

TITLE: Gender, Language and Animation Resource (GLARe)

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Johnny Unger

PROJECT REFERENCE: UngerTRINITY

DATE(S): Term 2 2023-24

JOB DESCRIPTION: You will help Johnny continue to develop GLARe, an online resource designed to help students and other researchers who want to investigate how gender is represented and how gender stereotypes are used in animated films. In doing this, you will contribute to the creation of new blog posts about gender and animated films which will be aimed at students interested in this area, and also finding new relevant research. Your duties may include

- Making/checking transcripts (both of verbal text and audiovisual features) of animated films
- Coding and analysing specific features (eg. Identifying gendered forms of address, stereotypically gendered language features or gendered aspects of the visual representation of characters)
- Doing literature searches for recent literature on gender and animated film
- Writing drafts of or sections of the blog posts (you will be credited as a contributor in this case)

GLARe is a work in progress, but there's a fair bit of content already, which you can see here: wp.lancs.ac.uk/glare/

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

- Interest in discourse analysis, language and gender, and analysis of visual texts
- Keen eye for detail and systematic approach to data analysis
- Organised and able to keep references, data and findings organised
- Writes in an accessible and engaging way

NOTES: You will have the chance to give some input/make suggestions regarding the choice of films to analyse. Training on coding and analysis will be provided. To get an idea of the kind of analysis you might end up doing, you can look at the two analyses already on GLARe or Unger & Sunderland 2005 (available here tinyurl.com/shrekpaper).

TITLE: BOT OR NOT? DETECTING HUMAN VERSUS GENERATIVE AI AUTHORSHIP

SUPERVISOR(S): CLAIRE HARDAKER AND GEORGE BROWN

PROJECT REFERENCE: HardakerBrownTRINITY

DATE(S): Project will run in Term 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: The overall purpose of this project is to investigate how good (or bad!) humans are at detecting human-authored versus Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) texts. The successful intern will create multiple “bot or not?” tests to challenge respondents and then gather their feedback on their level of confidence and the features that led them to their conclusion.

Specifically, the duties will include:

- Creating multiple short “bot or not?” texts using human- and ChatGPT-authored samples
- Uploading those tests to, e.g. Qualtrics
- Promoting those tests to gather responses
- Undertaking a preliminary analysis of the results

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

- An interest in generative artificial intelligence and authorship analysis
- An ability to use, or a willingness to learn how to use ChatGPT, Qualtrics, etc.
- The motivation to disseminate the “bot or not?” test and gather as many results as possible
- A willingness and ability to work unsupervised
- The ability to present preliminary findings on the results

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

SUPERVISOR(S): CLAIRE HARDAKER

PROJECT REFERENCE: HardakerTRINITY-a

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. who wrote Shakespeare?), and/or language mysteries (e.g. the Voynich Manuscript). The successful intern will undertake the research necessary to create engaging scripts for one or more 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, biographies, and so forth
- Creating a thoroughly well-evidenced timeline of events from the inception of the case to its conclusion
- Interns with a gift for writing will have the opportunity to write scripts

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
- Good discretion. The successful candidate will be asked to maintain a sensible degree of confidentiality about all aspects of the upcoming episodes until their formal launch

NOTE 1: This position will involve looking in detail at one or more cases. Some cases on the overall long-list involve subjects that some will find distressing. The shortlist of cases will be agreed between supervisor and intern at the start of the project, so there is no requirement to engage with distressing topics, but applicants should bear in mind that it will be necessary to briefly discuss what they feel comfortable investigating.

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 Teams and/or email.

TITLE: Vocal effort and individual variation in speech

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Justin Lo

PROJECT REFERENCE: LoTRINITY

DATE(S): Term 2, 2023-24

JOB DESCRIPTION: When we speak in a noisy environment or on the phone, we unconsciously increase our vocal effort in what is known as the Lombard effect. This project is part of a larger study that looks at individual variability in Lombard speech, with a focus on vowels and their interactions with nasal consonants. The specific aim of this project is to examine the acoustic properties of speech produced by Southern British English speakers in a noisy (mock) telephone conversation and explore the extent of within- and between-speaker variation. You will work with the supervisor to prepare the audio data for acoustic analysis, extract acoustic measurements of vowel quality and nasality, and compare the results with existing baseline data from quiet speech.

Your main duties will include:

- Creating time-aligned transcripts of the audio recordings
- Conducting acoustic analysis using existing scripts
- Presenting results to the supervisor

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

- An interest in phonetics and its forensic applications
- Excellent attention to detail
- Experience using Praat (desirable but not essential)

NOTES: Training in data preparation and acoustic analysis will be provided. You will be invited to join regular meetings at the Phonetics Lab as a member of the research group.

TITLE: COLLOCATION WORD GAME

SUPERVISOR(S): CLAIRE HARDAKER

PROJECT REFERENCE: HardakerTRINITY-b

DATE(S): Project will run in Term 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: The overall purpose of this project is to begin to create a web-based linguistics word association game similar to those such as Gramle and Wordle, with some similarities to the (old!) television quiz show, Family Fortunes. The project will seek to:

- Catalogue the formats of current and similar word games
- Identify potential formats for this game
- Work out the probable background architecture
- If the project is particularly successful, create and test alpha and even beta releases

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

- An interest in word games and corpus linguistics
- An ability to code in, e.g. Java script
- The willingness to trial various possible formats to find the best one
- The willingness and ability to work unsupervised
- The ability to discuss and describe the ongoing results of the project

TITLE: Cross-dialect speech perception in Blackburn, Lancashire

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Robert Lennon

PROJECT REFERENCE: LennonTRINITY

DATE(S): Project will run in Term 2 2023-2024

JOB DESCRIPTION: A sociolinguistics or phonetics research assistant is required for a project in Linguistics and English Language, looking at the perception of speech sounds from different accents by listeners from the Blackburn area. The purpose of the project is to run an online speech perception experiment, analysing listeners' ability to perceive phonetic variation in English accents. The research assistant will recruit listeners from the Blackburn area to take part in the experiment, as well as assisting with data handling and basic analysis. You will therefore be trained in the latest methods in collecting speech perception data, as well as some data analysis techniques.

Your main duties will include:

- Recruiting listeners from in and around the Blackburn with Darwen area
- Use of in-person and online (e.g. social networking) recruitment methods
- Downloading/handling data from speech perception program
- Basic data analysis
- Presenting results to supervisor

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

- The ability/willingness to recruit listeners from the Blackburn with Darwen area (access to the speech community is desirable).
- Some experience of social networking platforms, to advertise/recruit participants to the study.
- Close attention to detail in data handling and analysis.
- Interest in accents/dialects.
- A background in either sociolinguistics or phonetics is desirable but not essential.

NOTES: Training in data handling from Gorilla perception software (www.gorilla.sc) and basic methods in data analysis will be provided near the start of the project.

TITLE: Language Variation and Change in Blackburn, Lancashire

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Danielle Turton and Dr Robert Lennon

PROJECT REFERENCE: TurtonLennonTRINITY

DATE(S): Project will run in Term 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: A sociolinguistic research assistant is required for a 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, and to help arrange an outreach event in the community. The selected candidate will help with transcribing and coding interviews for sociolinguistic variables and tongue splines for ultrasound tongue imaging and thus will be trained in the latest cutting-edge transcription and forced-alignment/automatic speech recognition software. They will also help with the organisation and promotion of the outreach event, and attend on the day if they like. If interested, there is also the possibility of collecting new interviews.

Your main duties will include:

- Transcribing interviews
- Conducting auditory analysis of consonants such as t-glottalling, h-dropping
- Helping organise and promote dialect impact event in the community
- Analysing ultrasound tongue shapes
- [optional] Conducting interviews with speakers from the area

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

- Interest in accents and dialects
- Interest in phonetics
- Excellent attention to detail
- Interest in learning new software
- Good organisational skills
- Good people skills
- A background in sociolinguistics or phonetics 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: International engagement for linguistic research and teaching

SUPERVISOR(S): Dana Gablasova, Raffaella Bottini

PROJECT REFERENCE: GablasovaBottiniTRINITY

DATE(S): Term 2

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The main aim of this project is to support existing international research and teaching collaborations at the LAEL department and at the ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science ([CASS](#)). CASS is a world leading research institution for the corpus analysis of language. It supports development of new tools and techniques of linguistic analysis as well as the application of corpus methods to a range of areas including healthcare communication, sociolinguistics, and language teaching.

For this project, we will be collecting linguistic data for research, organising international events, as well as producing handouts, short videos, webpages, and other digital materials for an international audience. Join our team and learn how we carry out high-impact research and how we communicate about this research with a range of stakeholders.

We are looking for a candidate who:

- Can write clear descriptions and explanations.
- Is creative and can use MS Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint).
- Pays attention to detail and likes producing handouts and other digital materials.
- Has good communication skills and can work in a team.

Training will be provided.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

- General interest in linguistic methods and innovation.
- Good level of computer literacy, knowledge of social media.
- Strong ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Preferable (but not essential): can use video editing software (for example, Adobe Creative Cloud OR iMovie).