TITLE: Local Stories Primary School project: investigating storytelling and story writing

SUPERVISOR(S): Professor Uta Papen

INTERNSHIP SCHEME: SPRINT

DATE(S): The project will run in May, June and July (exact timing to be negotiated)

JOB DESCRIPTION: The Morecambe Bay Curriculum (MBC, https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/morecambe-bay-curriculum/) is a movement initiated by a group of educators, with support from Lancaster University and the Lancaster and Morecambe College. It explores how themes related to the local environment, sustainability and place can be incorporated into the curriculum, to make learning relevant and to improve educational outcomes for local children and young people. The Local Stories Primary School project, led by a group of primary school teachers from the Morecambe Bay area and supported by Lancaster University, seeks to understand how primary school children can be engaged in researching local themes which they then develop into stories based on local interests and facts. As part of the project, groups of children from 8 schools, together with their teachers, will research their community and local environment, identify a topic and develop a story around this topic. They will write up the story and share it with their and other schools. We know from much research that to support children's learning of reading and writing they need to receive more than lessons in grammar, spelling and phonics. They need to engage with themes that are relevant to them, and they need to take part in writing activities that are fun, and which serve a purpose they can relate to. We also know from prior research and from teachers' own experience that place-based approaches to teaching the national curriculum can make learning more meaningful and engaging.

As a member of the pilot project team, the intern will work with the supervisor, the teachers and children in supporting the development of the stories and seeking to understand the impact of the activity on the children's motivation and engagement as well as their oracy and literacy skills. The intern will do lesson observations in one or more primary schools and they will conduct short and informal interviews with some of the children taking part in the project. They will be involved in analysing this data and preparing it for dissemination. They will help with some of the administrative tasks required by the project. Some local travel will be involved, and an enhanced DBS check is required (expenses covered). The work will be spread out over May, June and July. We will ensure that the intern's work does not clash with their commitments at University, but the project schedule is mainly guided by the school and some flexibility on the part of the intern is required.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:
- An enthusiastic interest in education and literacy studies
- Experience/interest in qualitative research methods (observations, interviews)
- Ability and willingness to work with children and teachers
- An interest in place-based education and environmental issues
- Exceptional organisation and communication skills

TITLE: Visualization of linguistic data and materials development

SUPERVISOR(S): Professor Vaclav Brezina, Dr Raffaella Bottini, Dr Dana Gablasova

DATE(S): Project will run in June or July 2025

JOB DESCRIPTION: The ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science ([CASS](#)), Lancaster University 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.

The main aim of this project is 1) to support engagement activities of CASS with the wider community and 2) to make our tools and techniques accessible to a wide range of users. For this, we will be producing a series of handouts, booklets, and other materials, including content for social media. 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 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.

TITLE: Turning covert surveillance into high-quality intelligence: the L10NESS dataset

SUPERVISOR(S): Professor Claire Hardaker

INTERNSHIP SCHEME: SPRINT

DATE(S): Summer or term-time

JOB DESCRIPTION: A key challenge in criminal and intelligence investigations involves working with poor quality audio data. This can be from CCTV recordings, Ring door cameras, body-worn video footage, covert surveillance, and so forth. Analysts may be asked to ascribe speech to the correct speaker, to transcribe content that is particularly difficult to hear, or both. Being able to do these tasks accurately, and potentially under pressure, are critical skills. As part of our ongoing work in this field, we have created L10NESS, a unique dataset of ecologically valid surveillance-style recordings by ten Lancastrian speakers. Each speaker has provided three voicemails, two "criminal gang" interactions, and a simulated police interview. This current internship will (1) provide canonical, intelligence-grade transcriptions of selected parts of that dataset, and (2) identify key segments for future training and simulation scenarios. The ideal candidate may also have the opportunity to extend this training material by, e.g. providing a backstory to the materials.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate will have the following characteristics:
- An enthusiastic interest in forensic linguistics and/or forensic speech science
- Experience using, or a willingness to learn how to use Audacity (or an equivalent like GarageBand if the student prefers this and has access to it)
- Exceptional organisational skills
- Good communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Excellent discretion

TITLE: Gender, Language and Animation Resource (GLARe)

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Johnny Unger

DATE(S): June/July 2025 (SPRINT)

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 (e.g. 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 analyses already on GLARe or Unger & Sunderland 2005 (available here tinyurl.com/shrekpaper).