



Newsletter: November 2007

Welcome to the LSSA newsletter, we hope you find the information useful.

If you would like to add information to the LSSA newsletter please send the information to Prof Naudé: naudej.hum@ufs.ac.za.

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Books: The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics

EDITORS: Llamas, Carmen; Mullany, Louise; Stockwell, Peter

TITLE: The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics

SERIES TITLE: Routledge Companions

PUBLISHER: Routledge (Taylor and Francis)

YEAR: 2006

REVIEWER: Catharina Peersman, Ph.D. fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Department of Linguistics, K.U.Leuven, Belgium.

SUMMARY

As stated in the introduction (xv-xvi), the "Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics is aimed at everyone." This book, which "reflects the international and interdisciplinary diversity of the field in representing the broad view of sociolinguistics," is meant to open up the area for newcomers as well as to provide a useful reference guide and resource for more advanced sociolinguists. The main part of the introduction consists of a practical set of instructions on how to use the book, although its transparent structure and the logical order of the sections by themselves allow the reader to explore the field of sociolinguistics and to assimilate its key concepts.

The "Companion" contains two main parts. One part consists of a thirty page glossary of terms, with references and an index. The bigger part, the core of the book, consists of five broad sections which group short essays on different aspects of sociolinguistics written by leading specialists in the field. Their angle is mainly descriptive, but they offer an argumentative dimension as well, in order to demonstrate that sociolinguistics is "an on-going dialogue rather than a set of facts" (xvi). The five sections focus on methods of observation and analysis (part I), social correlates (part II), socio-psychological factors (part III), socio-political factors (part IV) and language change (part V) respectively. All sections contain five essays, except for the fifth, which has four contributions.

Since Part I discusses methods of observation and analysis in sociolinguistics, it can be considered as a mini-handbook for linguistic fieldwork. First, the fundamental concept of the linguistic variable is presented by Dominic Watt, who pays special attention to the /r/ in Berwick English as an example of phonological variation. Carmen Llamas dedicates the second chapter to some field methods available to the sociolinguist. The rest of Part I sets out specific techniques of sociolinguistics analysis: Matthew Gordon focuses on phonological variation in Chapter 3; Jennifer Smith writes about morphosyntactic variation (Chapter 4) and the fifth chapter, by Mark Garner, is concerned with discourse analysis. Although this part is not exhaustive, it "provides the essential tools for the majority of sociolinguistic work which has been undertaken to date" (xvii). It forms, for example, an excellent 'entrée en matières' for those wanting to read Tagliamonte's "Analysing Sociolinguistic Variation" (2006).

The second section treats aspects of the social correlates of language. The social dimensions of class (Chapter 6), gender (Chapter 7), age (Chapter 8), ethnicity (Chapter 9) and speech communities (Chapter 10) are presented and discussed by Paul Kerswill, Jennifer Coates, Carmen Llamas, Walt Wolfram, and Louise Mullany respectively. Whereas this part "largely maintains an emphasis on the hard linkage between the social factor and the variation in a language feature" (xvii), the third part shifts to the socio-psychological factors of language patterning. Allan Bell treats the choice for a certain linguistic repertoire as an individual motivation in the social context (Chapter 11). The link between language and identity is addressed in Chapter 12 by Judy Dyer. In the next three chapters, Peter Auer, Peter Garrett and Sandra Harris respectively show how speakers adjust to each other's speech styles (Chapter 13), how their outlooks and attitudes affect language behaviour (Chapter 14) and how they negotiate their way through politeness and power relationships (Chapter 15).

Whereas the boundary between the second and the third section might be rather arbitrary, the fourth section clearly moves on to a more macro-sociolinguistic level in considering socio-political factors of language. James Milroy addresses standardization and its ideological backgrounds in Chapter 16. To this tendency to monolingualism, Chapter 18's multilingualism (Susan Gal) forms an interesting counterpart. Jane Stuart-Smith, Janet Maybin and Sue Wright highlight aspects of the effect on language by the media (Chapter 17), by education (Chapter 19) and by language policy and language planning (Chapter 20).

The last section of the "Companion", unlike the preceding parts focussing on language variation, addresses topics of language change. Salikoko Mufwene's Chapter 21 focuses on creoles and pidgins; varieties engendered by koineization are the subject of Donald Tuten's article (Chapter 22); whereas the historical context of colonialism is stressed by Barbara Fennell in Chapter 23. A last chapter on "language death", written by Diane Nelson, appropriately closes the contributors' part of the book.

EVALUATION

This "Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics" is certainly a useful manual. Its clear short chapters, the glossary and the transparent structure of the whole compilation make it an accessible reference work for beginners. The suggestions for further readings

and the extensive bibliographical list of references allow more advanced readers to check sources and to search for detailed information on the topics they are interested in.

Some remarks, however, are necessary. The concept of the book as a compilation of essays by different specialists in the field logically engenders overlaps. This is not really a problem, because "aspects of language are continuous, not discrete," as the editors mention themselves. They consider these overlaps between chapters as "positive and necessary for a complete picture of sociolinguistics" (xviii), and I agree with them. Not the overlaps, however, but the last part of this little quotation is problematic. In their introduction, the editors stress the fact they want to create a "complete picture of sociolinguistics", or, even more explicitly, that the book "reflects the international and interdisciplinary diversity of the field in representing the broad view of sociolinguistics" (xvi). Whereas the book undoubtedly reflects the majority of sociolinguistic work which has been undertaken to date, it neglects a sub-area of sociolinguistics that has been receiving a continuously growing interest during the last decennia: historical sociolinguistics (see for instance Tieken-Boon van Ostade et al. 2000, Nevalainen, Raumolin and Brunberg 2003 and the creation of HiSoN in 2004).

Although there are some small paragraphs dedicated to relevant historical elements in Chapters 20, 21, 22, and Chapter 23 concerns the historical context of colonialism, the book is rooted in the 20th and 21st centuries by paying attention to queer linguistics, to language policy and globalization, to multilingualism beyond eurocentrism, etc. Those aspects prove the many-sidedness of the compilation, but stress simultaneously the historical gap. The qualitative introduction does not make even the slightest reference to historical sociolinguistics. As an absolute minimum justification for that kind of omission, I would have preferred to read something like "due to the considerable differences in data, which require different approaches, we have chosen to limit the field of sociolinguistics here described to synchronic sociolinguistics." A similar sentence or some paragraphs dedicated exclusively to the matter (see e.g. Milroy and Gordon 2003) would have made this qualitative and handy manual still better.

REFERENCES

HiSoN, "Historical Sociolinguistics Network". <http://www.philhist.uni-augsburg.de/hison/>

Llamas, Carmen, Louise Mullany, and Peter Stockwell, eds. 2006. *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. Routledge.

Milroy, Lesley and Matthew Gordon. 2003. *Sociolinguistics: Method and Interpretation*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Nevalainen, Terttu and Helena Raumolin-Brunberg. 2003. *Historical Sociolinguistics: Language Change in Tudor and Stuart England*. Longman Linguistics Library.

Tagliamonte, Sali. 2006. *Analysing Sociolinguistic Variation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tieken-Boon van Ostade, Ingrid; Terttu Nevalainen; Luisella Caon, eds. 2000. *Social Network Analysis and the History of English*, special issue of *EJES* 4.3.

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Catharina Peersman is a Ph.D. fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) and assistant to the Department of Linguistics of the KULeuven. Her PhD-project focuses on the use of written languages in charters, with a special consideration for Old French. Her research interests are historical sociolinguistics, diachronic linguistics and French dialects.

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Convention: Khoe-San Languages Convention

[Khoe-San Languages Convention](#) being planned by the Unit for Khoekhoe and San Studies (UFS) is open to all interested parties. The convention will be held in Bloemfontein from 11 to 13 April 2008.

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Books: Evolutionary Phonology - The Emergence of Sound Patterns

TITLE: Evolutionary Phonology

SUBTITLE: The Emergence of Sound Patterns

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PUBLISHER: Cambridge University Press, <http://us.cambridge.org>

AUTHOR: Juliette Blevins

PAPERBACK: ISBN: 9780521043649

Pages: 386

Price: U.S.: \$ 65.00, U.K.: £ 35.00

Abstract:

Evolutionary Phonology is a theory of sound patterns which synthesizes results in historical linguistics, phonetics and phonological theory. In this book, Juliette Blevins explores the nature of sounds patterns and sound change in human language over the past 7000-8000 years, the time depth for which the comparative method is reasonably reliable. This book presents an approach to the problem of how genetically unrelated languages, from families as far apart as Native American, Australian Aboriginal, Austronesian and Indo-European, can often show similar sound patterns, and also tackles the converse problem of why there are notable exceptions to most of the patterns that are often regarded as universal tendencies or constraints. It argues that in both cases, a formal model of sound change that integrates phonetic variation and patterns of misperception can account for attested sound systems without reference to markedness or naturalness within the synchronic grammar.

Content of Book:

Preface;

Acknowledgements;

Part I. Preliminaries:

1. What is evolutionary phonology?
2. Evolution in language and elsewhere;
3. Explanation in phonology: a brief history of ideas;

Part II. Sound Patterns:

4. Laryngeal features;

5. Place features;
6. Other common sound patterns;
7. The evolution of geminates;
8. Some uncommon sound patterns;

Part III. Implications:

9. Synchronic phonology;
10. Diachronic phonology;
11. Beyond phonology;

References;
Language index;
Subject index.

Linguistic Field(s): Historical Linguistics, Linguistic Theories, Phonetics and Phonology

Written In: English(eng)

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Peter Lang AG: <http://www.peterlang.com>

Rodopi: <http://www.rodopi.nl/>

Routledge (Taylor and Francis): <http://www.routledge.com/>

Springer: <http://www.springer.com>

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Kingston Press Ltd: <http://www.kingstonpress.com/>

Linguistic Association of Finland: <http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/sky/>

Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics / Landelijke -
LOT: <http://www.lotpublications.nl/>

Pacific Linguistics: <http://pacling.anu.edu.au/>

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Books: Word - A Cross-linguistic Typology

TITLE: Word

SUBTITLE: A Cross-linguistic Typology

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PUBLISHER: Cambridge University Press, <http://us.cambridge.org>

EDITOR(S): R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

PAPERBACK: ISBN: 9780521046053

Pages: 304

Price: U.S.: \$ 52.00, U.K.: £ 27.99

Abstract:

In some languages words tend to be rather short but in others they may be dauntingly long. In this book, a distinguished international group of scholars discuss the concept "word" and its applicability in a range of typologically diverse languages. An introductory chapter sets the parameters of variation for "word". The nine chapters that follow then study the character of "word" in individual languages, including Amazonian, Australian Aboriginal, Eskimo, Native North American, West African, Balkan and Caucasian

languages, and Indo-Pakistani Sign Language. These languages exhibit a huge range of phonological and grammatical characteristics, the close study of which enables the contributors to refine our understanding of what can constitute a "word". An epilogue explores the status and cross-linguistic properties of "word". The book will be an invaluable resource for scholars of linguistic typology and of morphology and phonology.

Content of Book:

List of contributors;

Preface;

List of abbreviations;

1. Word: a typological framework, R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald;

2. Typological parameters for the study of clitics, with special reference to Tariana Alexandra, Y. Aikhenvald;

3. The word in Cup' *ik, Anthony C. Woodbury;

4. The word in Eastern/Central Arrernte, John Henderson;

5. The eclectic morphology of Jarawara, and the status of word, R. M. W. Dixon;

6. Towards a notion of 'word' * in sign languages Ulrike Zeshan;

7. Synchronic and diachronic perspective on 'word' * in Siouan, Robert Rankin, John Boyle, Randolph Graczyk and John Koontz;

8. What is a word in Dagbani, Knut J. Olawksy;

9. The word in Georgian, Alice C. Harris;

10. The word in Modern Greek, Brian Joseph;

11. What can we conclude? P. H. Matthews;

Index of authors;

Index of languages and language families;

Index of subjects.

Linguistic Field(s): Morphology Typology

Written In: English(eng)

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Call for panel proposals: IATIS 2009 Conference

The [members] list seeks to publicise the activities of the International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS) <http://www.iatis.org> among its members.

3rd Conference of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS)

SUBJECT: Mediation and Conflict: Translation and Culture in a Global Context

LOCATION: Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

WHEN: 8-10 July, 2009

CALL FOR PANEL PROPOSALS

IATIS invites proposals for panels for the 2009 IATIS Conference to be held in Melbourne (Australia). The deadline is Thursday, 31 January, 2008.

Panels are groups of papers organised around a particular theme. Proposals for panels should take the form of one or two paragraphs establishing the rationale for a panel, a succinct statement of the aims of the panel, and a list of specific issues that intending contributors might address. Please visit the conference web site <http://www.iatis.org/content/conferences/melbourne.php> for a downloadable version of this call for panel proposals.

A Panel Proposal Submission Form with further details on the submission procedure can be downloaded from <http://www.foxevents.com.au/Files/IATIS-Call-4-Panels.doc>

The theme of the conference is: Mediation and Conflict: Translation and Culture in a Global Context. This embraces such topics as transnational media, globalisation, cultural translation and intercultural relations.

Related thematic areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the role of translation in the reporting of conflict across linguistic and cultural divides;
- 'cultural translation' between mainlands and diasporas, as well as among diasporas;
- the translator / interpreter as cultural broker in a transnational world;
- intercultural relations and their political impact, including the need for 'translating' between old and new;
- interaction between the cultures of 'large' and 'small' nations;
- the role of literary translation in challenging or reinforcing cultural difference;
- covert censorship - mediated manipulations and the role of the translator / interpreter;
- high culture and popular culture as sites of contest over the extent of entry into new global contexts;
- transnational media and their role in facilitating, or discouraging, intercultural understanding;
- transnational and regional identities and their relationship to culture and processes of translation;
- the role of translators and other intercultural experts in helping individuals and groups to acquire cultural competence in cultures previously remote from them.

Confirmed keynote speakers to date:

MARTHA CHEUNG (Hong Kong);
MICHAEL COOKE and ROSE LAYNBALAYNBA (Australia);
SEHNAZ TAHIR GÜRÇADLAR (Turkey) AND
FRANCIS JONES (UK)

The Call for Papers will be issued in February 2008. Individuals will be able to submit abstracts either to the general conference or to an individual panel through its chair. Details will be posted on the web site.

Brigid Maher (on behalf of the Organizing Committee)
www.arts.monash.edu.au/translation_studies

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Research-assistance-cum graduate studies: Sociolinguistics in Lodon

Closing date: 16th November 2007

[Research Assistant](#) in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film. Two-year fixed term post from 1st January 2008.

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Fellowship: Modern Greek (Australia)

Closing date: 1st February 2008

[Research fellowships](#) on Greek Grammar in Diaspora.

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Books: Chomskyan Linguistic and its Competitors

TITLE: Chomskyan Linguistics and its Competitors

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PUBLISHER: Equinox Publishing Ltd, <http://www.equinoxpub.com/>

AUTHOR: Pius ten Hacken

HARDBACK: ISBN: 9781845530549

Pages: 320

Price: U.S. \$ 85.00, U.K. £ 55.00

Abstract

Noam Chomsky is not only one of the most influential, but also one of the most controversial figures in 20th century linguistics. In view of the polarization of opinions on Chomsky, giving a balanced account of Chomskyan linguistics is an ambitious venture. The approach chosen here is to describe both Chomskyan linguistics and the positions defended by its opponents in terms of research programmes. A research programme consists of a number of assumptions on what language is and how it should be studied. Only by assuming that research programmes adopted by a large number of scholars for a prolonged period have to be rational, coherent systems can we hope to fully understand the nature of the conflicts between them.

After a general discussion of the notion of research programme, it is shown how the various stages of Chomskyan theory can be analysed as belonging to a single, coherent research programme. This research programme is then compared to the ones for Post-Bloomfieldian linguistics, Lexical-Functional Grammar, Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar and Montague Grammar, and Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar. Finally the relevance of the research programme of Chomskyan linguistics for the practical study of the acquisition, change, and use of language is addressed.

Linguistic Field(s): Linguistic Theories Syntax

Written In: English(eng)

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Conference: The Acquisition of African Languages, at the University of Stellenbosch

1. Background

For the past two years a small group of linguists working on Child Language Development with respect to African Languages has had small informal meetings at Smith College, Northampton, immediately after the Annual Boston University Conference on Child Language Development. Colleagues would present papers and discuss

collaboration on projects and a way forward. During the last meeting, it was decided that a conference be held in Africa in 2008.

The reason for focusing on African Languages is that there is a lack of linguistically appropriate norms of speech and language development for the speakers of most languages in South Africa aside from English and Afrikaans. Language specific normative data is critical to people in applied fields, particularly to teachers of young children who speak these languages, to speech pathologists, faculty and students. Language specific normative data facilitates the foundation for the valid differentiation between true speech-language pathology and speech- language difference.

In education such norms of speech and language development would make it possible for educators to be able to make early identification and possibly prevent speech, language and academic problems. The norms would also allow researchers to develop remedial programmes for children at an early age before they develop serious problems at school. Without such norms, lack of diagnosis and treatment, misdiagnosis, or even unnecessary or inappropriate treatment would be likely. Recent research has pointed to the inadequacy of translation of assessment materials and remedial interventions from other languages.

2. The Stellenbosch 2008 Conference

The Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Smith College, Northampton, USA, will host a special two-day conference on the Acquisition of African Languages, with special interest in the indigenous national languages of South Africa. We expect an audience of linguists, psychologists, speech pathologists and therapists as well as educators of young children.

What makes the Stellenbosch 2008 Conference more important is that it is the first conference of its kind to be hosted in Africa.

The Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Smith College, Northampton, USA, will host a special two-day conference on the Acquisition of African Languages, with special interest in the indigenous national languages of South Africa. We expect an audience of linguists, psychologists, speech pathologists and therapists as well as educators of young children.

What makes the Stellenbosch 2008 Conference more important is that it is the first conference of its kind to be hosted in Africa.

3. Programme

Fourteen presentations have been accepted by the programme committee and they are working on finalizing two plenary addresses and organizing the final programme.

The first day will be a full day of papers from linguists, psychologists or speech pathologists working on language acquisition in the various African Languages. This would allow each researcher to see parallels and differences across the different languages, exchange ideas and make theoretical progress.

Then the second day will broaden out to discuss the issue of assessment of language development, via developing norms from spontaneous speech, devising elicitation protocols to look at key features, or sharing existing texts that could be modified for African Languages. It will also address intervention techniques with children who are bilingual or speakers of African Languages. A larger framework will also be created for discussing research proposals that might emerge, possible collaborations, student

projects and so forth. There will be a few papers on applied work with children in this second day that might seed the discussions.

4. Organisers

This Conference is organised by the Department of African Languages of the University Stellenbosch in collaboration with UCT and Smith College. The contact persons are:

Marianna Visser: University of Stellenbosch
021 – 808 2106
mwv@sun.ac.za

Sandile Gxilishe: University of Cape Town
021 – 650 2305/2301
Sandile.gxilishe@uct.ac.za

Jill and Peter de Villiers: Smith College
001 413 585 3907
jdevilli@email.smith.edu

Maggie Tshule: University of the Witwatersrand
083 675 3565
Maggie@netactive.co.za

The following link contains the conference registration form, accomodation form and presentation information form.

[Relevant Forms](#)

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