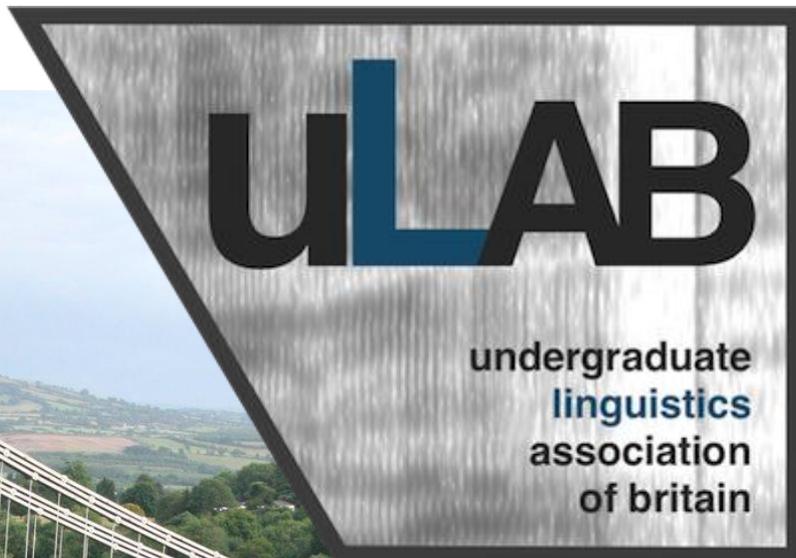


Conference Abstracts



The Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain Conference

UWE Bristol

14-15 April 2012

['lɪŋ.sək]

UWE
Linguistics
Society

LAGB . - . . . - - . - . . .

Ken Aboute Language: Edinburgh students' plans for school outreach to develop KAL and awareness of linguistics

When did you first hear about linguistics? For most undergraduates it is a term that was not encountered until investigating courses for university or even whilst studying.

Knowledge About Language (KAL) is considered to be a fundamental part of the curriculum. However, much of the delivery of KAL seems to come from prescriptive ideologies of how to speak and write 'properly' and often centred around 'standard' English as the norm, even in areas where local varieties are predominant.

Why is this the case given the academic progression of linguistics over the last 50 years? Why is there such a disjunct between the rich, descriptive and scientific body of knowledge about language and the provision of this area in pre 16 education? English Language is a course option for A-levels, Highers and the IB but this is not taken by everybody and obviously focused on just one language.

Recent initiatives by academics such as Richard Hudson (UCL) and Graeme Trousdale (Edinburgh) are introducing linguistic thinking to young people and there exists the Committee for Linguistics in Education (CLIE). Notable initiatives are: UKLO, the UK Linguistics Olympiad which works with schools to organise competitions that involve typological analysis of data; and The Language Detectives, a linguistics summer school for children run with the Villiers Park Educational Trust.

For such projects to grow, it is up to the next generation of linguists and linguistically aware teachers to develop and uphold the ideology that a descriptive, investigative and creative approach to KAL in the curriculum is needed to enrich young peoples' understanding of language and ensure that that understanding is based on contemporary research.

We offer some preliminary answers regarding the current state of KAL in the curriculum, summarise the existing academic projects and introduce ideas for educational outreach that are being developed by students at Edinburgh. We hope this will lead to further discussion over the weekend as other universities get involved.

Reanalysis and regularisation: the development of morphological structure

My presentation explores the changing nature of English morphology by examining the tendency of English verbs to “regularise” - that is, the tendency of irregular verbs to be gradually reanalysed into regular verbs according to English morphological structures. The regular English past tense is the suffix “-ed”, although historically there was a far more complicated system of rules for forming the past tense, such as word-internal vowel change. However, this irregular system is gradually being replaced by the regular past tense.

In order to show this, I will give an Government Phonology account of analytic and non-analytic morphology and how it interacts with phonology. I will then show that when a word is morphologically reanalysed, it almost always shifts from non-analytic (or irregular) to analytic (or regular) morphology. Furthermore, new verbs, such as loanwords and verbs derived from nouns or onomatopoeia, are also analysed with analytic morphology. Finally, I will explore the idea that the reanalysis of a word’s morphology is inherently linked to the frequency of its use. By referring to previous studies on evolutionary linguistics, I will show that more commonly used words have “stickier” morphology, which is reluctant to shift from non-analytic to analytic, while less commonly used words tend to shift from non-analytic to analytic much more quickly.

Queer – Homophobia or New Identity?

Homosexual discourse is an increasingly significant, shifting, and evolving area of linguistics. Past research has been conducted into the origins and history of lexicon used to describe homosexuals, whether male or female, as individuals and how words have evolved over homosexual liberation. Nevertheless, our understanding of how these terms are used in context is rapidly shifting. Society's attitudes and values are continuously undergoing change. This project aims to investigate, analyse, and question current attitudes of homosexuality by focusing on discourse labels used to describe and categorise homosexuals within the UK, and will ultimately question whether homosexuals are using negative words positively, thus causing a lexical reappropriation.

This process has been conducted by focusing on their origins from a chronological approach, and by using quantitative research in the form of questionnaires to try and grasp current understanding of these terms, both by heterosexual and homosexual communities alike. The project also touches upon homosexual discourse as a way of expressing identity in the register Polari, and how society has shifted from using words to express identity, to words ultimately becoming identity.

Possessive *Od-DP* in Colloquial Slovene.

In colloquial Slovene, possession is expressed with an *od*-headed PP, here termed *od-DP*, which resembles the English *of*-phrase (wheel [of the car]). The literature on the construction is practically non-existent: a passing mention is found in Toporišič (2000), or Priestly (1993). The present analysis presents its most general characteristics: we discuss its semantics, (1)–(2), and its position in the linear ordering of the DP elements (Cinque 2005), (3).

1. avto [od Janeza] : obraz [od Janeza] (possession : partitive)
car of John face of John
2. slika [od Janeza] (possessor ~ agent ~ theme)
picture of John
3. tisti trije rdeči svinčniki [od Janeza] (Dem>Num>A>N>*od-DP*)
those three red pencils of

The data has been checked with two experienced native speaker linguists; however, since our work is still in progress, we intend to enrich our battery of tests and consult a number of informants to better understand the phenomenon, especially in the areas where reliable judgements are difficult to obtain. We are yet to expand our analysis of picture nouns, (2), and linear ordering, especially with regard to adjective placement.

The present research proposes a semantic and syntactic analysis of the *od-DP*. We show that the *od-DP* conveys the semantics typical of possessive constructions and receives an agent, theme, or possessor interpretation with picture nouns (following Dimitrova-Vulchanova and Giusti 1999). We show that there are at least three surface positions for the *od-DP* ($__>Dem>Num>__>N>__>$); however, native speaker disagreement has prevented us thus far from elaborating on these claims.

Our findings make an important contribution to the study of colloquial Slovene. Furthermore, they are also relevant for typological studies and for the study of possessor structures in Slavic.

Bibliography:

- Cinque, G. 2005. Deriving Greenberg's Universal 20 and Its Exceptions. *Linguistic Inquiry* 36 (3): 315–332.
- Dimitrova-Vulchanova, N. and G. Giusti. 1999. Possessors in the Bulgarian DP. In *Topics in South Slavic Syntax and Semantics*, ed. M. Dimitrova-Vulchanova and L. Hellan, Amsterdam: John Benjamin's Publishing Co., 163–193.
- Priestly, T. M. S. 1993. Slovene. In *The Slavonic Languages*, ed. B. Comrie and G. G. Corbett, NY: Routledge, 388–455.
- Toporišič, J. 2000. *Slovenska slovnica*. Maribor: Obzorja.

Licenser under cover: The genitive of negation in Slovenian

In Slovenian, syntactic environments can be found in which noun phrases in negative sentences do not take the nominative or accusative, as one would expect from the parallel positive sentences. Instead, they are inflected for genitive (GenNeg). The phenomenon is widespread among Slavic languages. Consequently, it is well described (Babby 1980, Pesetsky 1982, Brown 1999, Pereltsvaig 1999, Harves 2002) – yet not satisfactorily explained. Most of the theories assume that GenNeg is assigned by the NegP head, but on the basis of pleonastic negation Brown&Franks (1995) provide counter-evidence to that claim. Now, if it is not NegP who assigns GenNeg, it remains unexplained why GenNeg is found only in negated sentences. Also it is not clear, why the relevant NPs change their case precisely to genitive.

Four characteristics of GenNeg should explain: (i) as mentioned above, GenNeg appears only in the scope of sentence negation; (ii) cross-linguistically, GenNeg can target different sets of syntactic environments, yet they all have to originate from the position of the underlying direct objects (Bailyn 1997: 86); (iii) the switch from nominative or accusative to genitive is accompanied by „some difference in syntactic structure and/or in semantics or pragmatics” (Partee&Borschev 2002a: 181); (iv) the distribution of the GenNeg is strikingly similar to the distribution of negative quantifiers (Pesetsky 1982, Pereltsvaig 1997).

Negative quantifier nič and GenNeg.

It is known that certain quantifiers have the same effect on the verb as Slovenian GenNeg, stated in (iv). These quantifiers also require their complement to be genitive. It thus seems reasonable to assume that GenNeg is licensed by a phonologically null quantifier. This is the main contribution of my paper. I observe that the distribution of GenNeg is very similar to the distribution of the n-numeral (a numeral which is a negative word in the sense of Zeijlstra 2004) nič ‘nothing’. Thus I put forth the hypothesis that GenNeg is licensed by the covert version of this word.

An investigation into the differences and similarities of revitalization strategies between languages and dialects with specific focus on the Manx language and the Yorkshire dialect.

This dissertation explores the themes of language death and revival with a specific focus on the Manx language and Yorkshire dialect. The first chapter aims to define language death, explore the problem of “dead” vernaculars, address the history of Manx and the Yorkshire dialect over the last century and outline what the *Manx Heritage Foundation* and *Yorkshire Dialect Society* do. The second chapter details the methodology undertaken for primary fieldwork carried out in Yorkshire, December 2011 and the Isle of Man, January 2012.

The third chapter assesses the current state of Manx language revitalization by exploring traditional and modern strategies in the Isle of Man. The same analysis is then carried out on the Yorkshire dialect in relation to its revitalization strategies that are, again, explored via traditional and modern methods. A comparative analysis of the two varieties is then made through the differences and similarities between each variety’s revitalization strategies. After this, the analysis considers the fear of death, and other motives, as viable reasons for the revitalization of a linguistic variety. The fourth chapter summarizes the key points discussed in the analysis and ends on the futures for both varieties.

An Investigation into the Opinions of Educational Literacy Teaching Professionals of Phonics Tuition in the United Kingdom

Phonics tuition in English primary schools has been the subject of highly contested debates since the implementation of the National Literacy Strategy in 1998. Initially the concept of phonics tuition for reading acquisition was competing against other techniques. Phonics has become an accepted aspect of reading education, the debate furthers into two methods of presenting phonics. Analytic methods and Synthetic phonic approach. This study comes to the conclusion that synthetic phonics is a developed approach where as analytic phonics is considered an “after effect” of the whole language methods. This study, first, challenges the relevancy of the debate itself.

This qualitative study aims to look at the opinions of experienced teachers and their first hand experience on what is currently being taught, and their recommendations, in comparison with the views and of the government and researchers. There are three methods of data collection: (1) an initial interview with a ‘Programme Leader of a Primary Education course’; (2) a questionnaire, intended as an extensive screening process to find a suitable candidate to interview for the principle method of data collection (3) detailed email interview (a controversial qualitative method in itself) with a literacy coordinator.

Tocharian exceptionality to the centum-satem isogloss

The centum/satem division of the Proto-Indo-European family is a near perfect isogloss. However, Tocharian and Hittite are two centum languages located within the satem language area. Two theories are normally used to justify this anomaly: either there was a late split after Tocharian and Hittite, or a growing dialect wave did not reach either of them due to geographical distance. In this paper, I argue that there may have been pressures inhibiting change in Tocharian, which could explain that anomaly in a novel way.

Firstly, I take a holistic view of language complexity, where each level only changes in relation to the language as a whole, and where the overall complexity of a language may change over time. (Sampson 2009) In this case, more radical syntactic, morphological, and lexical changes may have inhibited a change in the phonemic inventory of the language. I support this by showing examples from a similar language area in Kupwar, India, among others. Secondly, I examine the historical evidence for other languages in the region in order to show that horizontal influence from non-IE languages may have also influenced the proposed merge into [k]. Thirdly I posit that the merge of the PIE dorsal consonants may have been due to a decline in the general use, domain and range of Tocharian, which would be in line with recent research correlating small phonemic inventories with small language communities. (Hay and Bauer 2007)

The arguments above can be used to show that Tocharian may not have been susceptible to a weak dialect wave, or to a possible early branching of IE. This paper therefore sheds new light on the history and development of Tocharian, and in turn on the nature of the 'textbook' isogloss example.

Frisian and Old English Geminata in /ja/-stems: Stratal OT Analysis

Much has been written about the Western Germanic phenomenon of gemination, where /j/ lengthens any preceding consonant except /r/, in a descriptive as well as a generative fashion, and such treatments also extend to the domain of Old English. Old Frisian, on the other hand, has received little attention concerning the status of its geminates, especially in generative terms. In addition, Old Frisian word-final geminates underwent degemination in a sporadic fashion, the coherent explanation for which is also lacking. The present paper accounts for these processes and also contrasts them with a typical old West Germanic representative, viz. Old English.

The analysis is performed under the wider generative framework of Optimality Theory (OT) (Prince and Smolensky 1993), by subsuming a ‘stratified’ approach offered by Stratal OT (Kiparsky 2000, Bermúdez-Otero 1999), where structure may be generated on three strata: the stem level, the word level and the postlexical level. Such an approach is tailor-made for dealing with ‘opacity’, i.e. situations when the trigger of a certain surface state is not retrievable on the surface level.

In Old Frisian, nominative and accusative cases of /ja/-stems exhibit no geminates, e.g. ken ‘kin’, while the genitive and dative cases do, e.g. kennes-GEN-SG, kenne-DAT-SG, which renders the synchronic stem forms opaque. This is accounted for by arguing that geminate consonants are underlyingly present in /ja/-stems, i.e. they are specified in the INPUT, and that /ja/-stems are stratified into the word level and postlexical level, according to which degemination ‘happens last’, triggering opacity, which is supported by attestations of dialects in mediaeval Frisian manuscripts. The analysis proposed favours the approach of stratification offered by Stratal OT.

References:

- Bermúdez-Otero, R. 1999. Constraint interaction in language change: quantity in English and Germanic. PhD Thesis. Manchester: University of Manchester.
- Kiparsky, P. 2000. ‘Opacity and Cyclicity’. *The Linguistic Review*, 17. 351–367.
- Prince, A. and Smolensky, P. 1993. *Optimality Theory: Constraint Interaction in Generative Grammar*. MS Rutgers University and University of Colorado.

V-W Interchange in Bermudian English: A Sociolinguistic Investigation

Bermudian English, named in 2002 by Peter Trudgill as one of the 'lesser-known varieties of English', has received little scholarly attention and is often misrepresented both critically and geographically. As a first step in investigating the variety, this paper examines one heavily stereotyped feature, previously described as 'v-w confusion' (Wells, 1982). Analysing a range of social and linguistic constraints, it aims to clarify the realisation of the two related variables /v/ and /w/, based on sociolinguistic interviews conducted with ten Bermudian females. Findings identify a salient 'mid' (bilabial fricative) variant, and show that while previous research and stereotyping in local media exaggerate switching, it does occur and has been passed to the younger generation. Analysis of attention to speech and metalinguistic commentary finds a very mixed local perception of the variety, which can be explained by the island's unique socio-economic climate.

A Case Study of the Oxfordshire Accent: The Difficulties of Research.

A major objective of researchers following the Labovian variationist tradition is to uncover the constraints which lead to the use of certain linguistic variables (Milroy and Gordon 2003:5). Variationist studies begin with the premise that language variation is structured and from this aim to uncover the patterns of language use (Milroy and Gordon 2003:5). In line with the variationist theory, the analyses in this study of accent variation were based on observed data.

A total of twelve participants from Kidlington, Oxfordshire were selected to take part in semi-structured interviews; materials were used to elicit linguistic variables that according to literature, appeared to be in a state of flux. Literature initially used included Trudgill's (1999) 'The Dialects of England' and Upton and Widdowson's (2006) 'Atlas of English Dialects'. The data obtained was then used alongside 1953 recordings from the British Library to carry out an apparent time study in order to gain an insight into language change and variation in Oxfordshire over the last sixty years. Apparent time studies involve the division of a speech community into age groups; each group is then studied to establish any linguistic differences; a difference is indicative of a change (Mesthrie et al 200:120).

This paper discusses the difficulties experienced whilst carrying out the research in the village of Kidlington, Oxfordshire. The key literature initially used will be explored and the difficulties witnessed during the interview process will be discussed. Labov's 'vernacular principle' (Labov 1972 in Wodak et al 2010:302) will also be examined against the elicitation techniques chosen for the study to understand the patterns of the linguistic variables present in Oxfordshire. The 'vernacular principle' refers to the belief that natural conversation is the desired spoken style when analysing a language in relation to its history (Wardhaugh 2006:19).

The Role of Language and Identity in Moldova

As with many Eastern European countries, Moldova has been occupied by many other countries in its long and chaotic history of settlement (Reid 2007:315). The result of this is that it has caused the country to gain multiple national and linguistic identities. This micro-study explores how language is influenced by social, economic and cultural factors in Moldova, through the observations I made personally whilst I was there.

To achieve my aims and fulfil a detailed analysis of the role of language and identity in Moldova, I have chosen to use an ethnographic approach. Cameron (2001:54) describes this as when a researcher spends time with subject/s regularly; joins in their activities and talks to them about what they do and why. Tesch (1994) defines this kind of research as a method based upon description and interpretation which is focused on culture and human experience of the 'life-world'. Ethnographers pay particular attention to cultural language practices and their meaning. For these reasons I have chosen to undertake an ethnographic analysis of the language in Moldova.

The research is split up into sections of discourse, for example 'advertising', 'education' and 'graffiti'. This has enabled me to analyse specific smaller areas which can then be related to the topic as a whole. This has also given me the opportunity to make use of all my ethnographic research yet concentrate on the most important parts of my observations.

Thomas Williams – University of the West of England, Bristol
The Relation of Orientational Emotional Metaphor with respect to Verticality

Lakoff and Johnson (2006:15) cite a number of examples of orientational metaphors.

HAPPY IS UP; SAD IS DOWN

CONSCIOUS IS UP; UNCONSCIOUS IS DOWN

HEALTH AND LIFE ARE UP; SICKNESS AND DEATH ARE DOWN

This project will centre around the concept of the orientational metaphor on a vertical axis. My project aims to conduct a replication of Meier and Robinson (2004), but instead selecting words taken from real-world data, using multiple corpus sources.

In the study, participants are presented with “positive” or “negative” words, shown either at the top, middle or bottom of a computer screen. The researchers found that the position of a word and the affect of the word correlated – thus adding evidence to Lakoff and Johnson’s proposal (2003) that HAPPY IS UP, SAD IS DOWN.

Some problems are found in Meier and Robinson’s original (2004) study – in particular CRITICAL is listed as a negative word, and while examples exist of it being used negatively, the BNC frequently lists collocates of CRITICAL with THEORY, MASS, and THINKING – phrases which are not necessarily negative at all. And given the participants in this study were in fact undergraduate students, it could be suggested that they may have viewed CRITICAL in a positive light.

To test this I searched for a sample of words used in the original study into the British National Corpus, and found many had collocates to suggest that some words categorised either as positive or negative could equally be argued to suggest the opposite.

By repeating the experiment with a new set of words, and by categorising the *type* of word, this project may provide more of an insight not only into verticality and affect, but of verticality and the type of metaphor.

The Declarative/Procedural Model: The neurochemistry of language

The physiology and neurochemistry of language are not obvious areas of exploration, but a recent proposal has huge implications on the fields of Linguistics and Neurology. The declarative/procedural model proposed by Michael Ullman (2001a; 2001b; 2004) claims the declarative memory system underlies the mental lexicon, whilst the procedural memory system underlies the mental grammar. The model makes very specific predictions about language and its mechanisms in the brain.

One particular prediction is of interest to linguists and neurologists alike. A recent study (Ullman et al 2002) has implicated specific neurochemicals with language use. Estrogen and acetylcholine demonstrably improve processing in temporal lobe regions; under the Declarative/Procedural Model, declarative/lexical language processing should improve accordingly in proportion to levels of these two neurochemicals.

The effect of estrogen on language use is tested by means of a short experiment. Estrogen levels are indirectly measured and compared with participants' use of regular, irregular and novel past-tense inflection forms. Following Ullman (2001a), regular forms are constructed anew in procedural memory, irregular forms are retrieved from the declarative memory system, and novel forms should elicit a participants' personal preference for either declarative or procedural language processing. It is predicted that, as estrogen levels increase within an individual participant, so too will their reliance on the declarative memory system. This should become apparent in language use, with increased use of irregular verb inflections and lower use of regular inflections. In sum, results are expected to show, in line with Ullman et al (2002) that estrogen levels positively correlate with use of irregular verb inflections.

If attested, the DP model has important implications in understanding the neural mechanisms of language, and the evidence presented here provides a potential neurobiological basis for language-processing differences between sexes. Moreover, since declarative and procedural memory systems are not domain-specific to language, the means by which language operates should be applicable to non-language domains using similar neural mechanisms. In brief, the model demonstrates that the future of linguistics has a hugely important role in neuroscience, including the mechanisms underlying nonlanguage disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Dementia and Amnesia, among others.

Journal of Psycholinguistic Research, vol. 30(1), p37–69. Ullman, M.T. (2001b)

A neurocognitive perspective on language: the declarative/procedural model. Nature Reviews Neuroscience, vol. 2, p717–726. Ullman, M.T. (2004)

Contributions of memory circuits to language: the declarative/procedural model. Cognition, vol. 92, p231–270. Ullman, M.T, Estabrooke, I.V., Steinhauer, K., Brovotto, C., Pancheva, R., Ozawa, K., Mordecai, K., Maki, P. (2002)

Sex differences in the neurocognition of language, Brain and Language, vol. 83, p9–224.

Is intrinsic vowel duration maintained when we sing?

This study addressed the question of whether intrinsic vowel duration is maintained in singing. It is motivated by the fact that music and speech have different rhythmical structures: notably that music is characterised by being built from isochronous units, which may be conceptualised as problematic for intrinsic vowel duration.

Experimental research was carried out, using acoustic data of five participants' speech and singing, to test the hypotheses of whether intrinsic vowel duration is maintained, whether the presence of a metronome has an effect, and finally whether a speed-accuracy trade-off occurs. It is found that the answer to the question of whether intrinsic vowel duration is maintained is not a simple one. Across pooled data, there is little evidence for a complete loss of intrinsic vowel duration in singing. However, individual results show large interspeaker variation, and strongly indicate individuals can employ different strategies: attending to the priority of either temporal accuracy or phonetic accuracy. A speed-accuracy trade-off was found to have occurred to some degree, most noticeably in qualitative differences in vowels' formant frequencies, and relative durational differences. However, it was found that the presence of a metronome has little effect on the extent to which intrinsic vowel duration is maintained.

Merve Kiymaz – Middle East Technical University, Turkey
The Contexts Limiting the Scrambling of Multiple Wh-Phrases

Turkish is generally said to be wh-in-situ language (Erguvanlı 1984, Akar 1990, Özsoy 1990, 1996, Kornfilt 1997). When wh-phrases appear displaced it is because they are scrambled. In this paper, I investigate whether the order of wh-phrases that are scrambled is fixed or free and identify the contexts that require a fixed order and the contexts that do not.

There are constraints for some of the wh-phrases which are in preverbal areas. The wh- words *nasıl* and *nereye* cannot appear freely in any preverbal position except for the immediately preverbal position as we see in (1) (Akar, 1990). Normally, the wh-phrases are immediately adjacent to the verb. However; the wh- phrases except for *nasıl* and *nereye* which she entitles as VP-internal adjunct wh-phrases may appear in positions other than the immediate preverbal area (Akar, 1990).

1 . a) *[S' Nasıl[S [NP Merve] [vp ti dans eder]]

How-NOM Merve dance-AOR

“How does Merve dance?”

b) *[S' Nereye [S [NP Ayşe] [VP ti gitti]]]

Where-DAT Ayşe go-PAST

“Where did Ayşe go?”

For multiple wh-constructions I found two constraints on the scrambling of the wh-phrases. First one is the animacy effect. I would like to argue that an inanimate wh-object cannot scramble over an animate wh-subject even when it bears stress. Also, when an inanimate wh-phrase is with another inanimate one, it cannot scramble over the other wh-phrase. This suggests that animacy is a factor affecting the scrambling possibilities of wh- phrases in Turkish.

2 . a) KİM kimi gördü?

Who-NOM who-ACC see-PAST

“Who saw who?”

b) ?KİMİ kim gördü?

who-ACC Who-NOM see-PAST

“Who saw who?”

3 . a) NE neyi yedi?

What-NOM what-ACC eat-PAST?

“What ate what?”

b)*NEYİ ne yedi?

What-ACC what-NOM eat-PAST?

“What ate what?”

4 . a) KİM neyi pişiriyor?

Who-NOM what-ACC cook-PROG

“Who is cooking what?”

b) ???NEYİ kim pişiriyor?

what-ACC Who-NOM cook-PROG

“Who is cooking what?”

5 . a) KİM ne pişiriyor?

Who-NOM what-ACC cook-PROG

“Who is cooking what?”

b) *NE kim pişiriyor?

what-NOM who-NOM cook-PROG

“Who is cooking what?”

In (4b) and (5b), specificity is the factor determining the grammaticality of the sentences. The inanimate wh-phrases should be specified with accusative marker if they are not verb-adjacent as we can observe in the examples above. The reason why (4b) is severely degraded but not ungrammatical may be that it meets the requirements of only specificity but not animacy. Furtherly, Turkish does not allow non-specific objects to appear in the sentence-initial positions even in declarative sentences (Kural, 1992). Since Turkish is wh-in-situ

language, the constraints for the scrambling of non-specific objects -namely the lexical NP counterparts of the wh-phrases to the sentence-initial position may also be valid for the wh-phrases.

Secondly, I would like to argue that the adjunct wh-phrases which are both VP-internal and VP-external cannot scramble to the sentence initial positions and be topicalized in multiple questions when they are with argument wh-phrases. The argument wh-phrases which are both animate and inanimate can scramble to the sentence-initial position more freely than the adjunct wh-phrases .

6 . a) *Nereye Ahmet neyi koyuyor?

where-DAT Ahmet what-ACC put-PROG

“Ahmet is putting what to where?”

7 . a) *Ahmet nasıl kimi öper?

Ahmet how-NOM who-ACC kiss-AOR

*“Who does Ahmet kiss how?”

An investigation into the language of the courtroom, specifically barrister's persuasive techniques.

My research is an investigation into courtroom language, specifically the persuasive techniques of barristers. The research had three subsections to make a thorough and valid basis from which to draw conclusions from. The first section required me to examine previous criminal court transcripts in order to observe the questioning process and observe the most coercive question types and their linguistic arrangement that encouraged the desired answer from the defendant. Secondly I sent questionnaires to barristers, teachers of the BAR course and criminal law students in order to collect quantitative data about which questions they thought most efficient. Thirdly I examined past research in order to provide a framework of questions which could then be used to examine the first two sub-sections results. The conclusion is that some questions are more coercive and there are in-fact, certain question types that barristers can ask, which linguistically provide only the answer that they desire. This provokes the wider question – should the language of the courtroom be analysed linguistically to be fairer to the public who may have no experience of specific lexis and complex questioning?

The Grapheme <V> in Classical Latin: did it represent one phoneme or two?

In Classical Latin, the grapheme <V> could be used to represent [u], [u], and [w]. There are clear minimal pairs showing that [u] and [u] were separate phonemes /u/ and /u/. However, there has been much debate about whether [u] contrasted with [w]. In one sense, it seem clear that [w] was a consonant phoneme that contrasted with other consonants: pestis /pestis/ ~ festis /festis/ ~ uestis /westis/ while [u] was a vowel phoneme that contrasted with other vowels: malum ~ malam. However, the two sounds are phonetically similar enough to qualify as allophones in complementary distribution; [w] occurring in syllable peripheries, and [u] occurring in syllable nuclei. However, the matter is complicated when we observe [w] and [u] in C_V or V_C environments.

There are four elements that I will bring into the discussion of the phonemic status of these sounds and I will conclude that [w] was an allophone of /u/. First, I will discuss conditioning elements found in C_V and V_C environments. Interesting patterns emerge where u follows /l/, /r/, /s/, and /n/. Secondly, I will discuss the evidence provided by poetry. In many cases, poetry seems to contradict the normal rules for the distribution of [u] and [w]. Thirdly, I will discuss the Claudian inversed digamma, which was used to represent [w], and what the inscriptional evidence can tell us about speakers' perceptions of sounds. Finally, I will briefly discuss the development of [w] into the Romance languages.

This discussion hopes to provide a more nuanced understanding of the dissimilarities between popular Latin and Classical Latin, and demonstrates the role of sociolinguistic understanding historical linguistics.

Processing Verb Second at the Interface

A controversial topic in syntactic research since the 1970's has been what is known as embedded root phenomena (Hooper & Thompson 1973). As the name suggests, these are structures characteristic of main clauses, occurring in embedded contexts. One such phenomenon is Mainland Scandinavian embedded Verb Second. It has been claimed that this is licensed by the foregrounding, or main point status, of the embedded proposition (Julien 2009, Wiklund et al. 2009, Heycock et al. 2010). Although generally supported, this hypothesis remains controversial. This is partially due to the difficulty in quantifying over the notion of 'foregrounding', given that the very same embedded clause may be either backgrounded or foregrounded, depending on what appears to be a complex interaction of linguistic and extralinguistic factors. Hence, the present study analyses how the interaction of the discourse-pragmatics and the lexical semantics of the matrix predicate effects the acceptability of embedded V2 for native speakers of Swedish. In particular, I explore two hypotheses. First, the view mentioned above, that assertion is directly encoded in the syntax. Second, I explore the alternative view, that V2 may be an (optional) pragmatic ambiguity resolution-strategy, for distinguishing between main clause and embedded clause foregrounding. I present a tentative conclusion, and discuss implications for the semantics-pragmatics interface, and for syntactic processing, particularly with regards to morpho-syntactic alternations.

Heycock, Caroline, Antonella Sorace, and Zakaris Svabo Hansen (2010). V-to-I and V2 in subordinate clauses: an investigation of Faroese in relation to Icelandic and Danish. *Journal of comparative Germanic Linguistics*, 13: 61-97.

Hooper, Joan and Sandra Thompson (1973). On the applicability of root transformations. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 4, 4: 465-497.

Julien, Marit (2009). Embedded clauses with main clause word order in Mainland Scandinavian. Published on LingBuzz: URL: <http://ling.auf.net/lingBuzz/000475>.

Wiklund, Anna-Lena, Kristine Bentzen, Gunnar Hrafn Hrafnbjargarson, and Thorbjörg Hróarsdóttir (2009). On the distribution and illocution of V2 in Scandinavian that-clauses. *Lingua*, 119, 12: 1-25.

Case and Agreement in Creek

Dixon (1994: 8-9) notes that three primitive syntactic relations (Subject of a transitive (A), Object of a transitive (O), Subject of an intransitive (S)) pattern differently cross-linguistically.

In a nominative-accusative alignment A and S are grouped together, whereas in an ergative-absolutive alignment S and O are grouped together. In Split-S and Fluid-S systems intransitive verbs are divided into two sets: Subjects of intransitive unergative verbs (Sunerg) and subjects of intransitive unaccusative verbs (Sunacc) (Dixon 1994: 71).

The morphosyntactic alignments of case and agreement systems are matched in many languages. According to Dixon (1994), Corbett (2006) and Woolford (2010) the typological literature reports only one of two possible types of case-agreement mismatch; an ergative case system paired with nominative-accusative agreement. “Both case-marking and cross-referencing affixes can be accusative, or both can be ergative; but if there is a split, then bound forms will be accusative and free forms will be ergative...” (Dixon 1994: 95). In discussion of the cross-linguistic patterns Dixon (1994) subsume both ergative-absolutive alignments and unergative-unaccusative alignments under the term ‘ergative’.

Creek is a Muskogean language spoken in Oklahoma and Florida (Martin 2011: 17). In 2000, there were estimated to be 3900 speakers of Creek¹, however fewer than 12 were thought to be monolingual speakers (Martin 2011: 17).

In Creek the morphosyntactic alignment on free nominals is nominative-accusative, whereas the agreement markers exhibit a Split-S morphosyntactic alignment. This ‘mismatch’ is theoretically interesting because it presents a challenge to case-based theories of agreement (Woolford 2010: 9). Previous cross-linguistic surveys of case and agreement morphosyntactic alignments have not reported this pattern (Dixon 1994) (Corbett 2006). To account for the cross-linguistic data, several influential analytical approaches to case and agreement do not generate this ‘mismatch’ ((Woolford 2010), (Bobaljik 2008)).

In discussion of previous analyses of this pattern I discuss Choctaw, another Muskogean language which exhibits the same ‘mismatch’ in morphosyntactic alignments. I also discuss work by Patel (2007), which suggests that the universality of Dixon (1994)’s generalisation should be reconsidered.

I describe and analyse the case and agreement patterns of Creek within a Minimalist framework. My analysis proposes that the relationship between case and agreement is epiphenomenal, and arises because both case and agreement are dependent upon the same structural configurations. I relate my proposal to the current Minimalist literature on this topic, and discuss its implications.

¹The data discussed is primarily sourced from ‘A Grammar of Creek (Muskogee)’ by Jack B. Martin (2011) and an online collection of narrative texts made available at <http://lingspace.wm.edu/lingspace/creek/texts/>.

Speaker Perceptions of Singlish

The aim of this investigation is to clarify the sociolinguistic status of Colloquial Singapore English (CSE), otherwise known as Singlish. Using original data personally collected by surveying English-speaking Singaporeans in 2012, it will firstly consider whether Singlish exists in a lectal continuum or in a diglossic relationship with Standard Singapore English.

Building on these findings, it will then attempt to compare popular attitudes towards CSE within the speech community, with the official, anti-Singlish government line propagated in recent years. By tackling these two issues my investigation will, in light of previous scholarship, construct a clearer picture of Singlish's current status and future usage.

Second language transfer in Third Language Acquisition A Study on the acquisition of word order

Language acquisition is a very controversial field of the study of linguistics. There are current debates about how a language is acquired and they always go back to the same question: to what extent is a first language learnt differently from other languages. The three opposing views are: the L1 Initial state, the No Transfer and the Partial Transfer positions. What these views mainly focus on is the study of Second Language Acquisition. This paper intends to take this discussion one step further by looking at Third Language Acquisition.

Although there are existing papers investigating the acquisition of vocabulary in TLA, little seems to have been said about the acquisition of syntactical features. This is why this research will investigate the question of language transfer in word order. There will be three groups of Spanish learners involved: one with L1 English, one with L1 Hungarians learning Spanish as L2 and one with L1 Hungarians, learning Spanish as their L3. The choice of the three languages is deliberate as they are from very different origins: Hungarian is from the Finno-Ugric, English is from the Germanic and Spanish is from the Latin language family. This fact makes them appreciably different in many aspects, but the most conspicuous difference is in their syntax.

The groups will be given the same Spanish grammaticality judgement test on word order and their results will be compared. If first language effect is assumed, Hungarian participants will allow more deviation from SVO in their test than English participants. If the English and the L3 Hungarian groups perform similarly, it suggests that those Hungarians who are learning Spanish as a third language are using their existing second language knowledge, which is English. If this is the case, and the second language has greater effect than the first, it would emphasise the importance of multilingualism and would support the idea that second language learning prepares learners with such language awareness that can help them in their third or other language acquisition.

The Structural Properties of English Relative Pronouns

I intend to propose an analysis of the varying behaviour of English relative pronouns in headed and headless (free) relative clauses. Stemming from the observation that some relative pronouns may only form headed relative clauses (such as 'who' and 'which') while others only occur in headless relative clauses (such as 'what'), I will argue that some English relative pronouns are specified as D heads and merged above the relative clause CP, while others are Complementiser heads. I will support this proposition cross-linguistically with evidence from Polish 'light-headed' relatives, which are analysed as comprising of a Comp and a higher D head, both of which are morphologically pronounced. I will also attempt to account for the different distribution of -ever class relative pronouns in English relative clauses.