

# **Foreword to the inaugural volume of the Student Edition of *Mannheim papers in multilingualism, acquisition and change* (MAPMAC)**

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The students' edition of *Mannheim papers in multilingualism, acquisition and change* publishes high quality theses on the topics of multilingualism, acquisition and change written in close connection with current research projects of the chair of Anglistik/Linguistik (Diachronie) and submitted and defended at the University of Mannheim as well as outstanding theses on these topics submitted by students from other universities. With this first and special edition we take account of these excellent papers submitted over the past years, specifically those connected to the current DFG-project *Borrowing of Argument Structure in Contact Situations* (henceforth BASICS, 2015–2021, project number 265711632).

The theses published in this special edition all deal with aspects of borrowing of argument structure in contact situations and are thus related to the eponymous DFG-project of the institute. More precisely, BASICS investigates grammatical change in the medieval language contact situation between English and French which arose after the Norman Conquest (1066 until ca 1500). The domain of research consists of structural borrowing phenomena and their connection with the lexicon: massive borrowing of lexical items with a predicate-argument structure is hypothesised to have favoured and produced grammatical changes. Therefore, the phenomenon in focus is the borrowing into medieval English of French verbs and the question of how their argument structure has influenced its grammar. By taking into account lexical-semantic theories, findings about language acquisition and the sociolinguistic background, the project provides new insights into the process of structural borrowing, and into how to distinguish internal from contact-induced language change.

The first thesis in this edition, by W. JULIANE ELTER, investigates the global copying of verbs lexicalizing caused possession from Old French into Middle English as a possible origin for the rise of the *to*-dative marking of recipient objects in English. In taking a language-contact approach to this well investigated instance of structural change this thesis challenges previous accounts of the rise of the *to*-dative, which attribute this change to language-internal processes exclusively. The quantitative corpus study focusses on native and copied verbs of the classes of giving and future having and compares their use with both the double-object construction and *to*-dative construction diachronically and in relation to their origin and date of first attestation in English. While new insights into the diachronic progression of the emergence of the *to*-dative could be gained, the data suggests that the initial source of the *to*-dative cannot have been the global copying of Old French verbs of the classes of giving or future having including their native Old French argument realisation pattern of prepositional marking of recipient objects into Middle English.

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The second thesis in this edition, by LENA KALTENBACH, looks at the syntactic and semantic characteristics of the English recipient passive from a diachronic and cross-linguistic perspective. It concentrates on the role of language contact in the form of the borrowing of Anglo-Norman verbs including their argument structure into Middle English for the development of this linguistic phenomenon. In a first step, the thesis establishes the necessary condition for English verbs to appear in the recipient passive as the general ability to signify a caused possession event type by selecting for a true recipient argument. In a second step, an explorative corpus analysis of two native and three French origin verbs from two Middle English corpora reveals the set of verbs which can form recipient passives as historically stable with regard to event type and semantic roles. By tendency, the verbs seem to form recipient passives as soon as the choice between expressing the recipient argument as either a prepositional phrase or a bare noun phrase becomes available, with native verbs lagging behind non-native verbs. This tendency fits in with recent assumptions about borrowing of argument structure and differences in argument realisation options across languages.

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The third thesis, by LISA SEIDEL, investigates the argument structure of verbal anglicisms in German compared with that of their English equivalents. It aims at answering the question whether anglicisms show the same tendencies as their English counterparts with regard to transitivity, argument realisation and choice of semantic roles or whether deviations between these two sets of verbs occur, which can be explained by cross-linguistic differences between the source and the recipient languages. Moreover, this thesis examines potential differences in the verbs' degree of integration into the recipient language in terms of argument structure depending on their frequency of usage. The core of the project is a corpus study of 30 anglicisms based on COSMAS II ("Cosmas2/Web-App", Institut für Deutsche Sprache, 1991–2016), and a comparison of these items with a sample of their verbal equivalents in English based on information listed in the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED Online, Proffitt, 2015).

## References

- Institut für Deutsche Sprache (1991–2016). COSMAS I/II (Corpus Search, Management and Analysis System). Retrieved 20 December 2018, from <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/cosmas2/web-app/>
- OED (2015). *Oxford English Dictionary*. Online Version. M. Proffitt (Ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. Retrieved 10 January 2019, from <http://www.oed.com>