

TITLE: EN CLAIR: FORENSIC LINGUISTICS, LITERARY DETECTION, AND LANGUAGE MYSTERIES PODCAST – SEASON THREE

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Claire Hardaker

DATE(S): Project will run in Term 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: The overall purpose of this project is to investigate cases that involve forensic linguistics (e.g. the Derek Bentley case), literary detection (e.g. the Belle de Jour case), and/or language mysteries (e.g. the Somerton Man case). The successful intern will undertake the research necessary to create engaging scripts for several podcast episodes. Specifically, your duties will include:

- Agreeing on a number of cases from a long-list that you will focus your efforts on
- Undertaking substantial open source intelligence gathering, including finding, reading, and saving media articles/broadcasts, court documents, case data, individual biographies, and so forth
- Creating a thoroughly well-evidenced timeline of events from the inception of the case to its conclusion
- Exceptional interns with a gift for writing will have the opportunity to write scripts for the podcast in question

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- A very keen eye for details, inconsistencies, and alternative perspectives
- The tenacity to investigate complex cases far beyond simple media reports. this will include, e.g. reading legal documents, analysing data, listening to police interviews, etc.
- A high standard of evidence-collecting, sifting, and presenting
- A willingness and ability to work unsupervised
- Excellent discretion. The successful candidate will be asked to maintain a sensible degree of confidentiality about all aspects of the upcoming second season until its formal launch

NOTE 1: This position will involve looking in fine detail at one or more cases. It's likely that some of those cases will involve murder, suicide, serious assault, or other subjects that some will find distressing. The cases will be agreed between supervisor and intern at the start of the project, and not all the cases on the long-list are on distressing topics, but overall, **this post is unlikely to be suitable for anyone who does not wish to deal with sensitive topics.**

NOTE 2: If this runs as a SPRINT (summertime) project, the successful candidate is welcome to work for the entire duration remotely. All meetings and contact can be carried out via Skype, phone, email, or other agreed-upon means.

TITLE: Corpus Study on Relative Clauses in Child-Directed and Child Speech

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Jacky Chan & Dr Silke Brandt

DATE(S): Project will run during Lent Term (Term 2).

JOB DESCRIPTION: The main purpose of the study is to find out the characteristics of the relative clauses in young children's language input and production in an attempt to understand how morphosyntactic and discourse-level factors influence children's understanding of relative clauses in experimental studies. More specifically, the corpus study seeks to gather distributional information and frequency statistics on a range of morphosyntactic and discourse-level characteristics of the relative clauses in child-directed and child speech, examine whether and how such morphosyntactic and discourse-level characteristics align, and assess whether children's production reflect their language input. We will be analysing three existing corpora, where relative clauses have already been extracted. This role mainly pertains to the coding of the extracted relative clauses. Your main duties, which can be carried out remotely, include:

- Coding the identified relative clauses on a range of morphosyntactic and discourse-level variables
- Cross-checking coding with supervisors for reliability
- Discussing and resolving inconsistencies in coding
- Meeting with supervisors regularly to discuss progress and problems

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- Interest in learning how to carry out corpus analyses
- Ability/willingness to work independently and in a timely and efficient manner
- Those who have taken / will be taking LING 228 are highly desirable
- A background in child language acquisition or psycholinguistics is desirable but not essential

NOTES: Full training in coding and corpus analysis techniques will be provided.

TITLE: Shakespeare: The infrequent words

SUPERVISOR(S): Prof. Jonathan Culpeper

DATE(S): Project will run for four weeks during June or July

JOB DESCRIPTION: This project focuses on early modern words that occur rarely in Shakespeare, and attempts to pin down what they mean. One source of evidence is what other dictionaries say they mean. Our systems suck in definitions from an array of dictionaries and display them on the screen. You can then look for similarities. But the next, and most important, step is to check whether those meanings actually fit how these words are used, both in Shakespeare and in the writings of his contemporaries. This step is facilitated by corpus methods (our systems line up the examples used in Shakespeare and his contemporaries). Finally comes the most creative part of the process: you propose your own definition for the word. Generally then, you will:

- engage with lexicography, Shakespeare and corpus methods;
- consider what scholars think about these words;
- work closely with your supervisor in searching the data; and
- contribute to the *Encyclopedia of Shakespeare's Language* project (<http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/shakespearelang/>) (and be listed in the acknowledgements).

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Full training in methods will be provided, so you do *not* need to have extensive knowledge of any particular area. However, you will need:

- strong ability to work independently and as part of a team; and
- an interest in (or at least sympathy with!) unfamiliar words and corpus-methods.

TITLE: Language Variation and Change in Blackburn, Lancashire

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Danielle Turton

DATE(S): Project will run in Term 2 2020-2021

JOB DESCRIPTION: A sociolinguistic research assistant is required for a new project in Linguistics and English Language looking at the accent and dialect of Blackburn. The purpose of the project is to transcribe and analyse sociolinguistic interviews with speakers from Blackburn in Lancashire in order to analyse potential variation and change in the accent. The selected candidate will help with transcribing and coding interviews for sociolinguistic variables and thus will be trained in the latest cutting-edge transcription and forced-alignment/automatic speech recognition software.

Your main duties will include:

- Transcribing interviews
- Coding interviews for style (e.g. informal, word-lists)
- Data analysis
- Conducting auditory analysis of consonants such as t-glottalling, h-dropping
- [optional] Conducting interviews with speakers from the area (may not be possible due to covid restrictions)

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- Interest in accents and dialects
- Excellent attention to detail
- Interest in learning new software
- A background in sociolinguistics is desirable but not essential

NOTES: Full training in sociolinguistic interviewing, transcription and coding of data will be provided in the first week of the project.

TITLE: Edwardian Postcard Project

SUPERVISOR: Dr Julia Gillen

DATE(S): 10 days in Term 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: You will work with the Edwardian Postcard Project, a long term research project investigating the everyday literacy practices of postcard writers in the early twentieth century. You will be involved in enhancing the opportunities the project offers to members of the public through donating scans or postcards, categorising and transcribing cards. You will also be involved in data organisation, transcription and analysis and project communications.

Your work will include:

- encouraging new donations through the project's website,
- data organisation
- publicising the project through existing social media ie. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter;
- monitoring the quality of inputs;
- responding to enquiries and proactively communicating with members of the public through social media, the site and by email.;
- transcription and categorisation of cards.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- Good communication skills in diverse modes including social media
- Good self organisation and time-management skills;
- Attention to detail.

NOTES: This is an ideal multi-faceted project to give an overall taster of a long-term, sustained research endeavour, developing a diverse skill set.