

Introduction to the Volume

This volume includes research papers presented at the 11th and 12th International Postgraduate Conferences in Linguistics and Language Teaching held at Lancaster University in July 2016 and June 2017, respectively. The annual conference is organised by research students in the Department of Linguistics and English Language; it brings together postgraduate researchers from the UK, Europe and beyond to provide them with an opportunity to present their current research projects in the stimulating environment of a department that produces world-class research in various fields of applied linguistics. Topics in this volume focus on phonetics, phonology, discourse analysis, corpus linguistics and sociolinguistics.

Family language policies in five Syrian families in the UK, by Dina Abed Elkhaliq, explores various language ideologies that exist in the Syrian community in the UK. The findings of the research suggest that the Syrian community face challenges related to their lack of experience in language maintenance issues and show that this community is not immune to language shift. The study concludes that the Syrian community in the UK need to take conscious measures to pass on their native language to the next generation.

In *Syllable structure and syllabification in Ammani Arabic: External evidence from the adaptation of English loanwords*, Mohammed Nour Abu Guba presents a phonological analysis of the adaptation of more than 400 well-established English loanwords in Ammani Arabic, a dialect spoken in the capital of Jordan. The paper points out that that English simplex nuclei, onsets, and codas are accounted for by classic Optimality Theory (OT) constraints whereas English complex margins are better analysed using Stratal OT, thus offering a new OT hierarchy that successfully accounts for problematic aspects of Arabic syllable structure.

Elena Afromeeva in *Pronouns in Putin's public discourse: Features and peculiarities* examines the pragmatic implementation of pronouns in the presidential public discourse within contemporary Russia, focusing on the use of pronouns in Vladimir Putin's public narrative with the aim of detecting discursive strategies used to create 'self-portrait' and 'we-portrait' in his public appeals. The paper follows a president-centred approach and addresses contextual variables that shape presidential communicative conduct, suggesting that there is a close connection between language, context, political setting and code of the target audience, all of which are interdependent and interconnected, and have a strong impact on presidential communicative conduct.

In *The perception of the vowel continuum in British and US English speakers*, Chad Hall analyzes the perception of the /æ/-/ε/ vowel continuum in British and United States English speakers by testing their word identification across the pan-pen continuum. The results confirm the findings of Bell-Berti et al. (1979) that speech production and perception are closely related. The steep drop in perception from ‘pan’ to ‘pen’ displayed by both speaker groups may suggest that vowel perception is categorical rather than cross the continuum equally.

Ekaterina Ignatova in *Compiling comparable multimodal corpora of tourism discourse* compares two multimodal corpora of written tourism discourse about London and Moscow aiming at studying the representation of the aforementioned cities. Through describing the constructed pilot corpora, the limitations of the project and the impact of the work are suggested.

Finally, *Sunday family lunch: An ethnographic description* by Vasiliki Saloustrou investigates the cultural patterns of communication in family discourse by providing an ethnographic description of a Sunday family meal in Greece in her own household. The researcher ponders over a range of changes over time, from intra-family changes - as children grow into adults - through to social changes affecting hierarchical relationships between the generations as well as between the genders.

We would like to thank all the staff and students at the department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University who contributed to this conference; special thanks go to the manuscript reviewers who kindly donated their expertise and time to reading and commenting on the papers.

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