



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

PGR Symposium Programme 2011

Wednesday 11th May 2011

9am to 12.15pm – Room LG19, Trent

1.15pm to 5pm – Room A46, Trent

AND

Thursday 12th May 2011

9am to 5pm – Room A46, Trent

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9am to 12.30pm – Room LG19, Trent
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9.00am – WELCOME

9.15am Session One – Chair – Professor Jo Guy

Klaudia Lee

Title: Beyond the self: Revisiting David Copperfield in cross-cultural context

Abstract: Whilst *David Copperfield* is noted for its strong autobiographical elements, its first-person narrator's personal journey epitomizes the Victorian bourgeois values of self-help and self-realization. This paper looks at key moments in this journey set against the wider backdrop of the typical, although at times problematic, way of reading the relationship between an author's life and his work in the nineteenth century. It then examines the extent to which the individualism that permeates the narrative can be transferred to another culture, China, where biographies traditionally exemplify larger movements in history and culture, rather than articulating difference through the construction of a unique 'self' or bourgeois subject.

Sarah Townley

Title: Ethical yet Elitist: Walter Pater (1839-1894) and Psychological Aesthetics

Abstract: An irreconcilable tension between ethics and elitism underpins Walter Pater's critical concepts and renders his theories of aesthetic appreciation problematic. Pater envisions a complex model of 'ideal' aesthetic response which preconditions its practitioners for social interaction but requires a specialist critic to undertake it. We can develop our understanding of this tension by demonstrating how Pater's critical terms are formulated by reference to psychological concepts. This paper will interrogate how the tensions that characterise Aestheticism emerge from Pater's appropriation of contemporary psychological discourse and its concern for the mechanisms that construct those modes of response that are properly attuned to form.

Laura Nixon

Title: The 'fatal fluency' of Carmen Sylva

Abstract: German princess, Romanian queen and prolific writer Carmen Sylva produced around fifty volumes during her lifetime (1843-1916) in a wide range of literary genres. Yet interest in her work declined rapidly after her death, and there has been no in-depth study of her since 1941. My paper will address the potential reasons for her marginalization, examining the nineteenth-century reviews of her work as well as the historical context. In this way, I hope to indicate why she and her literature should be recovered and reconsidered by contemporary scholarship.

Gill Brigg

Title: Audiences with Profound Disabilities: A Challenge for Article 31.

Abstract: Six fifteen year olds, labelled as having profound and multiple learning disabilities, arrive at their school hall. They have come to see a 'play' which will take

place in a 'theatre', concepts which are likely to be new and challenging for them. These young people, together with their companions, formed the case-study group for my collaborative doctoral study, and their voices ring out rich and clear in support of such work. This presentation will look at the student-centric evidence emerging from the study.

Kavitha Ganesan

Title: Contemporary Malaysian literature (biographies) in English: placing it against the backdrop of national history

Abstract: This research concentrates on three biographical works written in English by female writers from varied ethnic backgrounds, i.e. Malay (Adibah Amin's *This End of the Rainbow*), Chinese (Christine Wu Ramsay's *Days Gone By: Growing Up in Penang*) and Indian (Muthammal Palanisamy's *From Shore to Shore*) from Peninsula Malaysia within the span of 2001-2010. The focus of the research is to examine these biographies in relation to the nation's "official" history and explore the idea of nation building as well as identity formation in modern day Malaysia. Bearing in mind that the country's history has undergone its own transformation, namely, in the way it has been constantly rewritten through history syllabus and textbooks, it is my aim to examine the extent to which contemporary biographical works as lived historical narratives by female writers of different races can be used to trace history.

10.30am – COFFEE BREAK

11.00am Session Two – Chair – Dr Kathy Conklin

Vassilis Argyroulis

Title: Basic steps in exploring motivation in corpus-assisted ESP/EAP learning in a Greek university. Towards a comparison and contrast with the existing traditional teaching approach.

Abstract: Questions have recently arisen as to what kind of motivation exists in corpus teaching and learning methodologies. The paper presents the basics of a longitudinal research effort to elicit what it is that motivates or demotivates university students in Greece when involved in corpus concordancing compared and contrasted with the existing traditional practice in learning ESP/EAP. Three types of English passages (general, general-academic, specialized) and three levels of students (low, intermediate, advanced) are used in order to obtain results concerning the kind of motivation found in each level of students and if motivation is affected when specificity of text varies.

Katherine Gupta

Title: Organised acts in the British women's suffrage movement, 1908-1914: a corpus linguistic approach

Abstract: This paper focuses on the different ways of connecting reports of suffrage direct action in *The Times* newspaper. I examine representation of direct action on the lexical, presentational and textual level, and explore what can and cannot be learnt from collocational analysis. Through this, I hope to offer greater insight into the effect of this style of reporting, and the influence it had on the representation of suffrage activity as organised and widespread.

Letty Chan

Title: The possible L2 selves of Chinese EFL university students in Hong Kong

Abstract: The aim of the current study was to explore the constructs and development of the possible L2 selves of Chinese students who were enrolled in an advanced English course at a university in Hong Kong. Various motivational components including the use of Ideal Selves Tree, language counselling sessions, and in-class visualization practice were incorporated in the course. Results revealed a statistically significant increase in students' ideal L2 selves and a significant decrease in their feared L2 selves following participation in the programme. The specific constructs of students' possible L2 selves will be discussed.

Tony Fisher

Title: The Linguistics of Ambiguity: Identity and Agency in the UK's First Televised Prime Ministerial Debates

Abstract: The Linguistics of Ambiguity focuses on identity and agency in the discourse of the UK's first televised Prime Ministerial debates, broadcast in the run-up to the 2010 general election. It employs corpus tools in order to account for the identity claims the party leaders make both for themselves as individuals and as co-members of a national collective that includes the viewing electorate. The research presented here focuses on personal reference, and specifically how inclusive pronominal and possessive reference serve to blur the distinction between the actions and responsibilities of political actors and the public, as collective identities are foregrounded and agency obfuscated.

12.15pm – LUNCH

1.15pm Session Three – Chair – Dr David James

Sam Haddow

Title: Negotiating the Void in (King) *Lear*

Abstract: *King Lear*, for Peter Brook is a 'vast, complex, coherent poem designed to study the power...of nothing.' He sees its capriciousness and calamity as fuelling a series of paradoxes whose incommensurateness exposes a central disparity – a 'void' in which narrative disorder liquefies its own apparatus. In his play *Lear*, Edward Bond weaponizes this void, building a hyper-mechanical society that dissolves societal structures and obliterates the human. The void is thus modernized: pre-Christian feudalism revived as late-capitalism's self-immolation. However, I argue that by politicising the void, Bond limits its reproducibility, defining a frontier upon which to oppose the 'nothingness' of Shakespeare's text.

Madhu Krishnan

Title: Griots and Goddesses: How I Spent My Easter Vacation at the University of Virginia

Abstract: I will present my recent Universitas 21 funded research trip to the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies at the University of Virginia. I will begin by presenting the scholarship, its aims, benefits and how to apply, and then I will discuss my own trip and its impact on my research in Nigerian literature and critical theory. I will briefly outline the two projects I worked on at UVA: an examination of the griot, or oral historian, as trope in the contemporary Nigerian novel and the Igbo water goddess, or Mami Wata, as a cipher for discourses of femininity in third generation Nigerian texts.

Jude Roberts

Title: Cannibals from outer space!

Abstract: *King Lear*, for Peter Brook is a 'vast, complex, coherent poem designed to study the power...of nothing.' He sees its capriciousness and calamity as fuelling a series of paradoxes whose incommensurateness exposes a central disparity – a 'void' in which narrative disorder liquefies its own apparatus. In his play *Lear*, Edward Bond weaponizes this void, building a hyper-mechanical society that dissolves societal structures and obliterates the human. The void is thus modernized: pre-Christian feudalism revived as late-capitalism's self-immolation. However, I argue that by politicising the void, Bond limits its reproducibility, defining a frontier upon which to oppose the 'nothingness' of Shakespeare's text.

Tim Wheelhouse

Title: Selective History in Allan Quatermain

Abstract: This Paper will involve a brief discussion of contradictory impulses in Quatermain's attempt write himself into a specific historical (his-story-cal) lineage. Drawing briefly on Bhabha and Derrida, I will attempt to unpick this palimpsestual textual utterance.

2.15pm – COFFEE BREAK

2.45pm Session Four – Chair – Dr Christina Lee

Malte Ringer

Title: Witches, trolls and the undead in Old Norwegian law

Abstract: This paper examines some aspects of superstition in the Norwegian laws of the twelfth and thirteenth century. I will discuss legislation relating to the mischievous 'waking up' of trolls and wraiths living in burial mounds, as well as forms of malicious sorcery. I shall argue that while the prohibited actions discussed are highly stereotyped and partly based on continental canon law, they also clearly respond to a local mythological, geographical and historical framework. Further, I shall address the question of where such superstition originates, arguing that it is more likely to be derived from Sám rather than pre-Christian Norse practices.

John Quanrud

Title: What's so Great about 878? Some thoughts on the origins of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Abstract: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is without doubt one of the most important and influential of all sources for Anglo-Saxon historiography. There is, however, surprisingly little agreement among scholars as to when, where, why or by whom the Chronicle was first compiled. One general point of consensus, held since the late-nineteenth century, is that it was written up in its original form c. 892. In my presentation I will argue, instead, that there may be evidence to suggest that the first 'Alfredian compilation' appeared in 878.

Natasha Hedderman

Title: The Heaney Effect

Abstract: The Anglo-Saxon poem *Beowulf* remained in the realm of the academic until Seamus Heaney's 1999 translation of the poem propelled it onto the best sellers list. Since then there have been numerous translations and adaptations of the poem in a variety of mediums allowing the once obscure poem to be easily accessed by all. Winning the 'Whitbread Book of the Year' in 2000 Heaney's translation 'breaths life into a work of art' and eclipses all translations past and present. This presentation will investigate what has made Heaney's translation as successful as it is and how it outshines previously praised translations.

Teva Vidal

Title: What's In A Name? Viking Houses Through Text

Abstract: My doctoral research focuses on the importance of the house as both a physical and social space in the Viking Age, based on descriptions found in literary sources, namely the medieval Icelandic 'family sagas' (*Islendingasögur*). Houses have a prominent place in the narratives, but what also emerges is that much attention is placed upon representing the house as a tangible, physical space. This year's poster for the Postgraduate Symposium presents some of the results of my research by illustrating the structures of the house as we see them through text, aided by the input of archaeology.

3.45pm Session Five – Chair – Dr Kevin Harvey

Daniel Hunt

Title: Negotiating the stigma and adversity of depression in an online community

Abstract: Online communities allow large numbers of otherwise disparate individuals to come together and discuss difficult personal experiences of health and illness with unprecedented candour. This paper examines the linguistic interaction on one such forum for individuals with depression, focusing particularly on the way forum members articulate their relationship to their condition. The analysis suggests that, across a number of linguistic constructions, forum participants construct depression as a powerful and deleterious force in their lives. Despite this, they also linguistically separate depression from themselves, suggesting that its agency affects them only indirectly. I argue that such verbal separations are important in managing the stigma of mental illness, but may have negative consequences for attitudes towards personal agency and recovery.

Duttawan Insorn

Title: Teaching stylistic analysis to EFL students

Abstract: This study is an attempt to teach Thai EFL students to do stylistic analysis on contact literature. 'Contact literature' is literary texts written in English by local authors in Thailand. Generally most of the works are based on Thai historical cultural background in which students may find it easier to identify with and understand. With less cultural barriers, students can pay more attention to linguistic features and stylistic patterns used in the texts. Therefore, teaching students to perform stylistic analysis on contact literature may be more suitable for EFL students in Thai context.

Pawel Szudarski

Title: Collocations of delexical verbs in the context of English as foreign language

Abstract: The present study examines the acquisition of verb-noun collocations of delexical verbs ('make', 'take', 'have', 'do', 'give'). Such collocations have been chosen as target items due to their frequency and the difficulties that they cause for second language learners. The study examines the effects of two types of treatment (reading only vs. reading plus explicit instruction) on the acquisition of collocations by Polish learners of English. The presentation concludes with implications for language pedagogy.

Wipapan Ngampramuan

Title: Linguistic Landscape: A Case Study of English used in Tourist Attractions in Thailand

Abstract: Linguistic Landscape (LL) is the study of the language texts present in public space. Signs can tell something beyond what they display. Sign posts in tourist attractions in Thailand will be used as case studies to see the features of English used in Thai styles and Thainess displayed on the signs. Although Thai is the only official language, English is widely used especially in tourism as means for wider communications across Thailand. Some signs may display the use of Thai-English in the forms of code-mixing, inaccurate translation, and misspelling. Some may present socio-cultural information through texts, pictures and symbols.

4.45pm – CONCLUSION

Thursday 12th May 2011
9am to 5pm – Room A46, Trent

9.00am – WELCOME

9.15am Session Six – Chair – Professor Lynda Pratt

Paul Whickman

Title: Words and 'Sacred Things': Blasphemy and Theories of Language in Percy Bysshe Shelley

Abstract: Shelley inherited his predecessor Wordsworth's notion of language as inspired by emotions and the imagination. Simultaneously – and paradoxically – Shelley was also an inheritor of the Lockean Enlightenment conception of language as referential to empirical sensation. A particular element of the tension between these two concepts of language – which forms the focus of this paper – is of the relationship between 'words' and 'things.' By way of example, Shelley sees the Christian conception of God as mistaking 'a word for a thing'. Bearing this in mind, this paper considers the relationship between Shelley's philosophy of language and the issue of blasphemy.

Ed Downey

Title: The Cultural Production of Thomas Spence

Abstract: This paper will give a brief overview of the cultural production of Thomas Spence during the 1790s. I will be looking at his use of both visual and literary media in order to challenge the legitimacy of the state. In doing so I will look at how Spence fits into our conceptions of nationalism, political consciousness and the growth of radicalism in the late 18th century.

Ivan Pregalto

Title: Byron's Notes

Abstract: Byron's poetry is abundant with historical notes. These largely consist of explanatory lines on the subjects treated in the verses and of references to authorities (normally mentioning the authors and their respective works alluded to in the poetry). This presentation discusses the discursive differences between our understood notions of the paratext – as the notes as something merely appended to the body of the text – to that of the early 1800s – as something intrinsically integral to the writing.

Jo Anderton

Title: Testimony and Fiction in Beckett

Abstract: The notion of 'creaturely' subjectivity and its constituent issues of creation, struggle and fracture, materialise in the relationship between testimony and fiction in Beckett's work. With reference to Derrida's *Demeure* (1996) and Agamben's *Remnants of Auschwitz* (1999), this paper traces the possibility of fiction in testimony and vice versa. I consider how the ownership of events and self in Beckett is both attenuated and constituted by the interplay between autobiographical and fictional voices. Consequently, I address the implications of ignorance on veracity, the role of

desubjectivity in apprehending identity, and Beckett's author-narrators as exemplary figures of the idea of 'ruin'.

Steven Macnamara

Title: Depictions of Masculinity in the Novels of Radclyffe Hall

Abstract: Previous studies on Radclyffe Hall (1880-1943) have tended to:

1. Centralise her lesbian novel *The Well of Loneliness* (1928) as her only text; and
2. Approached Hall and her work from a feminist and lesbian perspective, because of her gender and sexuality.

Whilst these approaches have offered insight into Hall and her female characters, Hall's depiction of masculinity has rarely been discussed, except in her portrayal of the female masculine character Stephen Gordon in *The Well of Loneliness*. My approach is to embrace Hall's own female masculinity in order to explore the construction and diversity of masculinity in her novels.

10.30am – COFFEE BREAK

11.00am Session Seven – Chair – Professor Brean Hammond

Ruarigh Dale

Title: Grappling with the Old Norse berserkr

Abstract: My research is on the Viking *berserkr*. This paper discusses the basic premise of my research and examines some of the issues that occur as a result of 'berserk' existing as an Old Norse loan-word in modern English. It also discusses how the presence of 'berserkers' in many areas of modern popular culture can affect preconceptions and approaches to researching *berserkr*.

Pamela Greig

Title: The Lay Folks' Catechism – An Edition

Abstract: I am editing the text known as 'Lay Folks' Catechism'. This will be a critical edition, collating over 20 manuscripts, with full variant apparatus, introductory and textual notes, and glossary. I will also produce an electronic edition of the text found in the Nottingham University Library (MS WLC LM9).

Jemima Matthews

Title: Navigating the contested foreshore in early modern Wapping

Abstract: The increasing value of the river and adjacent land in the early modern period led to various disputes contesting use and jurisdiction. I will explore attempts to navigate and manipulate the space between the high and low water marks in archival and literary sources depicting Wapping. I will examine the way in which the physical traversing of space, or the contact between body and land, was utilized to delineate and define the landscape in both surveying and dramatic practices. By aligning these processes I will begin to gesture towards the complexity of riverspace on the early modern page and stage.

Daniel Weston

Title: Writing and Walking

Abstract: If the rhythm and pace of walking facilitate a dynamic engagement with place and produce a particular kind of text, the relationship is often reciprocal: texts recording walks aim, structurally and syntactically, to reproduce the experience of, and perceptions emanating from, the practice of walking. Pedestrian travel, by virtue of its comparably slow pace of movement, combines static and mobile perspectives on the landscape and environment passed through. This paper will work from analysis of short passages from Edward Thomas's *The South Country* (1909) to study the textual recuperation of this dual perspective.

12.00pm – LUNCH

1.00pm Session Eight – Chair – Professor Peter Stockwell

Chloe Harrison

Title: Clarifying the message: an exploration into real readers' construal of Edwin Morgan's 'Message Clear'

Abstract: This presentation is a preliminary investigation into the four different types of construal taken from Langacker's Cognitive Grammar model: specificity, focusing, prominence and perspective. I aim to test the boundaries and capabilities of these processes, which occur in reading comprehension, by applying them to the Modernist poem 'Message Clear' by Edwin Morgan using naturally occurring data from real readers' comprehension. This analysis is conducted with the intention that, if successful, such an analysis could be applied at the discourse level of narrative.

Maria-Eirini Panagiotidou

Title: A cognitive poetic analysis of Shakespeare's Sonnet 130

Abstract: This paper will present a cognitive poetic analysis of Shakespeare's Sonnet 130 and discuss how the poetic persona proposes a sincere discourse to mediate his feelings. More specifically, I will employ the notion of *attractors*, i.e. elements characterised by a unified and coherent identity that are capable of capturing one's attention. This sonnet employs attractors in various dimensions, such as brightness, proximity, activeness and agency, to simulate the feeling of affection.

David Peplow

Title: "My husband looked at the book and said, 'ah no I couldn't read that: woman's book'" The co-construction of gendered identity in a reading group

Abstract: An increasingly popular phenomenon, reading groups are sites where interpretations of texts are debated and negotiated by a collective, usually comprised of non-academic readers. Members construct and project particular identities through the discussion of literary texts. These identities are varied, often primed by the text under discussion. Drawing on audio-recordings from an all-female group, I consider how members project 'feminine' and 'masculine' identities. I consider one meeting where conservative constructions of gender are facilitated and primed by the text under discussion: Dorothy Whipple's *Someone at a Distance* (1953). This gendering is performed collectively, fostering the sense of cohesive group identity.

Wenjuan Yuan

Title: Towards an Embodied Poetics of William Wordsworth

Abstract: This project aims to explore how mechanisms of perception are turned to aesthetic ends in William Wordsworth's poetry. Specifically, I focus on the perception of 'shape', 'space', 'motion', 'force' and 'energy'. Situating the research mainly in a cognitive poetics context, I adopt an interdisciplinary approach, drawing findings from cognitive grammar, cognitive science and aesthetic theories. It is hoped that this project could contribute to an embodied poetics and provide emphasis on the importance to 'experience' a poem (not just 'read' it)—with perceptual and sensori-motor systems.

2.00pm – COFFEE BREAK

2.30pm Session Nine – Chair – Professor Norbert Schmitt

Ana Pellicer Sánchez

Title: Developing lexical automaticity in the language classroom

Abstract: This presentation reports results of two studies I have conducted to explore the effect of classroom instruction on the acquisition of automaticity of vocabulary knowledge in a foreign language (FL). Different teaching methodologies were compared in the studies. Study 1 involved a much more incidental approach in which participants were exposed to the target words through reading for comprehension activities, whereas Study 2 involved a more focused, engaged approach in which participants were exposed to the target words through specific vocabulary activities. Results showed that the explicit approach led to significant gains in automaticity, while the incidental approach barely missed significance.

Kholood Saigh

Title: Difficulties with Vocabulary Form: The Case of Arabic ESL Learners

Abstract: There is a large body of research indicating L2 learners often have trouble with the word form. This study explores the problems of learning L2 vocabulary form by focusing on Arabic-speaking ESL learners. These learners have been shown to have difficulties with the spelling of English vowels in general (vowel blindness). This study explored the relative difficulty of short and long English vowels for these learners. Our results show that Arabic speakers have more problems with short vowels than long ones. These results suggest that Arabic speakers process English short and long vowels in a way similar to their L1, which affects their ability to spell and recognize English words. The study concludes by providing an additional analysis of the participants' overall spelling errors.

Suhad Sonbul

Title: Knowledge of Collocations: Explicit or Implicit?

Abstract: This study investigates different conditions (incidental and instructed) under which adult EFL Saudi learners acquire collocations in a classroom context. Three different tests of memory were employed to assess knowledge gains: an implicit, priming, test and two explicit, productive and receptive, tests. Results of the study are discussed in light of the explicit/implicit lexical knowledge distinction.

Hilde van Zeeland

Title: Lexical coverage and L1 and L2 listening comprehension

Abstract: This study explored the relationship between lexical coverage (the percentage of words known in a text) and listening comprehension in the first and second language. Second language research has generally found that learners need 98% lexical coverage to achieve adequate reading comprehension. This figure has been used to set vocabulary size targets for comprehension of both written and spoken text. This study investigated whether listening indeed requires this same lexical coverage level. Results indicate that coverage lower than 98% enables adequate listening comprehension in both the L1 and L2. This suggests listeners need a smaller vocabulary size than previously thought.

3.45pm Session Ten – Chair – Professor Svenja Adolphs

Yen-Liang Lin

Title: Intercultural Communication and Young Learners: an analysis of online discourse on electronic discussion boards

Abstract: This study investigates overuse and underuse of lexical items by Taiwanese young learners of English interacting with adolescents based in the UK. The keyness method is extended to semantic and part-of-speech level which allows macroscopic analysis to inform the microscopic level and thereby highlighting those linguistic features which should be investigated further. The data that forms the basis of this study has been collected from an electronic discussion board by 70 secondary school pupils during the six-month project. The research findings delineate the pedagogical merit of keyness analysis and thus help to inform teachers in relation to EFL course design.

Malgorzata Chalupnik

Title: Humour in the workplace

Abstract: The paper investigates the role of humour in the workplace interaction. Several extracts would be used to illustrate its use in this type of environment. The paper will present a closer look at different types of humour including banter and irony. The data included in the paper constitutes a larger ethnographic project that concentrates on one community of practice.

Anne Liu

Title: L2 pragmatic awareness in two registers: A Discourse Completion Task with multi-word discourse markers

Abstract: This study investigates L2 learners' pragmatic awareness with regard to the use of multi-word discourse markers (MDMs), such as *in addition* and *having said that*, in two registers, formal and informal written discourse via a discourse completion task (DCT). Corpus-based research on L2 language suggests that learners are in lack of the register/genre sensitivity in using DMs. I therefore include the notion of DMs and explore the possibility of examining pragmatic awareness via a discourse completion task (DCT). The results show that the NS participants notice the formality of the context and choose MDMs accordingly; the NNS, however, fail in noticing the formality.

4.30pm – CONCLUSION & PRE-DRINKS RECEPTION

6.00pm-7.30pm – 'Ruins in Reverse: Art, Environment and Decay'

An open lecture by Dr Brian Dillon, School of English, University of Kent
Arts Centre Lecture Theatre (A30)

Email: nicholas.alfrey@nottingham.ac.uk to confirm attendance