



# linguist society of southern africa linguistevereniging van suider-afrika

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## News

February 2009

### **Systems Development Assistant [New!](#)**

The Dictionary Unit for South African English, at Rhodes University, invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following position, Systems Development Assistant (Junior/Senior) Closing date: 12h00 on 2nd March 2009.

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### **Lexical Cohesion and Corpus Linguistics [New!](#)**

Lexical cohesion is about meaning in text. It concerns the ways in which lexical items relate to each other and to other cohesive devices so that textual continuity is created. Traditionally, lexical cohesion has been investigated in individual texts. With the advent of corpus techniques, however, there is potential to investigate lexical cohesion with reference to large corpora. This collection of papers illustrates a variety of corpus approaches to lexical cohesion.

Contributions deal with lexical cohesion in relation to rhetorical structure, lexical bundles and discourse signalling, discourse intonation, semantic prosody, use of signalling nouns, and corpus linguistic theory. The volume also considers implications that innovative approaches to lexical cohesion can have for language teaching. Editors: John Flowerdew and Michaela Mahlberg

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### **Of Minds and Language [New!](#)**

This book presents a state-of-the-art account of what we know and would like to know about language, mind, and brain. Chapters by leading researchers in linguistics, psycholinguistics, language acquisition, cognitive neuroscience, comparative cognitive psychology, and evolutionary biology are framed by an introduction and conclusion by Noam Chomsky, who places the biolinguistic enterprise in an historical context and helps define its agenda for the future.

Editors: Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini, Pello Salaburu and Juan Uriagereka

### **Sign Language Acquisition [New!](#)**

How children acquire a sign language and the stages of sign language development are extremely important topics in sign linguistics and deaf education, with studies in this field enabling assessment of an individual child's communicative skills in comparison to others. In order to do research in this area it is important to use the right methodological tools. The contributions to this volume address issues covering the basics of doing sign acquisition research, the use of assessment tools, problems of transcription, analyzing narratives and carrying out interaction studies. It serves as an ideal reference source for any researcher or student of sign languages who is planning to do such work. This volume was originally published as a Special Issue of Sign

Language &  
Linguistics 8: 1/2 (2005).  
Editors: Anne Baker and Bencie Woll

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#### **Corpora for University Language Teachers** [New!](#)

This volume is made up of 17 chapters which have developed out of papers and workshop sessions presented at the event entitled «Corpora: Seminar and Workshops», held at the University of Padua, March 29-31, 2007. It maintains the straightforward, practical approach which characterized that event, meant as an introduction to the use of corpora even for novices. At the same time it goes into a wide range of different applications for corpora in language teaching and language research in higher education.  
Editors: Carol Taylor Torsello, Katherine Ackerley and Erik Castello

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#### **Corpora and Language Teaching** [New!](#)

The articles in this edited volume represent a broad coverage of areas. They discuss the role and effectiveness of corpora and corpus-linguistic techniques for language teaching but also deal with broader issues such as the relationship between corpora and second language teaching and how the different perspectives of foreign language teachers and applied linguists can be reconciled. A number of concrete examples are given of how authentic corpus material can be used for different learning activities in the classroom. It is also shown how specific learner problems for example in the area of phraseology can be studied on the basis of learner corpora and textbook corpora. On the basis of learner corpora of speech and writing it is further shown that even advanced learners of English are uncertain about stylistic and text type differences.  
Editor: Karin Aijmer

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#### **The Cambridge Handbook of Literacy**

This handbook marks the transformation of the topic of literacy from the narrower concerns with learning to read and write to an interdisciplinary enquiry into the various roles of writing and reading in the full range of social and psychological functions in both modern and developing societies. It does so by exploring the nature and development of writing systems, the relations between speech and writing, the history of the social uses of writing, the evolution of conventions of reading, the social and developmental dimensions of acquiring literate competencies, and, more generally, the conceptual and cognitive dimensions of literacy as a set of social practices. Contributors to the volume are leading scholars drawn from such disciplines as linguistics, literature, history, anthropology, psychology, the neurosciences, cultural psychology, and education.  
Editors: David R. Olson and Nancy Torrance

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#### **A Theory of Syntax**

Human language seems to have arisen roughly within the last 50-100,000 years. In evolutionary terms, this is the mere blink of an eye. If this is correct, then much of what we consider distinctive to language must in fact involve operations available in pre-linguistic cognitive domains. In this book Norbert Hornstein, one of the most influential linguists working on syntax, discusses a topical set of issues in syntactic theory, including a number of original proposals at the cutting edge of research in this area. He provides a theory of the basic grammatical operations and suggests that there is only one that is distinctive to language. If this theory is correct then this narrows the evolutionary gap between verbal and non-verbal primates, thus facilitating the rapid evolutionary emergence of our linguistic capacity.  
Author: Norbert Hornstein

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**Call for Papers: CFP Conference 2009**

call for papers for the 2009 joint AUESTA SAVAL SAACLALS Children's literature and SAALT conference. The deadline for proposals is 30 April 2009.

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**Release of Corpus: Black and Coloured South African English**

We are pleased to announce that the release of the first part of our Corpus of Black and Coloured South African English in Contact is now available to bona fide researchers. The data consists of interactions between South African black and coloured individuals who do not share the same mother tongue, conducted in English as a lingua franca. The conversations were recorded and ethnographically transcribed between 2004 and 2007. Further information about the project as well as on how to download the transcripts is available at [www.lingua-franca-net.de/AfricanIdentities/SACorpus.html](http://www.lingua-franca-net.de/AfricanIdentities/SACorpus.html). The second half of the transcripts will be released towards the end of this year.

**Quantification, Definiteness, and Nominalization**

This book addresses recent developments in the study of quantifier phrases, nominalizations, and the linking definite determiner. It reflects the intense reconsideration of the nature of quantification, and of fundamental aspects of the syntax and semantics of quantifier phrases. Leading international scholars explore novel and challenging ideas at the interfaces between syntax and morphology, syntax and semantics, morphology and the lexicon. They examine core issues in the field, such as kind reference, number marking, partitivity, context dependence and the way presuppositions are built into the meanings of quantifiers.

Editors: Anastasia Giannakidou and Monika Rathert

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**The Oxford Handbook of Compounding**

This book presents a comprehensive review of theoretical work on the linguistics and psycholinguistics of compound words and combines it with a series of surveys of compounding in a variety of languages from a wide range of language families. Compounding is an effective way to create and express new meanings. Compound words are segmentable into their constituents so that new items can often be understood on first presentation. However, as keystone, keynote, and keyboard, and breadboard, sandwich-board, and mortarboard show, the relation between components is often far from straightforward. This book is the first to report on the state of the art on these and other central topics, including the classification and typology of compounds, and cross-linguistic research on the subject in different frameworks and from synchronic and diachronic perspectives. Editors: Rochelle Lieber and Pavol Stekauer

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**Call for Papers**

Gesture and Speech in Interaction

Date: 24 to 26 September 2009

Location: Poznan, Poland

The Center for Speech and Language Processing at the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland in collaboration with the School of English (AMU), the Institute of Linguistics (AMU) and the Institute of Polish Philology (AMU) is organizing an international conference on gesture and speech interaction.

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**Linguistics - Page Count Increase**

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Editors of Linguistics and its publisher Mouton de Gruyter announce that Linguistics will increase its annual page count by 200 pages starting in 2009, enabling us to accommodate significantly more articles per year.

**Call for Papers**

Workshop on the Structure & Constituency of the Languages of the Americas

Date: 03 to 05 April 2009

Location: Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA

The objective of this workshop has traditionally been to encourage linguists who are engaged in the formal study of the languages of the Americas to exchange ideas across theories, language families, generations of scholars, and most importantly, the academic and non-academic communities involved in language maintenance and revitalization.

Invited Speakers:

Peggy Speas, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Keren Rice, University of Toronto

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**Call for Papers**

LRC XIV Conference

Clarion Hotel, Limerick, Ireland

24 and 25 September 2009

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**Morphology and Lexical Semantics**

Exploring the meanings of morphemes and how they combine to form the meanings of complex words, this book examines derived words (writer, unionize), compounds (dog bed, truck driver), and words formed by conversion. Using a series of case studies from English, Rochelle Lieber analyzes the lexical semantics of word formation in a systematic way. The reader is able to explore the nature of affixal polysemy-- the reasons why there are multiple affixes with the same function, and the issues of mismatch between form and meaning in word formation.

Author: Rochelle Lieber

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**Language Acquisition**

Babies are not born talking, they learn language, starting immediately from birth. How does this process take place? When do children master the skills needed for using language successfully? What stages do they go through as they learn to understand and talk? Do the languages they learn affect the way they think? This new edition of Eve Clark's highly successful textbook focuses on children's acquisition of a first language, the stages of development they go through, and how they use language as they learn. It reports on recent findings in each area covered, includes a completely new chapter on the acquisition of two languages and shows how speech to children differs by social class. Skilfully integrating actual data with coverage of current theories and debates, it is an essential guide to studying language acquisition for those working in linguistics, developmental psychology and cognitive science.

Author: Eve V. Clark

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**Northern English**

English as spoken in the north of England has a rich social and cultural history; however it has often been neglected by historical linguists, whose research has focused largely on the development of 'Standard English'. In this groundbreaking, alternative account of the history of English, Northern English takes centre stage for the first time. Emphasising its richness and variety, the book places northern speech and culture in the context of identity, iconography, mental maps, boundaries and marginalisation. It reassesses the role of Northern English in the development of Modern Standard English, draws some pioneering conclusions about the future of Northern English, and considers the origins of the many images and stereotypes surrounding northerners and their speech. Numerous maps, and a useful index of northern English words and pronunciations, are included. Innovative and original, Northern English will be welcomed by all

**Language and Society**

The tenth volume in Professor M.A.K. Halliday's collected works includes papers focusing on Language and Society. The papers provide a framework for understanding the social meaning of language, and the relation of language to other social phenomena. The volume begins with Professor Halliday's ground-breaking work on the users and uses of language. Subsequent chapters are organized around a discussion of sociolinguistic theory, and the relation between language and social class and social structure.

Author: Michael A. K. Halliday

those interested in the history and regional diversity of English.

Author: Katie Wales

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### **Society and Discourse**

Van Dijk presents a new theory of context that explains how text and talk are adapted to their social environment. He argues that instead of the usual direct relationship being established between society and discourse, this influence is indirect and depends on how language users themselves 'define' the communicative situation. The new concept Van Dijk introduces for such definitions is that of context models. These models control all language production and understanding and explain how discourse is made appropriate in each situation. They are the missing link between language and society so far ignored in pragmatics and sociolinguistics. In this interdisciplinary book, the new theory of context is developed from a linguistic and psychological perspective. The theory is applied to the domain of politics, including the debate about the war in Iraq, where political leaders' speeches serve as a case study for detailed contextual analysis.

Author: Teun A. Van Dijk

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### **Languages and Parliaments**

The central question of Marten's volume is how languages and parliaments interact, and what role a parliamentary institution can play within language policy. This question is addressed in particular in the context of minority languages and language revitalisation processes. Based on in-depth research of parliamentary documents and interviews with policy makers, scholars, and language activists from Scotland and Norway, the study investigates how the establishment of the decentralised Scottish Parliament and the parliamentary assembly for the Sámi population in Norway, the Sameting, have generated increased efforts of language maintenance of the Gaelic and Sámi languages respectively.

Author: Heiko F. Marten

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### **Academic Discourse**

This book is unusual in its breadth of coverage. It analyses popularisations, pedagogical and student genres as well as journal articles, and spoken as well as written texts. It brings together perspectives from discourse analysis, composition research, English for Specific Purposes, literacy studies, and sociology of science, as well as genre analysis. And its examples come from Chinese, American, and British academic institutions. Because of this breadth, even readers who think they are up to date with one aspect or another of academic discourse will find some new insights, and references to studies they had missed. All this is presented with brevity, lightness of touch, apt quotations, striking examples, and a readable style.

Author: Ken Hyland

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### **Sound Structures in Language**

This book presents Jorgen Rischel's most important work on linguistic sound structure, its relation to other aspects of language, and its variation across the world's languages. It includes some of the most original and groundbreaking research of the last four decades. Several chapters feature book ranges across stress, syllabification, prosody, accent, and vowel harmony, and their interactions with other aspects of language. They include exemplary descriptions of the sound systems of a wide range of Asian and European languages. The book covers both synchronic and diachronic analysis of the sounds of language, and reflects the author's lifelong interest in typology.

Editors: Jørgen Rischel, Nina Gronnum, Frans Gregerson and Hans Basboll

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**Natural Language Syntax**

In this book, Peter Culicover introduces the analysis of natural language within the broader question of how language works - of how people use languages to configure words and morphemes in order to express meanings. He focuses both on the syntactic and morphosyntactic devices that languages use, and on the conceptual structures that correspond to particular aspects of linguistic form. He seeks to explain linguistic forms and in the process to show how these correspond with meanings.

Author: Peter W. Culicover

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**Current Trends in Contrastive Linguistics**

This book examines the contribution of various recent developments in linguistics to contrastive analysis. The articles range across a broad gamut of languages, with most attention going to the languages of Europe. They show how advances in theory and computer technology are together impacting the field of contrastive linguistics. Part I focuses, from a broadly functional-cognitive viewpoint, on the close link with typology, stressing the importance of embedding the treatment of grammatical categories in their contexts of use. Part II turns to methodological issues, exploring the enormous potential offered by parallel, computer-accessible corpora to contrastive linguistics and to enhancing the testability, authenticity and empirical adequacy of cross-linguistic studies. Part III is concerned with contrastive semantics, ranging from individual items to entire grammatical constructions, and shows how meanings are coupled to language-specific cognitive strategies and even to cultural differences in subjective awareness and the fashioning of personal identity.

Editors: María de los Ángeles Gómez González, J. Lachlan Mackenzie and Elsa M. González Álvarez

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**2009 Membership Renewal**

Please remember to renew your LSSA membership for 2009. Go to the [member](#) page for all the information.

**Conference 2009**

Joint SAALA/LSSA Conference  
28-30 September 2009  
Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Hotel School, Waterfront

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