



# The University of Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH  
PGR WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINAR  
2016-17

THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017



## **9.30 – 10.00: ARRIVAL & COFFEE**

### **10.00: WELCOME - Dr Nathan Waddell**

### **10.10: Session One – Chair: Duyen Le Thi**

#### **Saadia Hasan**

**Title:** Enhancing the vividness of the Ideal L2 Self

Although the role of mental imagery in generating and activating students' Ideal L2 Self is now beginning to be recognized in L2 literature, the practical application of imagery in the classroom is yet to be empirically explored. This study takes one of the first steps in this direction, by exploring the use of three visualisation techniques: Layered Stimulus and Response Training (LSRT), Personalised Imagery Scripts and Personalised Audio-scripts. These three techniques will be tested for their ability to impact upon the ease and vividness of learners' imagery, as well as on learners' overall imagery ability. Using a mixed-methods approach, and conducted in three settings (UK, Hong Kong and Spain), it is hoped that this study will yield some useful insights for those who wish to use imagery in an educational context.

#### **Sara Alotaibi**

**Title:** The Effect of Different Input Modes and Frequency of Exposures on L2 Binomial Acquisition

This study explores whether frequency of exposure to binomials (e.g. "king and queen") affects their acquisition in three input modes: listening only, reading only and reading while listening. L1 Arabic learners of L2 English were presented with three stories that contained novel binomials (e.g. "wires and pipes") that occurred 2, 4, 5, and 6 times, as well as existing binomials (e.g. "brother and sister"). Multiple measures of paper and pencil tests were developed to assess different aspects of binomial knowledge. Data were analysed using Generalized Estimating Equations (GEE) model in SPSS.

#### **Raya Harbi**

**Title:** Empathy and ideology: the role of emotionally involving texts in L2 Reading

This study examines whether introducing literary texts dealing with involving, provocative contemporary issues to the L2 students is more appreciated than the typical course texts; and further explores the pedagogic effects of this adapted practice. Paired Palestinian and Israeli poems were presented to informants for their reactions. These informants are two groups of L2 students at university level, who completed a detailed questionnaire following their reading of the two related but oppositional passages. The texts were introduced in different sequences to each group in order to control for any shift in perspective and reader response. The study combines empirical reception method with stylistic analysis, in order to illuminate the role of emotional engagement in the L2 classroom.

## **Question and Answer opportunity**

**10.55 – 11.30: Coffee Break**

### **11.30: Session Two – Chair: Yaoyao Chen**

#### **Benedict Neurohr**

**Title:** Situational Text Understanding

I will be looking at the phenomenon of understanding in texts, and how to define this through the use of cognitive theory and situation models. The core question is how can we define when readers have 'understood' a text, even when disagreeing about its contents? After an introduction of the theory, I will give an outline of an empirical study I have designed to test aspects of this theory, which is currently running. I will present my predictions for this study, and mention directions for a next study as well as future potential for research in this area.

#### **Michele McIntosh**

**Title:** Choose Well: the Model Citizen in Health Communication

Health authorities spend millions of pounds on marketing campaigns designed to change our behavior. What discursive strategies are they employing, and why? In my presentation I will share some of the insights I have gained in my investigation of the discursive construction of the 'model citizen' or 'model user of health services'. My data is drawn from contemporary leaflets and posters, advertisements and web sites. By examining a range of these publicly available texts I explore the model citizen construct, using multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis to discover and critique the discursive strategies used to encourage 'correct' use of NHS services.

#### **Rachel Rade**

**Title:** Immigrant Brexit: a corpus linguistic analysis of the stance of parliamentarians towards Brexit

In this paper, I explore the impact of views towards immigrants/immigration in the Brexit vote using corpus linguistic assisted critical discourse analysis (CDA). Utilising a purpose-built corpus of Brexit speeches by MPs, I present how politicians attempted to sway the public during the referendum. I explore this in the context of the larger dialogue surrounding 'immigration as problem' in the years leading up to the referendum. I will show that this larger dialogue was present in the discourse of the Leave camp and that it contributed considerably to the result of the vote.

#### **Oscar Delgado**

**Title:** Crafted at the Market: Writing Steampunk Identities

This paper explores the contemporary Steampunk subculture in England by means of creative and critical practice, with a particular emphasis on the Steampunk market,

rendering it a primary site of what Homi Bhabha calls "enunciation of culture." I argue that it is in this market that steampunks construct their identities through acts of performance. My writing explores the ways a Steampunk market functions as a Third Space, and examines the wider social and cultural resonance of Steampunk in England. This paper, therefore, offers a dialogue between academic research and creative practice on the ways of contemporary steampunks.

## **Question and Answer opportunity**

### **12.30 – 12.40: Break**

### **12.40: Session Three – Chair: Samira Bakeer**

#### **Nada Homood Altuwaijri**

**Title:** Manipulation of Women in Advertisements: A Multimodal Critical Discourse Approach

Advertisements surround us everywhere and women seem to be the centre of most of these advertisements as well as their primary target. People cannot avoid the ads, but maybe we can show females how advertisements try to change our beliefs and lifestyles to suit their marketing goals. Thus, the researcher aims to investigate the manipulation techniques used through language and image employed in advertisements addressing women.

#### **Kim-Sue Kreischer**

**Title:** Women, mothers, and the church: Co-occurring Discourses in the Irish abortion debate

In this paper I trace the co-occurring, intertextual Discourses around the terms 'woman', 'mother' and 'church' in the debate on abortion access in the republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, specifically during the year of Savita Halappanavar's death. I argue that the specific functional relation between these Discourses can only be understood by analysing the corpus data from a cognitive perspective

#### **Sam Rosen**

**Title:** Studying asexual identities using sociocultural linguistics

Asexuals are people who do not experience sexual attraction and this identity raises some interesting questions about how asexuals relate to a social world which is so heavily sexualised. My research uses a key asexual community to explore the ways that asexuals may communicate their individual identities, create a coherent group identity and frame their experiences within the social and sexual norms of the societies in which they live. My presentation will use ethnographic data and a sociocultural approach to explore some initial observations of the linguistic means with which asexual identities are expressed in the context of this community.

## **Question and Answer opportunity**

## **13.25 – 14.15: Lunch**

### **14.15: Session Four – Chair: Jacqueline Cordell**

#### **Marianna Kyriacou**

**Title:** Syntactic flexibility of idioms: has the wrong tree been barked up? Eye-tracking evidence from sentence reading

The figurative meaning of idioms (e.g. kick the bucket) cannot be retrieved through a compositional analysis. This led to claims that idioms are 'frozen' and unable to undergo syntactic manipulations, without losing their idiomaticity. This study examined the effect of passivization on idiomaticity. Eye-tracking data were gathered while people read idiomatically-biasing sentences containing active and passive idioms and controls. The results indicated that passivized idioms were read slower and regressed to more often than active idioms, but crucially they were read much faster and regressed to less often than both control conditions, thus suggesting that idioms are syntactically flexible.

#### **Giulia Grisot**

**Title:** Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf? A Stylistics and Empirical Approach.

Virginia Woolf's writing is considered challenging, especially because of the technique she adopts in the presentation of points of view. However, almost no empirical evidence exists, which demonstrates *if* and *how* readers perceive *free indirect style*, nor whether they experience any difficulties while reading her narratives.

I adopted a mixed methods approach, combining a stylistic analysis with a detailed questionnaire. By comparing readers' responses to selected passages – hypothesized to be complex – and to modified versions of the same passages, this study investigated how natural readers perceive and process difficulties, in particular *free indirect style*.

#### **Elisabeth Maria Magin**

**Title:** Medieval Matters

"Smiðr f\*\*\* Vígdís of the Snelde-legs!"

"Evil has the man who has such a woman ..."

"Ingibjorg loved me when I was in Stavanger!"

If these messages remind you of tabloid headlines or Facebook status messages revealing too much, this may not be far from the truth. However, they were carved centuries before either existed. Sharing gossip, it seems, was as common in the Middle Ages as today—these messages are examples of runic inscriptions on wooden sticks found in Bergen (Norway). With 600 other inscriptions they present a lively picture of everyday life in a medieval trading town.

## **Andrew Moffat**

**Title:** What do you do in a chat room? Identity Enactment as a measure of satisfaction in online interaction.

In an exploration of language use in unsuccessful online interaction by speakers of English as an additional language (SEALs), concepts from the field(s) of human-computer interaction (HCI) are drawn on in order to propose a quantitative measurement of such 'success'. The concept of user satisfaction (US) and the technology acceptance model (TAM) are described and studies applying them to computer-mediated communication (CMC) contexts considered, and the socialpsychological concept of Social Presence likewise explored. Finding that US and TAM incorporate elements of task facilitation in the measurement of positive experience, Identity Enactment is proposed as the task undertaken in online interaction.

## **Question and Answer opportunity**

### **15.15 – 15.25: Break**

### **15.25: Session Five – Chair: Hollie Johnson**

#### **Emily Mills**

**Title:** Postmodern Anamnesis: Genetic Editing and John Fowles's *The Magus*

As postmodern works become more historical, the need for them to be edited grows. As such, I claim that postmodernist literature needs to be treated editorially to prevent it from fading into relative obscurity. However, traditional editing processes – with their drive to textual fixity and permanence – complicate postmodernism's anti-authoritarian subversiveness.

Using John Fowles's *The Magus*, I discuss the potential for genetic editing to trigger a process of anamnesis (the retrieval of past existences). This would allow the reader to rediscover the origins of works such as *The Magus* and follow their development as novels, facilitating the potential for different kinds of engagement and interpretation.

#### **Katie Jones**

**Title:** "Did you ever read the life of Oscar Wilde?": Katherine Mansfield and the 'Wilde' Influence

Katherine Mansfield's early letters, notebooks and writings provide an intriguing insight into the kind of writer she aspired to become. The material that she produced before she began writing for *The New Age* in early 1910 – particularly her unpublished work – and the periodicals to which she submitted her work reveal her influences before her career was launched.

Her personal and professional fascination with Oscar Wilde is particularly significant, but largely unexplored. Wilde's influence on Mansfield's early writing style is unmistakable; before her work appeared in print for the first time in 1907, Mansfield

was forced to defend her short vignettes against the implied charge that she had plagiarised Wilde's style of writing.

For Mansfield, Wilde represented a psychological and sexual otherness that she identified with in her personal life, as well as in her work. This paper will examine the evidence for Mansfield's early engagement with Wilde, and explore the influence of his life and writings on her early literary work.

### **Laura De Simoni**

**Title:** Peering out of the window: Heterotopia of illusion in Philip Ridley's The Pitchfork Disney

Foucault's idea of 'other spaces' that mirror, distort and disrupt the reality we live in is summarized in his definition of heterotopias. Not only are such spaces 'disturbing' in their manifest nonconformity, they are also troublingly similar to the spaces we inhabit. Using heterotopia as a method of analysis, this paper will investigate an example of 'other spaces' in theatre. By taking The Pitchfork Disney (1991) as a case study, it will explore the spatial organization of the real and imagined worlds of the play, first in the original script, and then in its recent production at Shoreditch Town Hall.

### **Question and Answer opportunity**

**16.10: Conclusion: Dr Nathan Waddell**

**16.15: Refreshments**

**16.45: Guest Speaker: Dr Katy Shaw (Leeds Beckett University) in conversation with Dr Nathan Waddell**