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News

September 2008

Language Evolution [New!](#)

Examining the development of creoles in many parts of the world. This book offers unconventional insights into fundamental principles of language contact and language change. He questions traditional linguistic notions like 'system', 'transmission' and adopts biological concepts such as 'ecology', 'competition and selection' to illustrate the similarities between languages and viral species and highlight mutual accommodation among individuals as a prerequisite for emergent communal behavior.
Author: Salikoko S. Mufwene

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Pragmatics and Corpus Linguistics [New!](#)

The recent history of linguistics has witnessed the development of some disciplines that were conceived apart but benefited from common intuitions. One example of this phenomenon is the relationship established throughout time between pragmatics and corpus linguistics. Although their arrival heralded the application of two paradigms based on distant theoretical principles, they always showed an interest in their mutual advances and their practical reconciliation gave birth to an intellectual synergy that proved very fruitful.
Editor: Jesús Romero-Trillo

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UFS - Language Practice Programme [New!](#)

The Univeristy of the Free State has recently launched their 2009 Language Practice Programme. Limited internships and bursaries available after registration.

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Methoden der Diskurslinguistik [Methods of Discourse Linguistics) [New!](#)

Within linguistics, discourse linguistics has now become established as a sub-discipline dealing with supratextual meaning relations and historically and culturally based knowledge. A large number of individual studies have been presented and the theoretical discussion is well advanced. What is still lacking, however, is a soundly-based methodology, which is where this volume comes in. The contributors present and discuss various investigative procedures.

Editor: Ingo H. Warnke and Jürgen Spitzmüller

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The Language of Memory in a Crosslinguistic Perspective [New!](#)

The purpose of the book under review is to explore "the language of memory in a cross-linguistic perspective" (p. 1), i.e. the volume addresses the question of "how different languages lexicalise the concept of memory" (p. 5). The languages taken into consideration are Polish, English, Dalabon, Russian, Chinese, German, Korean, East Cree, and Amharic.
Editor: Mengistu Amberber

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Third International Conference on the Linguistics of English [New!](#)

Call for papers. The attention devoted to the linguistics of the English language has resulted in a broad body of work in diverse research traditions. The aim of the ICLCE conference is to encourage the cross-fertilization of ideas between different frameworks and research traditions, all of which may address any aspect of the linguistics of English.

Date: 14 to 17 July 2009

Location: London, UK

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Lesser Used Languages and Computer Linguistics II [New!](#)

Call for papers. Following up on the "Lesser Used Languages and Computer Linguistics (LULCL)" conference in 2005, the Institute for Specialized Communication and Multilingualism at the European Academy Bozen/Bolzano is pleased to announce a second scientific meeting on computational approaches for lesser used, lesser standardized and lesser resourced languages.

Date: 13 to 14 November 2008

Location: European Academy Bozen/Bolzano, Italy

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Language Planning and Policy

Literacy is a central issue to many language planning works. However, there are few studies which focus primarily on literacy as a language planning activity. This volume tries to explore some of the complexities and consequences of literacy in a range of contexts and from a range of perspectives. It brings together a collection of fifteen papers on language planning for literacy in official and vernacular languages and deals with the related issues in first and additional languages.

Editor: Anthony J. Liddicoat_

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English Discourse Markers of Reformulation

This book presents a descriptive study of the English discourse markers of reformulation, e.g. 'that is to say', 'in other words', 'or rather', etc. Its main goal is to provide a detailed linguistic account and a classification of this group of linguistic units. The book provides a thorough survey of previous descriptive and theoretical approaches to discourse markers in general and to reformulation in particular, but the study itself is theory-neutral, "inductive" and "interpretive", in that it starts with theoretically unprejudiced observations on the usage of reformulation markers in corpora and draws generalizations from them, rather than testing specific theoretically motivated hypotheses.

Author: Maria Milagros Del Saz Rubio

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The Legacy of John Sinclair

John Sinclair was the most radical thinker on the lexicon of the 20th century. His insights into the nature of collocations and discourse structure have inspired new ways of analysing meaning. He was never afraid to face up to awkward questions such as the vague and probabilistic nature of meaning and of evidence of word use. His insistence on close, detailed analysis of evidence played a major role in the development of the emerging discipline of corpus linguistics, now universally recognised as a cornerstone of modern lexicography.

Special issue now online, guest edited by Patrick Hanks.

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Language, Power and Identity Politics

This book is a collection of eleven papers exploring the interconnections between language and power in the context of identity politics, with particular reference to the process of globalization and its consequences for languages at all levels, major, regional and migrant.

Editor: Máiréad Nic Craith

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Application for Honours degrees studies - UCT

Postgraduate Studies in African Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. Beginning in mid-February 2009 within the Linguistics Section.

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Scholarships for full-time postgraduate studies in Sociolinguistics - UCT

The Linguistics Section of the English Department at UCT has scholarships for full-time postgraduate studies in Sociolinguistics, beginning to mid-February 2009.

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The Language of Evaluation

This book offers a qualitative methodology for analyzing the subjective presence of communicative participants (i.e. speakers and writers) manifested in various types of English texts. It focuses on 'appraisal', which is considered as "an interpersonal system at the level of discourse semantics" (p. 33).
Authors: James Martin and Peter White.

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English Language Teaching in China

Ever since Dell Hymes developed the notion of communicative competence in his seminal paper "On Communicative Competence" in 1972, the concept has been picked up by the field of Second Language Acquisition and deemed as the stated goal of English language teaching (ELT) in ESL/EFL contexts around the globe. With English assuming its position as the Lingua Franca of the world and with the number of non-native English speakers (NNESS) exceeding that of the native English speakers (NESs), communicative competence has taken on new standards and perspectives in ELT. This edited volume by Professor Jun Liu is an effort to synthesize new understandings about the notion and report its contextualization in China.

Editor: Jun Liu

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The Disappearance of Writing Systems

This volume gathers papers from the first conference ever to be held on the disappearance of writing systems, in Oxford in March 2004. While the invention and decipherment of writing systems have long been focuses of research, their eclipse or replacement have been little studied. Because writing is so important in many cultures and civilizations, its disappearance - followed by a period without it or by replacement by a different writing system - is of almost equal significance to invention as a mark of radical change.
Editors: John Bains, John Bennet and Stephen Houston.

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Developmental Psycholinguistics

This book is a direct result of the Workshop on On-line Methods in Children's Language Processing, held at the Graduate Centre of the City University of New York in 2006. It aims to introduce the reader to a variety of techniques which are currently emerging in the field of developmental psycholinguistics. The emphasis is on tapping into language processing in real time. The book represents the change of focus occurring in the study of language development from a mainly offline assessment of children's competence to the online investigation of the interaction between competence and performance factors.

Editors: Irina Sekerina, Eva Fernandez and Harald Clahsen.

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Introduction to English Linguistics

The book, presented in a user-friendly English and intended for beginners in English linguistics, is a second edition which welcomes "comments and suggestions for future editions". Although the authors believe that the textbook does not require any previous knowledge [of the field], it is my contention that some knowledge of basic English grammar is necessary, particularly where English is taught as a foreign/second language.

Authors: Markus Bieswanger and Annette Becker

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Syntax and Semantics of Prepositions

The nineteen papers in this volume were originally presented at a workshop on the syntax and semantics of prepositions held in Toulouse in 2003. As the title suggests, a variety of topics regarding prepositions are covered: lexical aspects including their distribution; syntactic studies, with a focus on Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar (HPSG); semantic aspects, with issues ranging from ontologies to polysemy and formal representations.

Editor: Patrick Saint-Dizier

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Evolutionary Phonology

The occasion of this review is the 2007 paperback reissue of the 2004 first edition. Blevins argues that "the most common sound changes and the most common types of synchronic alternations are nearly coextensive", so "...if we can demonstrate that principled diachronic explanations exist for particular sound patterns, considerations of simplicity would seem to dictate that explanations for the same phenomena should not be imported into, or otherwise duplicated within, synchronic accounts". The book has three parts: Preliminaries (3 chapters), Sound patterns (5 chapters), and Implications (3 chapters).

Author: Juliette Blevins

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Multilingualism Conference 2008

Ingwe Communications would like to invite you to a Conference on Multilingualism. Please find attached programme for the above-mentioned conference taking place on 9 - 10 October 2008 at Emperor's Palace in Johannesburg.

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Abstract Phonology in a Concrete Model

This book is relevant for phonologists, morphologists, Slavists and cognitive linguists, and addresses two questions: How can the morphology-phonology interface be accommodated in cognitive linguistics? Do morphophonological alternations have a meaning? These questions are explored via a comprehensive analysis of stem alternations in Russian verbs.

Author: Tore Nessel

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Grammars, Grammarians and Grammar-Writing in Eighteenth-Century England

The book offers insight into the publication history of eighteenth-century English grammars in unprecedented detail. It is based on a close analysis of various types of relevant information: Alston's bibliography of 1965, showing that this source needs to be revised urgently; the recently published online database Eighteenth Century Collections Online with respect to sources of information never previously explored or analysed; Carol Percy's database on the reception of eighteenth-century grammars in contemporary periodical reviews; and so-called precept corpora containing data on the treatment in a large variety of grammars of individual grammatical constructions.

Editor: Ingrid Tiekens-Boon van Ostade

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Constructional Approaches to English Grammar

This collection of articles brings together new research from both established and emerging international experts in the study of English grammar, all of whom have engaged with the notion of 'construction' in their work. The research here is concerned with both synchrony and diachrony, with the relationship between Construction Grammar and other linguistic theories, and with a number of issues in the study of grammar, such as raising and control phenomena, transitivity, relative clause structure, the syntax of gerunds, attributive and predicative uses of adjectives, modality, and grammaticalization.
Editors: Graeme Trousdale & Nikolas Gisborne

[Read more...](#)**Always On (Language in an Online and Mobile World)**

In the preface of this book, Naomi Baron explains that she wants to understand the synergy between technology and language and today's language usage in the larger cultural context of literacy and the print culture that emerged in the English-speaking world by the eighteenth century. Her focus is on electronically-based language and the question if it alters linguistic norms and language usage.
Author: Naomi S. Baron

[Read more...](#)**Contrastive Rhetoric**

The field of contrastive rhetoric (CR) has a well-established, 42-year history since Kaplan (1966) first invoked the term for the study of variations in the style and rhetorical structure of texts by nonnative speakers of English. As evidenced by this volume, CR has grown exponentially from a discipline focused on second language academic essay writing to one concerned with virtually any type of culturally-embedded prose.
Editors: U. Connor, E. Nagelhout, W.V. Rozycki.

[Read more...](#)**Anthropology of Color**

Color naming and categorization is a hugely cross-disciplinary field of inquiry, combining anthropological, linguistic and psychological research efforts. This is a collected volume of papers on color naming research that seeks to do justice to the interdisciplinary character of the color naming discussion. At the same time, it tries to bring together contributions from various corners of the world.
Author: Rick Nouwen

[Read more...](#)**Call for Papers -International Pragmatics Conference**

Context and Contexts: parts meet whole? the theme of the panel organized at the 11th International Pragmatics Conference (IPrA). The goal of this panel is to examine the complexity of context and its multifaceted and multilayered nature, tackling one (or more) of the issues of indexicality, intentionality, and micro/meso/macro context.
Deadline: 15 September 2008

[Read more...](#)**Call for Papers - International Cognitive Linguistics Conference**

'Advances in Frame Semantics: Corpus and Computational Approaches and Insights' is the title of the theme session.
Deadline: 30 September 2008

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