

John Kirk / Markus Pluschkovits (Vienna):

The Digitized Lexical Atlas of Scotland

The aim of this paper is to introduce the *Digitized Lexical Atlas of Scotland* and to present some preliminary findings. The atlas data, which are intended to represent the traditional folk vocabulary of Scots, comes from the published *Linguistic Atlas of Scotland: Scots Section*, vols. 1 and 2 (Mather & Speitel 1975, 1977). In a project underway at the University of Vienna, the data have been digitized into a relational database. The next task is lexemisation – the conversion of the great many ortho-phonological spellings which were recorded for an item (what we regard as a lexical variable) into a single spelling (often but not necessarily the standard spelling). With more and more responses for a lexical variable lexemised, various research questions can begin to be tested. A first issue concerns the nature of the data: whether denotative, descriptive, metaphorized, or simply imitative. But other research questions include the Englishness, Germanic-ness as well as the Scots-ness of Scots; the borders of Scots (especially the Highland Line and the Scottish-English border); and regionality within Scots, including the Northern Isles and Ulster. On those topics, in this paper, by way of introducing the project, some preliminary findings, accompanied by appropriate maps, will be presented.

Bradley Mackay (Salzburg):

Language Change: Beyond the Gender Binary

T-glottaling has become a ‘ubiquitous’ feature in varieties of British English (Smith & Holmes-Elliott 2017: 342), with evidence suggesting that it is a sound change still in progress in the Southeast of England (e.g., Jansen et al. 2020). As this change has progressed, contexts such as pre-consonantal T-glottaling have lost most of the negative evaluations they once attracted. However, prevocalic T-glottaling is still likely to be evaluated much more negatively (Fabricius 2000). While robust gender differences have been found in the Southeast, with men usually T-glottaling more than women, treating gender as a binary category has been problematized in much recent research (e.g., Zimman et al. 2014). Previous research on T-glottaling has mostly ignored (1) sexuality and (2) the continuous nature of masculinity and femininity. Based on previous research, one may expect T-glottaling to have associations with masculinity (Trudgill 1972; Schleef 2017), whereas released /t/ has been shown to be associated with hyperarticulation (Podesva 2011), which may index gay-sounding speech (Munson et al. 2006). However, the association of T-glottaling with sexuality and masculinity has not been explored in the UK context – neither in production nor perception.

The current study explores the heterogeneity within the broad groups of men and women by exploring not only speakers’ gender identity (man, woman) but also the new factors of (1) sexuality (gay/ lesbian/ straight) and (2) gender expression. Gender expression is conceptualised here as a continuous measure of masculinity and femininity based on (1) the traditional masculinity-femininity scale (Kachel et al. 2016)

and (2) The Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem 1974). These shed light on how intervocalic T-glottaling is progressing in East Sussex and how categories of gender and sexuality might be entwined in this process. Results problematize analysis of T-glottaling within a gender binary and provide support for calls to further stratify social predictors when exploring language variation.

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Session 2 (Chair: Georg Marko)

Jennifer Schumm Fauster & Ulla Fürstenberg (Graz):

Professional Development in ELT: Writing and Editing a Book for Our Local Community of Practice

In our talk, we will address aspects related to language teacher professional development which we encountered while working with researchers and practitioners during the compilation of our edited volume *English Language Teaching in Austria: From theory to the classroom and beyond* (2023).

This book aims to address a perceived gap in ELT publications in Austria concerning the link between international and local perspectives and is intended to be a practical guide and reference for practitioners, researchers and academics working in the area of ELT in Austria. It covers a range of topics in ELT with a special focus on the Austrian context.

The chapters in our edited volume were written collaboratively by teachers, teacher educators and practitioner researchers. In teacher education, there is often a divide between the research interests of academics and the needs of classroom teachers. Our approach facilitated a dialogue between the different contributors and promoted the kind of “interaction between theoretical knowledge and teachers’ personal practical knowledge” described by Tsui (2009) as crucial for developing language teaching expertise (p. 194).

Thus, we will consider how working on our volume has contributed to professional development within our local professional community. In particular, we have noted four concrete contributions: a forum to share insights and experience; an opportunity for collaborative teacher development (CTD); a way of supporting continuous professional development (CPD); and a chance to experience a professional learning community (PLC). We will provide concrete examples for each of these contributions.

Finally, we will reflect on our own professional development as practitioner researchers and teacher educators during the editing process and discuss how working on this edited volume has provided us with the opportunity to give back to the field of ELT (Bailey, 2020), particularly in our local context.

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Klaus Hofmann (Vienna):

When the Rhythm's Right: An Assessment of Rhythmic Well-Formedness in the History of English

Stress-based languages like English favor alternating rhythms in regular speech (Selkirk 1984; Kelly & Bock 1988). At a basic level of rhythmic structure, this means that consecutive stressed syllables, i.e. 'clashes' (e.g. *búild bák bétter*), and consecutive unstressed syllables, i.e. 'lapses' (e.g. *survival of the fittest*), are dispreferred. Breiss and Hayes (2020) have demonstrated that such violations are not only repaired with prosodic means (i.e. prominence adjustments, e.g. *survival of the fittest*) but outright avoided through syntactic (or lexical) choices (see also Schlüter 2005; Shih et al. 2015; Anttila 2016).

The proposed study extends this line of inquiry into diachrony, asking whether a global preference for rhythmically optimal patterns can be detected throughout the history of English. To this end, the study investigates net rhythmicity, measured in terms of the occurrence probabilities of clashes and lapses in word bigrams sampled from Middle, Early Modern and Modern English prose texts. The data for the analysis come from the Penn-Helsinki Parsed corpora of English.

Identifying clashes and lapses in the historical texts depends on the correct interpretation of unstressed inflections and monosyllabic function words. To account for these complications in a systematic manner, evidence from contemporaneous metrical verse (e.g. Chaucer, Shakespeare) will be used to calculate probability scores for inflectional syllabicity and stress in monosyllables.

Preliminary results suggest that overall rhythmicity has not changed drastically since Middle English. However, it can also be shown that the historical process of schwa loss (Minkova 1991) must have presented a major challenge to rhythmic well-formedness, as it would have significantly increased the occurrence of clashes had it not been offset by various structural adjustments, including analyticization (e.g. ME *Gódes sóne* vs. PDE *son of Gód*).

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Session 3 (Chair: Julia Hoydis)

Sarah Back (Innsbruck):

Happy Feminist, Political Activist, or Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist? Creation and (Possible) Disruption of Safe Spaces in Adichie's Social Media Staging

This paper aims to illustrate several forms of spaces created by the acclaimed author and feminist icon Chimamanda N. Adichie in her online media performance. By sharing social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), different types of online texts (e.g., essays, short stories) and videos (speeches, talks, etc.), and combining them in a coherent manner, Adichie communicates intermedially-constructed messages to her audience. The content of these messages varies depending on the types of combined media channels, and revolves around topics such as political activism with a feminist scope (e.g., battling female circumcision or issues at the intersection of racism and sexism), the distribution and marketing of “happy feminism” (a popular, easy-to-digest form of feminism), or the promotion of Nigerian culture, fashion, and art. By distributing these intermedially-constructed feminist messages on various online channels, Adichie creates platforms on which her audience can connect (i.e. hold discussions on said topics and/or share personal experiences). Having been created by an intellectual celebrity, these platforms (used to) serve as safe spaces for various communities and marginalized groups. However, in the past five years, Adichie's messages concerning trans people have caused severe online debates between Adichie, her fanbase and her opponents. In the course of these battles, Adichie has constructed her persona in an intermedial manner – this time, however, frequently staging herself as a victim. This raises the question as to whether Adichie, through her controversial self-staging and by excluding trans women from her previously constructed feminist spaces, has distorted or even destroyed the safe spaces she has created for certain communities.

Michela Borzaga (Utrecht):

Virginia Woolf's *Kew Gardens*: Towards a New Ecology of Reading

The Anthropocene and the age of accelerating climate change are posing new challenges for critical theory but also for the fields of narratology, aesthetics, and poetics. What is the role of literature and of reading in the slow and complex process of re-thinking the relation between humans and non-humans as well as new forms of political ecologies? Can we distinguish between more or less sustainable modes of reading? This paper explores focalization in Virginia Woolf's *Kew Gardens* from an ecological perspective. I argue that Woolf engages readers in a delicate exercise that cuts across various forms and compositions of life. I argue that through the quiet presence of the snail and the shifts of focalization between human and non-human actors, Woolf experiments with different practices of reading and modes of approaching texts. In addition, by drawing on Jane Bennett's notion of 'vibrant matter', this paper works with the hypothesis that Woolf theorizes reading as an important ecologically inflected practice.

Session 4 (Chair: Dorothee Birke)

Dieter Fuchs (Vienna):

***Finnegans Wake* – an Undiscovered Austro-Hungarian Subtext: Alma Mahler and Anna Livia Plurabelle**

This paper elucidates how Alma Mahler – the most notorious *femme fatale* of 20th century Vienna – contributed to the genesis of Anna Livia Plurabelle (ALP) in James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* via popular gossip and celebrity culture.

As the wife of Gustav Mahler, Walter Gropius and Franz Werfel, and the mistress of Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and many others, Alma's sex appeal fascinated some of the best-known composers, painters, writers and architects of the modernist period. Sharing a common cultural background from the Hapsburg Empire, Alma's and some of her partners' appearance in *Finnegans Wake* constitutes an undiscovered Austro-Hungarian subtext.

From a Joycean vantage point, Alma Mahler's femininity corresponds with that of Anna Livia and the river Liffey representing the principle of eternal flux: "riverrun" (*FW* 1;1). Hence it is no coincidence that, among other variants, *Finnegans Wake* refers to Anna Livia not only as ALP and "Anna [...] Livia [...] Plurabelle" (*FW* 215; 24), but also as "Alma Luvia, Pollabella" (*FW* 619; 16). Although ALP must be considered the concept of the female principle rather than a fleshed-out character, her being simultaneously addressed as "Anna" and "Alma" has important implications: these variants of her name reflect the traditional conceptualization of womanhood in terms of the angel / fallen woman dichotomy.

Mythologically speaking, 'Anna' the matron is the grandmother of Jesus who conceives the Holy Virgin Mary in an immaculate manner after twenty years of childlessness. Being free from the original sin of the Fall of Mankind committed by the archetypal temptress Eve, the Hebraic root of the name points towards mature adult

life, married sex without sin and devoted motherhood. The Hebrew root of the name 'Alma', in contrast, refers to the sexual vigour of a young woman who has reached the childbearing age of puberty – hence the name 'Alma' has the connotation of lust and promiscuity induced by the sex drive.

Whereas the name 'Plurabelle' / 'Pollabella' refers to ALP's Protean changeability and the principle of cyclical flux or "riverrun" (*FW* 1;1), the variants of her first name 'Anna' / 'Alma' thus fuse the two interrelated but conflicting principles of womanhood outlined above: matron-like care and motherhood juxtaposed to youth, sexual vigour and promiscuity. Taking these two text passages as a starting point, the paper will elucidate a detailed network of Alma Mahler- and ALP-related allusions.

Alexander Onysko (Klagenfurt):

Metaphors and Visual Aids in Learning English Idioms: A Progress Report

This talk will provide an overview of the ongoing FWF project, which aims at testing a) whether certain linguistic and conceptual conditions of equivalence between L1 (German/Russian) and English idioms can facilitate the learning of English idioms and b) whether the use of different types of pictures portraying the idioms may stimulate their uptake. A discussion of the different stages of the project up to its present state will focus on idiom selection, conceptual metaphor analysis, and the design of the visuals. First results of a norming study determining the difficulty of a core set of 100 idiomatic expressions offer preliminary insight into some of the factors guiding learner associations when construing the meaning of unknown idioms. In a next step, the results of the norming study will guide item selection for the planned retention experiments testing potential L1 conceptual and linguistic influence as well as learning effects dependent on different types of images.

Hermine Penz (Graz):

The Representation and Framing of Time in Climate Change Discourse

Despite the increasing awareness of the climate crisis across the world, it is a phenomenon that is extremely difficult to capture. Climate change is not part of our immediate experience unless we are affected by it through extreme weather events such as heat and droughts, storms, floods, etc. Most accounts of climate change provide future projections and develop future scenarios of how climate change will affect human beings and the world around us. In contrast to other environmental issues, its temporal aspects have thus been more prominent.

This paper discusses various conceptions of time and aims to identify the main temporal frames which have been applied in climate science and in media representations of climate change related to recent IPCC reports. The analysis shows how the near-, mid-, and long term future scenarios are related to the present and past in the various discourses and how aspects of speed and urgency add to the temporal dimension in climate change discourses.

Gerlinde Mautner (Vienna):

False Positives: A Critique of Leadership Discourse

In organisational life, 'leadership' has become a key concept. It is pervasive in its spread, positive in its associations, and powerful in its impact. For example, fairly mundane jobs are now routinely advertised as 'leadership roles'; business schools are keen to point out that they educate the 'leaders of the future'; and the book market is awash with best-selling titles on 'how to lead'. Management scholarship has contributed its fair share to the trend, developing theories around 'authentic', 'ethical' and 'transformational leadership', to name just a few. What unites all these accounts is the claim that leadership is different from, and superior to management (Alvesson and Einola 2019; Learmonth and Morrell 2019; Kniffin, Detert and Leroy 2020).

Using data from management scholarship, advertising and popular writing, this talk aims to unpack the discourse about leadership, with a focus on the following questions:

- How do linguistic choices construct the concept of leadership?
- Which other discourses of positivity is leadership discourse bound up in?
- Which wider societal trends does the concept of leadership reflect and support?

Looking at leadership through a critical lens, I will also explore what ideological purposes are served by leadership discourse (Alvesson and Spicer 2012). After all, the largely positive semantic aura of *leader(s)* (Mautner and Learmonth 2020) not only glorifies the not-so glamorous, routine aspects of management, but also glosses over the inherently antagonistic nature of many workplace relationships in contemporary capitalism. Leadership discourse typically edits out inequality, control and coercion. As these unpalatable effects are camouflaged, power becomes more difficult to resist. To refer to someone as a 'leader', then, is not an innocent label but one that does subtle ideological work. Specifically, it can be seen as both a by-product of, and a driving force behind, neoliberalism.

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Gunther Kaltenböck (Graz):

From Subordinator to Discourse Marker: A *just so* Story

Although a closed grammatic category, the inventory of adverbial subordinators has been shown to fluctuate over the centuries (Kortmann 1997). This presentation discusses a new addition to the set of purpose subordinators in present-day English, viz. *just so*, as illustrated in (1).

(1) *I definitely need more Legos, so we need to have kids **just so** I can justify the toys.* (COHA)

Based on data from the Corpus of Contemporary American English and the Corpus of Historical American English, the paper discusses the recent emergence and development of *just so* as a purpose subordinator and its subsequent use in the newly developed discourse marker *just so you know*, as illustrated in (2).

(2) ***Just so you know***, Shawn's on the road all the time. (COCA)

Various stages are identified in the development of *just so* from subordinator to its use in a discourse marker and the processes involved are shown to be those of grammaticalization and cooptation (e.g. Kaltenböck et al. 2011, Heine et al. 2021). The relationship to other purpose subordinators, such as *so* and *so that*, is finally highlighted by adopting a constructional network perspective (e.g. Diessel 2019).

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