

## INTRODUCTION

## The 24th LIPP Symposium

**Language in Contact***Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow*

The symposium *Language in Contact; Yesterday–Today–Tomorrow* took place June 21–23, 2017 and was organized by *The Graduate School Language & Literature Munich - Class of Language*. Scholars using interdisciplinary approaches were invited to Munich and conveyed both traditional and innovative insights into the vast field of language contact. This included both diachronic (*Yesterday*) and synchronic contributions (*Today*) as well as papers discussing the future of contact linguistics (*Tomorrow*). At the symposium, *language contact* was defined in a broad sense as the language that emerges when speakers of different languages influence one another's speech; this brought together multiple areas of linguistic study ranging from language change and language policy to language acquisition and language processing. Key to the conference was connecting what we can learn from past instances of language contact that will help us understand language phenomena in present and future research.

**Contributions**

This volume begins *Yesterday* with **Marta Capano's** contribution *Languages in Sicily between the Classical Age and Late Antiquity: a case of punctuated equilibrium?* In this paper, Capano links the biological and linguistic definitions of equilibrium in her investigation of language contact in Roman-ruled Sicily leading up to the 5th-century. Rather than analyzing the effect a superstratum has on a substratum (or vice-versa), as is common in contact linguistics, Capano investigates a period of time in which she argues Latin and Greek were of equal importance. She uses epigraphic evidence from Roman Sicily as a testing ground for furthering the discussion on linguistic equilibrium.

The journal continues with an entry on *Today* by **Martin Eberl** titled *Supply, demand and... what? Why some features are not borrowed*. In this paper, Eberl introduces the concept of language change being a process of supply and demand, meaning a certain linguistic feature is lacking and therefore needed in the contact language. However, he goes on to explain it is not so simple. Eberl stresses the importance of differentiating between categorial and formal supply and demand, the former being a grammatical category and the second a functional structure. Eberl uses evidence from Tok Pisin to highlight both language-internal and extralinguistic factors in language contact ultimately leading to structural suitability and timing also being an important factor.

The next article is from **Robert Mailhammer** and **Patrick Caudal**. In Mailhammer and Caudal's paper *Linear Lengthening Intonation in English on Croker Island: identifying substrate origins*, they hypothesize that the language transfer of a contour from the Aboriginal language Iwaidja is responsible for the Linear Lengthening Intonation, or LLI, in Croker English. Mailhammer and Caudal carry out a phonetic and semantic analysis and ultimately attribute the tune that is used in the LLI to signify quantification to the contact language.

We live *Today* in an age in which social media changes how we can interact with language, giving us new platforms from which to study language contact. **Teresa Barberio** and **Sara Ingrosso**'s paper „*Ora ho una super geiles neues Fahrrad ☺*“: *Sprachkontaktphänomene am Beispiel italienisch-deutscher Chats* makes use of such a platform to explore language contact phenomena in the bilingual setting of Italian-German WhatsApp and Facebook chats. Barberio and Ingrosso shed light on the in-group dynamics, functional code-switching, and the extent to which humor can be used in social media.

All entries contributed to the language contact studies of *Tomorrow* by furthering the discussion on how contact varieties develop, whether that be by examining a state of Latin-Greek equilibrium in Sicily, adding to the discussion of necessary factors when borrowing from a source language, using phonological evidence to argue for the LLI in Croker English, or using social media as a database for multilingual discourse.

### **Thank you**

We would like to extend a thank you to the conference's keynote speakers, namely Dr. Petar Kehayov (University of Regensburg), Prof. Dr. Yaron Matras (The University of Manchester), Prof. Dr. Barbara Sonnenhauser (University of Zurich), and Prof. Dr. Harald Thun (Kiel University). Special thanks also goes to our patronage from the University of Munich. Thank you Prof. Dr. Thomas Krefeld, Prof. Dr. Claudia M. Riehl, and Prof. Dr. Elena Skribnik for your guidance. Finally, none of this would have been possible without the help and support of our graduate school coordinators, Dr. Daniel Holl and Dr. des. Katharina Jakob, and graduate school assistants, Christiane Bayer and Claudia Hinrichs.

*The Editors: Katharina Bader, Teresa Barberio, Elisabeth Huber, Sebastian Lasch, Veton Matoshi, Ann-Marie Moser and Jenny Robins*