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REPORT ON 34TH CONFERENCE OF THE *SOCIETAS LINGUISTICA EUROPEA: LANGUAGE STUDY IN EUROPE AT THE TURN OF THE MILLENNIUM. TOWARDS THE INTEGRATION OF COGNITIVE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE.*
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, August 28–31, 2001.

The conference, attended by over 300 participants from all over the world, was most efficiently organised by **Bert Cornillie** and **Nicole Delbecque**. It took place in the idyllic setting of the university town of Leuven. The participants were generously plied with coffee and biscuits to keep them going and the conference dinner brought all the participants together in a very convivial atmosphere of wine, food and merriment.

It all began with a welcoming address given by Nicole Delbecque, followed by a presidential address by Pieter Seuren on *The Cognitive Dimension in Language Study*. All the presentations were given in nine parallels. Apart from that there were also workshops on a variety of topics. This meant that the average attendance at each talk was about 20–30 participants, often less, as the days went by. There were six plenary lectures of varying quality and entertainment value.

It is obviously impossible to report on all the papers, workshops and plenary lectures given at the conference, so we will merely list and – to a limited degree – comment upon those lectures which broadly dealt with historical/cognitive linguistics – the linguistic disciplines which are of special interest to the authors of this report.[1]

Christine Michaux: *What linguistics has to say about smells: A cognitive perspective.*

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[1] For more information you can access the following very complete web-site: http://wwwling.arts.kuleuven.ac.be/sle2001/default.htm.

Olga Molchanova: *Componential categories and their application to colour-terms in English and Polish*.

Olga Latina: *Black and white: A study in cognitive semantics*. This paper focused on the relation between metaphor and culture and attempted to demonstrate that broadly-understood culture plays a significant role in the processes of conceptualisation.

Inke Dubois: *A diachronic view on code-switching and implications on the multiple embedding of German immigrant identities*. This paper showed that the employment of code-switching, the juxtaposition of two or more languages in discourse, among German citizens residing in an English speaking country, needs to be viewed as a diachronic phenomenon in which second language acquisition, first language attrition and the creation of a 'mixed code' all play a role.

Heli Tissari: *Love in words: Experience and conceptualisation in the modern English lexicon of love*. This paper dealt with words classified under the heading **LOVE** in *The Historical Thesaurus of English*. It concentrated on words entering the English language after 1500, asking which domains of human experience they belong to and which cognitive metaphors they represent.

Augusto Soares da Silva: *Verbs of Letting: Some cognitive and historical aspects*. This paper started from the premise that 'letting' is a complex conceptual category. The author distinguished between three dynamic concepts of 'letting': 'not prevent', 'let go, release', and 'allow, permit'. He claimed that these concepts are found semasiologically united in one single verb, but are onomasiologically differentiated in different groups of verbs, and related to or incorporated into other concepts. The author studied some aspects of the conceptualisation and the historical formation of these concepts in their distribution into different groups of (mainly Romance) verbs.

Monika Bielinska: *Zur Phraseologie aus konfrontativer Sicht am Beispiel des Deutschen und Polnischen*.

Dejan Stosic: *Sémantique de l'espace à travers une étude du préverbe 'pro-' en serbo-croate.*

Axel Fleisch: *Lexicalised emotions and diachronic semantics in southern Bantu languages*. The author made an attempt to address issues of diachronic semantics (the semantics of emotional terms) in African languages (Bantu) where diachronic documents are not available. Among others, the author tried to address the following questions: 1) By which semantic strategies are emotions expressed verbally, what metaphors and metonyms are used? 2) Are these similar among related languages, or is the use of specific strategies rather randomly distributed? 3) What is the linguistic history of these expressions? 4) What role do culture-specific features play? 5) What about a real contact and semantic change?

Wladimir D. Klimonov: *Die Entwicklung der '-yva-/-iva-' Bildungen im Russischen: Evidenzen für den natürlichen grammatischen Wandel.*

Kerstin Kazzazi: *Of brides and goddesses. Determining the semantic differences between the terms for a young woman in the Rgveda*. This paper dealt with historical semantics in Vedic, more specifically, with one lexical field. In the Rgveda, there are several words associated with the domain **GIRL/YOUNG WOMAN** such as, for example: *kanyå-, yuvatí-, yósâ-, vadhý-*. They form a subset within the lexical field **WOMAN**. The exact semantic differences between them have hitherto not been clearly understood. The paper aimed to illustrate means of distinguishing the meanings of these words more precisely from each other by close text analysis.

Willem Hollmann: *The rise of causative [NP1-GET-NP2-STEM/INF]: A cognitive perspective*.

Hubert Cuyckens and Jean-Christophe Verstraete: *Subjectification in the conjunctive discourse marker 'but'*. In this study, the diachronic development of *but* from subordinating conjunction over coordinating conjunction to discourse marker was used as a case study to tease out the different ways in which the notion of subjectification could be (and in fact has been) used in diachronic semantics. It was argued that it is important to distinguish these different uses of the term, because each constitutes a conceptually distinct aspect of semantic change.

Bram Renmans: *Analogical change of meaning*. By means of a detailed comparison of Stephen Ullmann's structuralist stance on analogical meaning change with Dirk Geeraerts's analysis of the same subject, followed by some well-founded criticism of both authors, the author developed a new approach to dependent changes of meaning.

Izumi Tahara: *French simple past and narrative point of view in fiction*.

Nerlich, Brigitte and Pedro Chamizo Dominguez: *The use of 'literally': Vice or virtue? A cognitive and historical study of a stance adverb*. In this paper the authors combined various approaches, from diachronic semantics to conversation analysis, in order to study the development and use of the adverb *literally*.

Rafael Cala Carvajal: *A propos de la lexicalisation du suffixe '-illo' en espagnol: Quelques observations sur la polysémie et la métaphore dans la sémantique cognitive*. This paper was based on a corpus derived from the Spanish academic dictionary and applied insights from Ullmann and Roudet (1921).

Alexander Bergs: *The individual in linguistic theory: Past and present*.

Martin Hummel: *Prototype effects without prototypes*. In this paper the author tried to show that there may be words without a mental prototype, and there may be others where a mental prototype cooperates functionally with invariable features and even other types of information available in the word's semantic frame. The paper pleaded for a more complex conception of word

meaning which reflects extralinguistic diversity and heterogeneity. It claimed that the task of the linguist is to identify which features, be they prototypical or not, are functionally most important, in order to specify the core meaning of a word.

Heide Wegener: *Kinder and Kids – development and motivation of German plural forms – a challenge for markedness theory*.

Beatrice Godart-Wendling: *The treatment of semantics in contemporary categorical grammars*.

Caroline Gevaerts: *The Anger is Heat question: Detecting cultural influence on the conceptualisation of anger through diachronic corpus analysis*.

Clara Molina: *On the reasons for historical break-up of an ongoing merger*. This paper explored the diachronic processes leading to the break-up in late medieval times of a semantic merger in progress ever since Old English, involving the nouns *sore* (OE *sár*) and *sorrow* (OE *sorg*). It showed that in addition to their formal resemblance, both terms belonged to the same conceptual domain, and indeed displayed a considerable degree of semantic overlap.

Hans-Olav Enger: *Three changes in the gender system of Scandinavian*.

Urszula Okulska: *The disintegration of possessive pronouns in early modern English. The case of the attributive mine – thine – vs – my – thy*.

Gisela Harras and Kristel Proost: *The lexicalisation of speech act evaluations in English, Dutch and German*.

Maurice Vliegen: *'Versprechen'/'beloven' and 'drohen'/'dreigen': Lexikalische und epistemische Bedeutung*.

In this brief overview we have said nothing about the workshops which went on in parallel with the papers because Brigitte Nerlich did not attend any of them and concentrated on the papers instead. However, for those interested in them, here is just a list of the topics.

Microvariation in the Syntax of Auxiliaries
Early phases in the acquisition of lexicon and morphology by children
Immersion and the issue of linguistic accuracy
Translatorisches Handeln und interkulturelle Kommunikation
Luxemburgisch – Synchronie und Diachronie
Hard Science Linguistics
Empirical methods in the new millennium: Linguistically Interpreted Corpora
On top-down functionalism and bottom-up corpus research: Can they meet?

These notes merely provide sweeping glimpses of a fully-fledged international conference that addressed all the wider issues of how to integrate

cognitive, historical and cultural approaches to language. It remains to be hoped that the readers will feel enticed to visit the web-site for further details: http://wwwling.arts.kuleuven.ac.be/sle2001/programme.htm.

The aims of the conference had been to present recent progress on a variety of issues related to cognitive, historical and cultural approaches to language and to encourage the interaction between scholars from different theoretical and cultural backgrounds. These objectives have surely been achieved. We hope that this review will contribute to a continuation of such international exchanges.