



**The University of
Nottingham**

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH
PGR WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINAR
2017-18

THURSDAY 17th MAY 2018



9.00 – 9.15: ARRIVAL & COFFEE

9.15: WELCOME – Lucie Sutherland

9.25: Session One – Chair: Emily Mills

Thomas Black

Title: A Scots 'Ennius' amongst the Gaels: neo-Latin Poetry of the first Jacobite war

James Philp, a Scottish participant on the Jacobite side in the 1689 war described his experiences of the campaign in a grandiose neo-Latin epic composed after the eventual Jacobite defeat. A key context for reading his poem is the encounter of an east coast Scot with west coast Gaeldom, and his poetic responses to the ethnic and historiographical quandaries of the Scottish nation. This paper shall assess his poetic response to the Scots Gaels and his attempts to articulate a Scottish identity at a key moment of political, religious and cultural stress.

Morakot Pan-Iam

Title: Geography of Loneliness in the Fictions of Gordimer and Coetzee

Places play a significant role in our understanding of the forces of imperialism and colonialism. My paper presents a reading of moments of 'loneliness' in the apartheid fiction by Nadine Gordimer and Coetzee. It offers a model for understanding loneliness and the administration of body and place as a violent means of control under the apartheid system. Drawing upon Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, my work examines how Coetzee and Gordimer strategically foreground the narrative space of politicised loneliness, a space in which the relationships between self and other, interior and exterior, private and public, fact and fiction are problematized.

Martin Brooks

Title: Edward Thomas' Coleridgean Patriotism

Edward Thomas (1878-1917) critiqued First World War patriotism in systematic argument and in poetry. I demonstrate that both respond to 'professedly patriotic writing' with a position equivalent to that which his lifetime's prose writing traces in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poetry (1772-1834).

I show that it was then uncommon for writers to hold Coleridge's poetry as a model patriotism. Coleridge was rebuked for questioning England's warlike tendencies in 'Fears in Solitude' (1798). Thomas, however, reads a 'sweeter and more profound' patriotism throughout Coleridge's descriptions of England. The link between questioning England and a Coleridgean style of description pervades Thomas' wartime poetry.

Yaging Xie

Title: G. L. Dickinson and China: Behind the Mask of John Chinaman

Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson adopts the strategy of transvestism in both cultural and gender sense in his representation of China. Culturally, he uses a Chinese mask to criticise modern Western civilisation, but this mask hides his essential Eurocentric stance. In terms of gender, Dickinson's obsession with China is a form of transference of his repressed homosexual desire. His homosexuality also leads to a sympathetic understanding of the Other, which paves the way for his affinity with China. Facing all the instabilities at the beginning of the twentieth century, Dickinson needed a mask as both self-protection and self-fashioning.

Question and Answer opportunity

10.20 – 10.35: Coffee Break

10.35: Session Two – Chair: Benedict Neurohr

Annika Bailey

Title: A linguistic approach to stories of dementia: Interrogating the cultural and the personal

Dementia is something that society is very afraid of, and there is an enormous amount of stigma and misunderstanding surrounding the condition. My research examines cultural and personal stories of dementia, to understand how people both with and without dementia conceptualise the condition, and what this can reveal about how people navigate the challenges of living with it. Utilising the linguistic methods of corpus based discourse analysis, my research interrogates representations of dementia in the news media and on an online forum for people diagnosed with dementia. This presentation provides an overview of my research with the aim of illustrating how a linguistic analysis can contribute to discussions of living well with chronic illness. Language plays a vital role in shaping cultural understandings of illness, and this research hopes to identify how people with dementia can be empowered and enabled despite the disabling and debilitating condition.

Katherine Irons

Title: Buying to be thin! Depicting the Doctor in Herbal Weight-loss Websites

'Online sellers of potentially dangerous slimming pills are putting "desperate dieters" health at serious risk by seducing them with the promise of "quick-fix" weight loss and discreet online deliveries' (MHRA, 2016). By examining the website data of four purveyors of herbal weight-loss products, I explore specific discursive strategies that the marketers employ. Using the framework of 'multimodal critical discourse analysis', I identify robust examples of medicalising discourses embedded within the commercial frame of advertising. By investigating the 'Doctor' as medical representative, I consider the effects of a synthetic doctor-patient relationship and how this might impact on the broader socio-cultural landscape.

Whitney Cull

Title: Teenage Pregnancy and Abortion: A feminist critical discourse analysis

An exploration of the ways in which women construct their experience of teenage pregnancy and abortion.

Wendy Olphert

Title: Exploring the relationship between communication, identity and digital technology in people living with brain tumour

This paper describes a multidisciplinary approach to researching the communicative practices of people living with a brain tumour in relation to obtaining information and support, and barriers and facilitators to their use of digital communication technologies.

Question and Answer opportunity

11.30 – 11.45: Break

11.45: Session Three – Chair: Oscar Delgado

Aimee Bailey

Title: Discourses of homonormativity in queer women's lifestyle media

My research examines constructions of homonormativity in online media aimed at lesbian, bisexual and other queer women. It utilises a large corpus of advice literature collected from two of the world's most popular websites for queer women, Autostraddle and AfterEllen. Using corpus linguistics and multimodal critical discourse analysis, I am investigating how recurrent textual and visual patterns work to discursively negotiate new standards of what is "normal" for queer women in relation to a changing social, cultural and legal landscape. This is then considered in relation to the response from the websites' audiences, using the medium of below-the-line comments.

Victoria Howard

Title: Negotiating rules in the House of Lords

Members of the House of Lords must negotiate myriad institutional and sociocultural rules relating to linguistic behaviour. At times, rules apply which require speeches to be 'non-controversial'. I briefly consider examples of how speakers negotiate such rules in debates following the Queen's Speech, before exploring the relationship between rule behaviour, identity constructions and representations of self and other. The analysis draws on a range of theoretical approaches, particularly the communities of practice framework. Finally, I will outline how this research is intended to shed light on an understudied parliamentary institution in order to inform debate about reform.

Amy Van Kesteren

Title: Rewriting the past: The uncanny return in Gothic fiction

This paper offers a dialogue between academic research and creative practice, along with a personal reflection on both approaches. The definitions of both the uncanny and the Gothic genre linger quietly on the borders of strangeness; they rely on feeling, on experience. Through a creative reinvention of my own experiences, this paper examines what Nicholas Royle describes as 'sense of homeliness uprooted'. The parallels between my own self and my adolescent narrator become an ideal device in exposing the uncanny disturbances and dysfunctions underpinning Gothic fiction. Both creatively and critically, I strive to explore what it means to be faced with the uncanny, whilst I reflect on my own experiences of what it means to be the uncanny.

Thirza Wakefield

Title: Open-endedness and the representation of working-class experience in the serial novels of Alan Sillitoe

My research concerns ways of understanding the quality of serialness in the work of authors and filmmakers born in and writing about the East Midlands. By examining the commonalities of three case studies—D. H. Lawrence’s theatre (specifically, his ‘Eastwood trilogy’); Alan Sillitoe’s serial novels and short story collection *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*; and Shane Meadows’s *This is England* series, a trilogy for television—I hope to quantify the working-class cultural identity of Nottingham and the wider Midlands region.

This paper will look at the open-endedness of Sillitoe’s serial novels, and the repetitiveness of his work, in general. It will suggest that the quality of unfinishedness—both in the sense of incompleteness, and of lack of refinement or polish—purposely draws attention to the materiality of the text, and subverts his writerly authority. The Sillitoe novel, ‘a structure that keeps itself forever open to the possibility of revision,’ as Amit Chaudhuri writes of the D. H. Lawrence poem, contests cultural assumptions relating to authorship and the literary text. I will argue that Sillitoe’s serial forms evidence two objectives: the first, to precisely describe the working-class experience, which is not rounded-off, but unrelenting; the second, to have he and his text(s) remain within and of the working-class world about which he writes, an affinity destabilised by traditional notions of authorship.

Question and Answer opportunity

12.40 – 13.15: Lunch

13.15: Session Four – Chair: Marianna Kyriacou

Steven Justice

Title: An exploration of the effectiveness of applying Text World Theory during the creative writing process to improve emotional experience and literary resonance

My research project investigates two related research questions: Can Text World Theory be used effectively to enhance the communication of emotional experience and literary resonance in creative writing? And through the potentially successful application of Text World Theory in the creative process, could the field of cognitive poetics be considered a more relative research interest for writers? This presentation will introduce the key concepts of my research and the planned data collection methodology

Jacob Runner

Title: 'Runes and Rōmaji: Literary Polygraphy and Paralinguistic Signification'

This paper introduces the phenomenon of *literary polygraphy* – the simultaneous and blended use of differing orthographic systems within a monolingual text. It then provides a comparative overview of relevant functional aspects and assesses the paralinguistic signification achieved in case-study texts from two distinct modes of production which exhibit strikingly similar multiliteral qualities, but which fundamentally differ in terms of environment (language, historical, cultural, etc.): vernacular Old English narrative poetry influenced by the Latin ecclesiastical tradition which employ runes alongside the Roman alphabet, and modern Japanese fiction influenced by Anglo-American literature which utilizes Roman characters as one of four concurrent scripts.

Laura de Simoni

Title: Dystopia on Stage: An Introduction

My talk gives an overview of my research project, which focuses on manifestations of dystopias in contemporary British theatre. Dystopia is mainly considered to be a genre of literature, and theatrical examples of dystopias seem to be absent from the British cultural panorama and critical scholarship.

I will first describe the typical features of dystopia as a literary genre, so as to clarify the object of my analysis, and then explore the ways in which such traits can be identified (and developed) on the stage.

Alice Haines

Title: Elaboration and collaboration in humorous literature

Humour is considered to be a communicative device that promotes group cohesion and it is suggested that one way in which this develops is through group members collaborating to elaborate on the details of a humorous occurrence. It is also proposed that some jokes (and, by extension, literary texts) have a greater potential to encourage this than others. Here I will discuss the role that the stylistic presentation of a text plays in increasing its elaboration potential and promoting a reader's sense of being an active collaborator in the construction of humour.

Question and Answer opportunity

14.10 – 14.25: Break

14.25: Session Five – Chair: Raya Harbi

Pablo Aros-Munoz

Title: Metaphor Processing in Spanish Speakers with English as a Second Language

Metaphors are a type of figurative language that indicates a relationship between the elements that make them up. For example, the metaphor *HAPPINESS IS GOLD* indicates a relationship between these two elements, not that there is literal equivalence between them. Thus, *HAPPINESS* is not literally *GOLD*, but rather happiness is comparable to gold in some way, such as being valuable. Because metaphors have two potential interpretations (literal or figurative), this leads to important questions about the activation of the literal and figurative meanings of metaphor, and whether this is different in a first and second language.

Meredith Cicerchia

Title: Multi-modal Arabic Word Learning in Novice L1 English Speakers

Arabic is considered to be a challenging language for English speakers to learn and is a priority for language teaching in the US and UK. Despite this there is little research on learning Arabic as a Foreign Language (AFL); most of what we know about AFL vocabulary acquisition is anecdotal. This research aims to provide empirical evidence to develop an understanding of the impact of word length, number of syllables, phoneme status (native to Arabic or co-existing in English) and frequency, on accuracy and response times in a multi-modal word-learning paradigm by testing 32 Novice L1 Native English Speakers.

Amel Guerroudi

Title: Towards an Evaluation of Intertextuality via a Transactional Reader-based Approach

The present study will investigate the theory of intertextuality in order to stimulate EFL learners' literary response and transactional reading. In doing so, the concept of intertextuality, in its broadest sense will be used to refer not only to how literary texts relate to other texts but also to how readers make connections from various resources to shape the literary transaction. Fundamental to this study, I will also be discussing the implementation of small group text discussions in order to help learners create intertextual connections in a meaningful collaborative environment. This in turn, will encourage the students to broaden their individual perspectives and more particularly will increase their reading comprehension and personal engagement.

Andrew Moffat

Title: Using English as a Second Language Online: A Global Survey of Current Practices

This methodological paper presents the development of a large-scale survey investigating second-language English online communicative activities among English learners around the world. A questionnaire was designed to find out in what contexts learners use their English online, what kind of social functions they perform, what kinds of difficulties they encounter in English-language online communication, and how they regard it relating to their formal learning. The survey was promoted on Cambridge University Press's online dictionary website, receiving over 10,000 responses in a four-week period.

Question and Answer opportunity

15.20 – 15.35: Break

15.35: Session Six – Chair: Julie Yandell

Katie Jones

Title: London, 1908-9: Katherine Mansfield's Early Engagement with the Literary Marketplace

Current critical examinations of Mansfield's career typically identify her 1910-11 contributions to socialist periodical *The New Age* as the starting point for her life as a professional author. Such critical sources have created an inherently flawed narrative which ascribes much of her early success to the influence of specific mentors. For the young Mansfield, London in 1908-9 represented an uninhibited space in which she could explore her authorial identity and cultivate her developing aesthetic vision. Her desire to contribute something 'sensational and new' to the literary field led to her engagement at that time with the city's emerging verse-recitation scene. This paper will examine the evidence for Mansfield's active involvement in the vogue for verse-recitation in this period, as she struggled to discover a writing style that would appeal to potential publishers.

Fatimah Mohamed

Title: Evidence of Glocalisation Strategies in Fast Food Advertisements on Social Media

Global brands are realising that each market is unique and that a globalised approach cannot adequately address the local needs and cultural differences in each region. Therefore, 'glocalisation' is becoming an increasingly popular approach in marketing. This study aims to bring a new perspective on glocalisation in advertising through a multimodal discourse lens which will examine both the linguistic and non-linguistic features in a multinational corporation's advertisements, as previous studies on glocalisation were mostly conducted through a marketing perspective.

Leigh Harrington

Title: “There’s never free money, is there?”: Analysing how “face” is managed in credit union debt collection encounters

Credit unions are cooperatively-owned, not-for-profit enterprises, which provide equitable financial products to adults. Credit unions’ ethical ethos means collecting debt from their members requires a delicate negotiation of coercion and persuasion. Using authentic credit union debt collection encounters, I will explore how a collector approaches managing their own “face” and that of the credit union member in their attempts to recover debt.

The paper shares some initial insights from ongoing data analysis. This includes, for instance, how the collector successfully incentivises repayment, and how members resist such persuasion through their own “face-threatening” linguistic behaviour.

Tristan Emerson

Title: Applying Applied Linguistics: The Academic World and the Workplace

The debate over how extensively applied linguistics research can be practically applied received considerable attention around the turn of the 21st century. This paper adopts Roberts (1997) idea of ‘reflexivity and relevance’ within the discipline, to explore the role of the researcher based in an externally facing business unit within the university – Linguistic Profiling for Professionals (LiPP). The paper addresses how external collaboration, engagement and questions of impact are navigated in the still relatively new interface of academia and the workplace.

Question and Answer opportunity

16.30: Closing Remarks: Lucie Sutherland

16.35: Refreshments

17.00: Roundtable: Academic careers.... What are universities looking for?