

Postgraduate Workshop

1st. February 2003 Birkbeck College London

This day Workshop, organised by Aidan Coveney and with financial support from AFLS, was attended by over a dozen post-graduate or would-be post-graduate students of French Linguistics and was very positively received. Research areas in French Linguistics were presented by AFLS members **David Trotter** (History of the French Language), **John Greene** ((Phonetics and Creoles), **Florence Myles** and **Jean-Marc Dewaele** (Second Language Acquisition). **Professor Jenny Cheshire** from Queen Mary's, London joined us to give two introductions to fields of study in Sociolinguistics with exemplification from French and we are very grateful to her for giving up a Saturday in order to do this.

I know of at least one case where attendance at the Workshop has led to a PhD enrolment at Bristol University in the field of SLA in French and imagine there are others.

In short, the day was a very great success and should be repeated.

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Workshop Report

Politeness& (Business) Communication across national boundaries

University of the West of England, Bristol, 15th February 2003

This day-workshop, set up under the aegis of AFLS and the Centre for European Studies at the University of the West of England, Bristol, went off extremely well, with over twenty participants from universities across the UK as well as from France. Our plenary speakers were Catherine Kerbrat-Orecchioni from the Université de Lyons and Sarah Mills from Sheffield Hallam University.

In a paper entitled 'Le fonctionnement de la politesse dans les interactions verbales: l'exemple des petits commerces français', **Catherine Kerbrat-Orecchioni** outlined her adjustments to Brown and Levinson's politeness theory and how it may be applied to the speech act of 'thanking' before demonstrating, in a most stimulating manner, the overwhelmingly preponderant place of politeness formulae in service encounters in France.

Sara Mills' plenary on 'Joking in the Workplace' explored the manner in which 'just joking' can be used as a means of exercising power or exorcising implied criticism. Her talk was both stimulating and highly entertaining, drawing on the jokes made between colleagues with which academics are all too familiar in their place of work.

The other papers offered at the workshop were divided into two parallel sessions, one focussing on politeness and one on translation as intercultural communication.

In the translation strand, **Basil Hatim**, currently a visiting professor at Sharjah University in the United Arab Emirates sent a video + Power Point presentation in which he gave a very clear exegesis of his ideas concerning the embeddedness of discourse (ideology) within text and the difficulties posed for the translator. This was of particular interest to post-graduate MA Translation students from UWE and from Bath and a lively discussion ensued. **Adrienne Mason** (UWE, Bristol) talked in the afternoon on 'Translating Marivaux for Performance'.

It was, however, the politeness 'strand' which attracted most interest, where a substantial quantity of papers were given of very high quality and where state-of-the-art discussion ensued. Two post-graduate students gave reports on ongoing work : **Nuria Guerra** from the University of Birmingham gave a paper on 'The content of face in Spanish and English cultures, their linguistic realisation in naturally-occurring interactions' while **Çiler Hatipoğlu**, UWE, Bristol, presented preliminary findings from her PhD thesis, to be presented this year, on 'Turkish vs. British English Apologies'.

Véronique Traverso (CNRS/Université de Lyon 2), who works in the same research team as Catherine Kerbrat-Orecchioni, provided fascinating insights into cultural differences in the formulation of politeness (French and Arabic) in her paper on 'Conversational routines in French and Syrian Service Encounters' and **Helmut Daller** (UWE, Bristol) focused on business culture in 'Cultural change and intercultural business. The persistence of local cultural values'. Two papers were devoted to politeness in Spanish. **Carmen Arnaiz** (UWE, Bristol) illustrated second person translation problems with extracts from humorous works such as *Fawlty Towers* and *Bridget Jones' diary* in 'Tú or Usted? The politics of pronouns in contemporary Spanish' while **Rosina Márquez Reiter** (University of Surrey) delivered an impassioned plea for researchers to follow explicit procedures such that replication and comparability may be facilitated in 'Methodological issues in Spanish politeness studies. The search for transferability in socio-pragmatic research'.

It was, for me and, I think, for all the participants, an enormous pleasure to have so many world experts - and budding world experts - on politeness in the same room, thrashing out theoretical and methodological issues, with a number of different cultural and linguistic perspectives in view. Sarah Mills and I hope to edit key papers for publication in the soon-to-be-launched *Journal of Politeness*. In the meantime, should you like a copy of the abstracts or more information about the speakers, do not hesitate to e-mail me.

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Workshop Report

FRENCH LINGUISTICS DAY

Mélanges de langues: les conséquences du contact linguistique

London Metropolitan University, 15th March 2003

16 people gathered for what turned out to be a relaxed and interesting round table that followed the formula of a not too heavy day of four half hour papers with one hour long paper given by a guest speaker from francophone Europe.

The day divided neatly between a morning on code mixing and an afternoon devoted to the consequences of language contact. The date started brightly with **Farid Aitsiselmi** (University of Bradford) 'L'alternance codique sur Beur FM' giving a linguistic analysis of code switches into Arabic and Berber by listeners and show hosts on this overtly French-medium station. For the next paper it was a pleasure a young scholar new to AFLS, **Lena Molander** (University of Uppsala) whose theme was taken from her recently completed doctoral thesis: 'L'alternance codique dans les salles de classe d'immersion au Québec: une perspective conversationnelle'. The morning was completed by **Jeanine Treffers-Daller** (University of the West of England, Bristol) who presented a thorough-going study of franco-flemish compound words and hybrid expressions in Brussels Flemish. 'Les mots composés hybrides franco-flamands et l'emprunt de syntagmes français en flamand de Bruxelles'.

The after-lunch papers dealt with the consequences of language contact. **Tim Pooley** (London Metropolitan) compared the situation of Basque in France and in Spain: 'Le basque en France et en Espagne: perspectives sociolinguistiques'. The finale was given by **Jean-Michel Eloy** (Université de Picardie) who spoke on the difficulties raised by the INED questionnaire which forms the basis of Héran, Filhon and Deprez' report entitled *La dynamique des langues en France au fil du XXe siècle* (2002) in a paper entitled: 'Transmission des langues d'origine et des langues régionales : les problèmes d'évaluation des statistiques linguistiques'.

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