

« Au commencement était le Verbe »

A one-day international conference on the morphology, syntax, and semantics of the French verb, was held at the Maison française d'Oxford on Saturday, 28 November 1998. Over forty participants heard ten papers given by specialists from the UK, France, Denmark, Canada, and Australia, and joined in a lively discussion of the issues raised, not only after each paper, but also over lunch and at the conference dinner that evening.

The conference was organised by John Charles Smith and was sponsored by St. Catherine's College, Oxford, the Society for French Studies, and the Association for French Language Studies. Special thanks are due to Monsieur Jean-Claude Vatin, Directeur of the Maison française, for his enthusiasm and generous practical assistance.

The papers given were as follows:

- Hubert Seguin (University of Ottawa)
 « La conjugaison française: pour une description nouvelle »
- Michael Allan Jones (University of Essex)
 "Inflectional ambiguities: a feature-checking approach"
- Martin Maiden (University of Oxford)
 "The selfish morpheme: the history of the perfect root in French (and Occitan)"
- Maj-Britt Mosegaard Hansen (University of Copenhagen)
 "The syntactic and semiotic status of direct quotes"
- Lene Schøsler (University of Copenhagen)
 « Le statut de la forme zéro du complément d'objet direct en français moderne »
- Marie-Eve Ritz (University of Western Australia)
 "The semantics of the *passé composé* in contemporary French: towards a unified representation"
- Raphael Salkie (University of Brighton)
 "Does French have a relative past tense?"
- Dulcie Engel (University of Wales, Swansea)
 "Absolutely perfect: what is the status of the *futur antérieur*?"
- John Charles Smith (University of Oxford)
 "The modality conspiracy"
- Marina Yaguello (université Denis-Diderot Paris VII)
 « Une particule énonciative émergente en français: *genre* »

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grammaire: pertinence théorique et implications pédagogiques », Monique l'Huillier (Royal Holloway, University of London), « Sensibilisation a la construction de la référence par le biais de la publicité », Mary-Annick Morel (université de Paris III), « Enonciation et intonation dans l'oral spontané en français », Kate Beeching (University of West England), « Vers une grammaire de l'oral spontané », Raphael Salkie (University of Brighton), "Paraphrase, quotation and translation: Enunciation and equivalence"

