, all South Coast languages have word-final stops, laminal contrast in word-initial position, and I propose that there is evidence for a series of retroflex phonemes.

10 Feb 2010

**Patrick McConvell**, School of Language Studies, ANU

Loanword stratigraphy, lenition and the diffusion of subsections in the Kimberley

ABSTRACT

Results from McConvell (2009) and more recent work in the project Dynamics of Hunter-Gatherer language show levels of loanwords of over 40% in Eastern Ngumpin languages like Gurindji, which is significantly greater than in Western Ngumpin, Nyulnyulan and North and South American languages we are working with. Eastern Ngumpin has high numbers of loans from Non-Pama-Nyungan languages to the north, Western Mirndi and Jarragan, which range from around 20% to almost zero. There is also fairly significant borrowing internally within Eastern Ngumpin from Western Ngumpin, for which the evidence includes absence of medial lenition (\*p, \*k>w; \*ty>y; \*rt>r), which is analysed as a regular sound-change in Eastern Ngumpin. Medial lenition is an important areal phenomenon covering southern Jarragan languages as well as Eastern Ngumpin. Other language. Apparent lenition in Bunuban however is rather a property of loanwords into Bunuban languages, some from Western Ngumpin which itself does not have lenition. This points to the existence of a mystery leniting language at one time in the Central Kimberley.

Harvey (2008) on the Mirndi language family, reviewed in a previous CRLC seminar also has a large section on subsection diffusion, mainly supporting the hypothesis of McConvell (1985) but also introducing revisions such as tracing subsection roots to proto-Mirndi and interpreting lenition as a sporadic process due to word frequency. Because of his geographical focus, Harvey did not take much account of Kimberley subsection terms. Here the analysis of lenition and stratigraphy in the Kimberley in the first part of the paper is brought to bear on this issue, painting a different picture of the diffusion of subsections.

17 Feb 2010

**Paul Sidwell**, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

Proto Palaungic phonology: the problem of reconstructing vowel lengths and qualities in a system undergoing restructuring

ABSTRACT

The Palaungic languages, spoken mainly in the Shan state of Myanmar and border areas of Laos and China, represent special problems for Austroasiatic reconstruction. Most have lost the Austroasiatic short-long vowel contrast and developed tones and/or voice registers, with strong parallels to the main contact languages Burmese and Shan. 4 or 5 sub-groups are apparent, and reconstructions have been published for 2: Waic and Palaung-Riang, and I have prepared a Proto Palaungic reconstruction using data from all sub-groups. The proto-consonant system is straightforward, but the vocalism is challenging. It is difficult to systematise the vowel correspondences, and it is apparently necessary to reconstruct some peculiar asymmetries in the distribution of length contrasts, indicating a system in transition. And although diphthongs are common (even prolific) among the daughter languages, it is not clear whether diphthongs should be reconstructed at all for Proto Palaungic, or how to model the classification to reconcile such a phonological history. A solution is offered which depends to some extent on external comparisons.

7 Apr 2010

**Professor Angelika Lutz**, Erlangen University, Germany

Venue: Baldessin Precinct Building W1.21 (Bldg 110)

Types of language contact with Old Norse

**ABSTRACT**

English historical studies of language contact have so far taken little note of general contact linguistics. Some of those that have, suffer from a lack of language-specific textual and historical knowledge (e.g. Thomason & Kaufman 1988: ch. 9 on Old Norse and Old French influence). Other studies, based on textual and statistical material and on the historical facts, have led to a more differentiated understanding of foreign influence than provided by established handbooks (see Lutz 2002 for extreme superstratal influence of French).

This paper on Old Norse influence in early England intends to show (1) that the Old English lexical evidence (Peters 1981, Townend 2002) neatly reflects the situation in late Anglo-Saxon England, namely that of Danish dominance much beyond the Danelaw (Rumble 1994). The evidence (e.g. E. *earl*, *law*) can be characterized as mainly superstratal, similar to Old French influence on post-Conquest English (E. *duke*, *justice*). It is mostly from West Saxon texts and thus from outside the Danelaw.

Moreover, this paper will discuss (2) Old and Middle English lexical and structural evidence for various degrees of Old Norse adstratal and substratal admixture for different dialects. Due to the dialectal imbalance of the Old English evidence, much of this influence turns up only in early Middle English texts. Also, due to the close genetic relationship between Old English and Old Norse, this influence is often less obvious because it may be interpreted as either Old Norse or Old English material (e.g. the pronominal form *she*, first attested in the former Danelaw in 1140). Or it may be reflected as a more speedy morphological and syntactic development in the most heavily Scandinavianized Northern dialects (e.g. the present-tense marker *-s* and a tendency towards generalized VO-order in the Lindisfarne Gospels; cf. Lutz 1991: ch. 2, Kroch & Taylor 1997).

The characterisation of such examples for likely Norse influence as evidence for creolisation is problematic (Poussa 1982, Hansen 1984). But on the basis of a cautious application of terms from general contact linguistics, we are likely to arrive at a more differentiated understanding of Old Norse influence on English in different dialects of the early Middle Ages.

14 Apr 2010

**Professor Theo Vennemann**, University of Munich, Germany

Vasconic features in West Indo-European: Structure and lexicon

Venue: Baldessin Precinct Building W1.21 (Bldg 110)

#### ABSTRACT

In the structure part of the lecture three topics will be treated, of which two have been dealt with before, one is new: (1) vigesimality in Danish, Insular Celtic, and Western Romance; (2) two-copula syntax in Old English, Celtic, and Western Romance; and (3) first-syllable accent in Germanic, Celtic, and Italic.

In the lexicon part of the lecture, too, three topics will be treated, two of them with old and new etymologies, and one new: (1) appellatives, viz. the Wanderwoerter *iron* and *silver*, and direct borrowings such as Irish *aínder* 'young woman' (MFrench *andre* 'woman', Ital. *landra* 'prostitute' etc.), Lat. *caseus* 'cheese', and E *bush*, Rom. *bosco/bois*; (2) toponyms such as *Isar/Isère*, *Arn-/Earn-* names, *Cannes/Canossa*, and esp. *Lech/Loire*; (3) under the heading 'Lexicon and culture' the sporadic use of expressions meaning literally 'to-night' instead of more common expressions meaning 'to-day' in Germanic and Celtic.

All of these Western structural and lexical features have no parallels in the Eastern Indo-European languages but do have parallels in Basque. Therefore, a case can be made that they are original in very early Basque and were carried into Western Indo-European from a prehistoric Vasconic substratum. In the conclusion reference will be made to genetic studies supporting the Vasconic Theory, namely the idea that Western Europe was repopulated after the last glaciation by a northward expansion from the Basque Urheimat near the Pyrenees.

6 Oct 2010

BPB W3.03 4pm

**Manuel Delicado-Cantero** (co-authored with Sandro Sessarego), Spanish Program, School of Language Studies, ANU

Variation and agreement in Afro-Bolivian Spanish DPs

#### ABSTRACT

In this presentation we analyze plural marking in the Afro-Bolivian Spanish (ABS) Determiner Phrase (DP), in order to establish the process underlying its variation. Plural marking variation is examined following recent approaches to syntactic variation (Adger and Smith 2005, Adger and Trousdale 2007) whereby two different syntactic inputs will nevertheless yield semantically equivalent outputs.

Several works have focused on similar phenomena in other Spanish/Portuguese dialects from a sociolinguistic perspective (Cedergren 1973, Terrell 1976, Poplack 1979, 1980, Braga 1977, Guy 1981, Sherre 2001). While in some of these studies phonological and stress factors seemed to play a major role, this paper illustrates that grammatical features are the actual locus of variation in ABS.

Building on current syntactic assumptions (Chomsky 2000, 2001; Bernstein 2001; Longobardi 2001; Béjar 2003; Pesetsky and Torrego 2004; Adger et al. 2008), we argue that the presence of valued number features in ABS is underspecified/reduced in comparison to Standard Spanish. Uninterpretable phi-features in agreement relations are redundant and their absence is grammatically costless. Such hypothesis is congruent with previous studies on impoverished agreement in ABS DP (Lipski 2007). This study looks into ABS number marking moving from a variationist approach into current formal syntactic theory, in line with recent lines of research linking sociolinguistic methodology and syntax.

3 Nov 2010

**Edith Pineda-Bernuy**, PhD student in Linguistics, School of Language Studies, ANU

Variation in the proto-typical sentential negative pattern across Quechua dialects

#### ABSTRACT

This is a presentation of my work-in progress on the analysis of data about negative sentences collected during my fieldwork in Quechua speaking locations in South America. In the literature, Quechua is commonly treated as essentially being uniform in its method of negation, but I have found a good deal of variation. Several works have described Quechua sentential negation for a particular dialect but guided for the general assumption of the homogeneity downplaying differences. Others have focused on the meaning of the markers involved in cross dialectal Quechua negation but highlighting discrepancies in the author's descriptions rather than analyzing the data themselves. The motivation to carry out my fieldwork was the conviction that a study of the synchronic situation of the phenomenon of negation is essential to understand better its evolution. My research aims to explain the development of syntactic negation in Quechua.

The sentential negative pattern in this group of languages is far from being uniform. In fact, Quechua exhibits quite diverse variation, which my research endeavors to describe systematically in order to account for the changes operating in its negative system. Only once this description is made, we can hope to understand how the different patterns have developed historically and what changes are underway currently. In this seminar I will present how the proto-typical Quechua sentential negative pattern –which I label 'embracing negation'– works vis-à-vis existing variation in other groups of dialects. Embracing negation is the one that is usually presented as the pattern for Quechua generally. The classification I will propose aims to systematize the encountered variation in order to understand how Quechua dialects have split into two broad alternative negation patterns. In doing so, we can observe ongoing changes through attending to synchronic variation. I will discuss the possible role of language contact. My findings also point to highlight a revival of Quechua in places where it was previously considered endangered.

10 Nov 2010

**Mark Donohue**, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

Interpreting the results of typological analysis: geography and phylogeny

ABSTRACT

While family trees are built on the basis of the comparative method, a methodology designed to maximise the signal from inheritance, it is also possible to perform typological analysis on language structures and then cluster the results. This talk examines the results of different kinds of typological cluster analysis applied to languages in different social contexts, and argues that we should consider inheritance, as determined by the comparative method, as only a minor contributor to the clusters arising from typological analysis.

17 Nov 2010

**Elisabeth Mayer**, Spanish Program, School of Language Studies, ANU

It takes two to tango and three to huayno: *Strange lo* as a (syn)tactic move

ABSTRACT

Formal theories have mostly been concerned with either idealised data sets that nicely fit their theory, or an idealised relationship between speakers and their homogeneous speech community. Recent work in Lexical-Functional Grammar has not only addressed language change and/or dialect variation (Vincent 2000), but included microvariation as in nonstandardized variation (Bresnan 1998, Bresnan 2001, Bresnan&Sharma 2007).

My talk is based on my thesis which examines the complex relationship between primary agreement by feature specifying clitics, and secondary object agreement by differential object marking (DOM) in nonstandardized Limeño Spanish contact data (LSCV) collected in fieldwork. The particular focus is on *strange lo*, a featureless and invariable form,

on extended DOM, on the effects of cooccurrence of both, and the relationship to secondary topic and primary object marking.

I will show that syntactic covariation of marked and unmarked forms can be interpreted in terms of semantic and pragmatic strategies particular to contact speakers. Synchronic agreement mismatches arise at the crossroads of multiple contexts based on a diachronically attested struggle of dative and accusative for primary object status in monotransitive clauses.

24 Nov 2010

**Erma Vassiliou**, Visiting Fellow, School of Language Studies, ANU

Language change in Byzantine Greek: examples from the texts of Anna Comnena's *Alexiad*

ABSTRACT

Early in the last century historians drew attention to a Byzantine document, namely the *Alexiad*, written by Anna Comnena (1083-1154 (or 1155 A.D.)) the daughter of the Byzantine emperor Alexius Comnenos (1048-1118) and the woman who rightly acquired the title of the first woman historian. Apart from being the flattering biography of the emperor Alexius Comnenos, the *Alexiad* is a major source of the historical events of the first Crusade. Anna Comnena's *magnus opus* consists of fifteen chapters that narrate the story of Byzantium between the years 1069 and 1118, and most particularly of the period of Alexius' reign (1081-1118). The document under analysis offers an exceptional source for the study of language change in Byzantine Greek. While historians treat Anna Comnena's accounts on the events of her times with some caution, the language displayed in the *Alexiad* needs not being questioned: Anna wrote her work in what has been described as pseudo-Classical Greek, a learned language, or, otherwise named in Greek a 'πλαστική γλώσσα' (= (a made up language), 'unknown' to the ordinary people of Constantinople. In the preface of the translation of the *Alexiad* by E.R.A. Sewter, Anna's language is described as 'an almost entirely mammiform school language'.

This paper aims to analyse Anna Comnena's Greek and discover, identify and illustrate some examples of language change in Byzantine Greek that have been well disguised behind the 'mammiform school language', used in the *Alexiad*. Meticulous investigations of the texts reveal areas of change that escaped or could not follow the 'made up' Classical form of Greek. This first approach to Anna's language depicts changes in phonology and in semantics inasmuch as it exposes phenomena of reanalysis the very time they were taking place.

1 Dec 2010

**Patrick McConvell**, School of Language Studies, ANU

Diffusion and semantic change in in-law terms in languages of northern Australia

ABSTRACT

Affinal (spouse and in-law) terms seem to diffuse widely much more readily than other kinship terms, probably due to the extension of marriage networks and marriage practices. This paper looks at some cases of such diffusion in Northern Australia. The primary case concerns the root *ramparr* which starts from the non-Pama-Nyungan Worroran languages in the North Kimberley, spreads to Nyulnyulan, then changes to *lamparr* due to a regular sound change of lateralisation in early Ngumpin-Yapa (a Pama-Nyungan sub-group to the south). As it enters Mudburra in the eastern Victoria River District it has an *-a* augment added as is regular in Mudburra with former consonant final roots. In this new form *lamparra* it spreads rapidly across the savannah belt of the Northern Territory in the Northern Territory along communication lines established by the cattle industry. Along with these sound changes there are also meaning changes to the root. The original meaning seems to have been 'screen' or 'barrier' in Worroran, extended to mean avoidance relations in general, then narrowed in

some languages to mean wife's mother, the prime avoided affine. In Nyulnyulan it retains the WM meaning initially but in some languages the meaning shifts to wife's father. The WF meaning (self-reciprocally also son-in-law) is the one adopted by other languages and diffused through the NT. The talk attempts a chronological stratigraphy of the changes in the root and their diffusion; and an explanation of the change of meaning from mother-in-law to father-in-law.

Several other roots and their patterns of diffusion and inheritance are also briefly considered, together with possible correlations with marriage systems. First, the spouse sibling/in law term *ngumparna* (and variants) in the Kimberley and across the Northern Territory, and its relationship to a much more widespread Pama-Nyungan spouse term *nyupa* (and variants). Finally another diffusion of a term *tyamV(ny)* 'mother's father/mother's brother's son/spouse' across the non-Pama-Nyungan languages of the Kimberley and across the savannah belt of the Northern Territory.

Tuesday, 7 Dec 2010

Baldessin Precinct Bldg W3.03

**William Steed**, PhD student in Linguistics, School of Language Studies, ANU

Tone Sandhi Microvariation in Lishui Wu and Adapting the Comparative Method to Tone Sandhi

ABSTRACT

The phonological changes that occur on the tones of two-syllable words in Lishui Wu are very complex, even for a Wu variety. The tone sandhi typology and the tone shapes (both isolation and sandhi tones) of the three speakers analysed in my doctoral thesis do not vary much, but the realisations do. I will present firstly the three different tone sandhi patterns of the speakers, and then present a preliminary analysis of how they may be explained from a diachronic perspective.

The three speakers come from three different generations, and their sandhi patterns probably represent a sort of tone sandhi change, rather than geographically-based variation. A detailed analysis is difficult, because the three patterns do not represent a simple A > B > C change. The older speaker cannot necessarily be said to speak a direct antecedent of the other speakers' varieties. Further difficulties arise from the lack of a tested methodology to apply the comparative method to reconstruct polysyllabic tone sandhi. I will propose a more reliable, yet more time-consuming method of applying it.

Wed 8 Dec 2010, 4pm

Baldessin Precinct Bldg W3.03

**Seraina Nett**

Centre for Canon and Identity Formation, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen

Akkadian as a Lingua Franca: Language Use and Linguistic Identity in the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACT

The 2nd millennium B.C. is a period where a marked increase in organised trade relations and international contact over a wide area can be observed in the archaeological and philological record of the Ancient Near East. The language used to facilitate communication in this internationalised environment is an Akkadian dialect, in use from Cyprus to Anatolia, Egypt and Syria. The project focuses on the questions of how, when and why Babylonian became the main lingua franca of the Ancient Near East and how this process affected the local language communities and their linguistic identity and self-perception. The data comprises documents written in cuneiform script unearthed in archives throughout the Near East, mainly in Egypt, Anatolia and along the Levantine coast. Two main foci will be

relevant for the analysis of the data: on the one hand the archaeological material and the context in which the texts were written, and on the other hand the linguistic features of the texts in question, especially with regard to bilingualism, dialectal forms and source language interference.

### **Education: Historical Linguistics Courses taught in 2010 at ANU:**

2010 1st semester

History of the English Language. Taught by Cynthia Allen

Language in Asia. Taught by Peter Hendriks

2010 2nd semester

Study of a Language Family (Japonic). Taught by Peter Hendriks.

### **Recent theses completed**

#### **PhD awarded**

Smallhorn, Jacinta Mary. *A reconstruction and subgrouping of the Binanderean languages of Papua New Guinea*. PhD, Linguistics RSPAS, ANU (supervisors Malcolm Ross and Andrew Pawley)

#### **PhD thesis accepted**

Mayer, Elisabeth

*Synchronic clitic variation at the crossroads of contact, second language acquisition and diachrony* (Supervisor Avery Andrews)

This thesis is about syntactic variation of object arguments in Limeño Spanish contact varieties. Taking the evolution of DOM (Differential Object Marking) into account, the thesis explored the complex relationship between primary agreement through object marking or differential object marking, and secondary agreement through clitics in non-standardized variation data from Limeño Spanish contact varieties.

#### **PhD thesis submitted**

Steed, William

*Lishui Tone and Tone Sandhi – An Acoustically-Based Analysis* (Supervisor Phil Rose)

This thesis describes tone and tone sandhi in the 丽水 Lishui variety of 吴 Wu Chinese from the Chuqu subgroup in southern Zhejiang, using data from three speakers. The description is both auditory and (normalised-) acoustic, and includes also a derivational account of the tonology, and a description of Lishui segmental phonology and common lexicon. Descriptions are given for citation tones and disyllabic lexical tone sandhi.

The results show that, according to Chao's (1928) synchronic typology of Wu, Lishui does not have a typically Wu phonology. Segmentally, Lishui lacks the diagnostic three-way distinction between syllable-initial stops and affricates, distinguishing only +/- aspirated obstruents (with the –aspirated obstruents showing free variation in voicing). Like the Northern Min dialects to its south, its tone sandhi is right-focussed: word-final tones are realised mostly the same as in isolation (although there are some changes), but non-word-final tones have different realisations determined by their input tone and the following tone.

Lishui has seven citation tones: mid dipping [33], high and low falling-level [433], [211], high falling [52], low convex [342], and high [5] and low [23] stopped tones. The normalised tonal acoustics show that citation realisations are consistent between speakers. Although the realisation of tones on non-word-final syllables is also shown by normalisation to be mostly

consistent between speakers, considerable between-speaker variation is demonstrated in the incidence of these realisations. One of the interesting findings is that the number of realisations on non-word-final syllables, although representing neutralisation of citation contrasts, is often greater than found in citation tones. Moreover, there are very few instances of phonetically motivated sandhi changes, and the changes are usually better expressed in terms of abstract categories which relate to Middle Chinese tonal categories. It is shown that, as a result, a derivational account of the non-word-final tonal realisations is messy. The between-speaker variation in tone sandhi suggests that Lishui tone sandhi is changing quickly.

## CRLC Publications

We are pleased to announce the recent publication of three new titles in our Pacific Linguistics series *Studies in Language Change*.

- *Grammatical change: theory and description*. Edited by Rachel Hendery and Jennifer Hendriks (SLC-6)
- *Reconstructing Proto Koiarian: The history of a Papuan language family*. Tom Dutton (SLC-7)
- *Hmong-Mien language history*. Martha Ratliff (SLC-8)

(See <http://pacling.anu.edu.au/series/slc.html> for a complete listing.)

## Book Notes (by Harold Koch)

**Amuzu**, Evershed Kwasi. (2010). *Composite codeswitching in West Africa: The Case of Ewe-English codeswitching*. Saarbrücken: Lambert Academic Publishing.

[http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk/jsp/id/Composite\\_Codeswitching\\_in\\_West\\_Africa/9783838385266](http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk/jsp/id/Composite_Codeswitching_in_West_Africa/9783838385266)

[This is based on an ANU PhD thesis of 2005.]

**Bowden**, John, Nikolaus P. **Himmelmann** and Malcolm **Ross** (eds). *A journey through Austronesian and Papuan linguistic and cultural space: papers in honour of Andrew K. Pawley*. 2010. (PL 615) Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.

The papers in this volume have been presented to Andrew K. Pawley in honour of his extensive work on Austronesian and Papuan languages and cultures. They cover a wide range of topics, from language description to historical linguistics and from archaeology and population genetics to the anthropology of performance and the typology of poetic meter. The book provides a fascinating snapshot of current work across the fields of Austronesian and Papuan linguistics and culture history and the papers in it will be important reading for anyone working in these fields. [Publisher's blurb]

**Crowley**, Terry, and **Bowern**, Claire. 2010. *An introduction to historical linguistics*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-536554-2 (pbk.)

This is an updated edition of Crowley's popular textbook. It retains from earlier editions the somewhat chatty tone, relatively simple language, and concentration of examples on languages of the Australia-Pacific region. Some differences from the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of 1997 include: expansion from 342 to 376 pages, the addition of some new sections and re-arrangement of some chapters, addition of further problems and datasets, introduction of a further layer of subheadings into chapters, and a considerably expanded list of references for further reading. Samples of new sections have been added include: tone change, morphological change, grammaticalisation, determining genetic relationships, subgrouping

computational methods from biology, mixed languages. At £15.99 this represents good value for a student textbook or an addition to a scholar's library. [Harold Koch]

**Haspelmath, Martin, and Tadmoor, Uri** eds. 2009. *Loanwords in the world's languages: A comparative handbook*. Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton.

This book is the first work to address the question of what kinds of words get borrowed in a systematic and comparative perspective. It studies lexical borrowing behavior on the basis of a world-wide sample of 40 languages, both major languages and minor languages, and both languages with heavy borrowing and languages with little lexical influence from other languages.

The book is the result of a five-year project bringing together a unique group of specialists of many different languages and areas. The introductory chapters provide a general up-to-date introduction to language contact at the word level, as well as a presentation of the project's methodology. All the chapters are based on samples of 1000-2000 words, elicited by a uniform meaning list of 1460 meanings. The combined database, comprising over 70,000 words, is published online at the same time as the book is published. For each word, information about loanword status is given in the database, and the 40 case studies in the book describe the social and historical contact situations in detail.

The final chapter draws general conclusions about what kinds of words tend to get borrowed, what kinds of word meanings are particularly resistant to borrowing, and what kinds of social contact situations lead to what kinds of borrowing situations. [Publisher's blurb]

**Hickey, Raymond** ed. 2010. *The handbook of language contact*. Oxford: Blackwell.

*The handbook of language contact* offers systematic coverage of the major issues in this field – ranging from the value of contact explanations in linguistics, to the impact of immigration, to dialectology – combining new research from a team of globally renowned scholars, with case studies of numerous languages.

- An authoritative reference work exploring the major issues in the field of language contact: the study of how language changes when speakers of distinct speech varieties interact
- Brings together 40 specially-commissioned essays by an international team of scholars
- Examines language contact in societies which have significant immigration populations, and includes a fascinating cross-section of case studies drawing on languages across the world
- Accessibly structured into sections exploring the place of contact studies within linguistics as a whole; the value of contact studies for research into language change; and language contact in the context of work on language and society
- Explores a broad range of topics, making it an excellent resource for both faculty and students across a variety of fields within linguistics [Publisher's blurb]

**Labov, William**. 2010. *Principles of Linguistic Change, Volume III: Cognitive and Cultural Factors*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Written by the world-renowned pioneer in the field of modern sociolinguistics, this volume examines the cognitive and cultural factors responsible for linguistic change, tracing the life history of these developments, from triggering events to driving forces and endpoints.

- Explores the major insights obtained by combining sociolinguistics with the results of dialect geography on a large scale
- Examines the cognitive and cultural influences responsible for linguistic change

- Demonstrates under what conditions dialects diverge from one another
- Establishes an essential distinction between transmission within the community and diffusion across communities
- Completes Labov's seminal *Principles of Linguistic Change* trilogy [Publisher's blurb]

**Lefebvre, Claire (ed).** 2011. *Creoles, their substrates, and language typology* (Typological Studies in Language 95) Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Since creole languages draw their properties from both their substrate and superstrate sources, the typological classification of creoles has long been a major issue for creolists, typologists, and linguists in general. Several contradictory proposals have been put forward in the literature. For example, creole languages typologically pair with their superstrate languages (Chaudenson 2003), with their substrate languages (Lefebvre 1998), or even, creole languages are alike (Bickerton 1984) such that they constitute a 'definable typological class' (McWhorter 1998). This book contains 25 chapters bearing on detailed comparisons of some 30 creoles and their substrate languages. As the substrate languages of these creoles are typologically different, the detailed investigation of substrate features in the creoles leads to a particular answer to the question of how creoles should be classified typologically. The bulk of the data show that creoles reproduce the typological features of their substrate languages. This argues that creoles cannot be claimed to constitute a definable typological class. [Publisher's blurb]

**Siegel, Jeff.** 2008. *The emergence of pidgin and creole languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

This book provides explanations for the emergence of contact languages, especially pidgins and creoles. It assesses the current state of research and examines aspects of current theories and approaches that have excited much controversy and debate. The book answers questions such as: How valid is the notion of a pidgin-creole-postcreole life cycle? Why are many features of pidgins and creoles simple in formal terms compared to other languages? And what is the origin of the grammatical innovations in expanded pidgins and creoles - linguistic universals, conventional language change, the influence of features of languages in the contact environment, or a mix of two or more factors? In addressing these issues, the author looks at research on processes of second language acquisition and use, including simplification, overgeneralization, and language transfer. He shows how these processes can account for many of the characteristics of contact languages, and proposes linguistic and sociolinguistic constraints on their application in language contact. His analysis is supported with detailed examples and case studies from Pidgin Fijian, Melanesian Pidgin, Hawai'i Creole, New Caledonian Tayo and Australian Kriol, which he uses as well to assess the merits of competing theories of language genesis. Professor Siegel also considers his research's wider implications for linguistic theory.

Features

- Provides a gold mine of information on pidgins and creoles of the Australia-Pacific region
- Assesses the current state of research and examines aspects of current theories and approaches that have excited much interest
- Synthesizes new and important data from a wide variety of sources
- Addresses basic issues important to linguistic theory [Publisher's blurb]

