

m i l c 2

Madison Informal Linguistics Conference

Schedule: Saturday, Dec. 12, 1998

Session 1: Sounds (Living Room, III)

- 8:00 Laura Smith
Climatic considerations: An explanation for Canadian Raising
- 8:00 "Dr." Monica Macaulay
Phonology Nowadays
- 8:00 Kloppt, B. & B. Hämmert
Your phonology may be redneck if ...: The prosody of "Foxworthy's Law"
- 8:00 Meredith Haasall
The Mora You Drinka: Quantity and liquid vocalization
- 8:00 Marianne Milligan
The Shaking Velum
- 8:00 David J. Holsinger
The ... [well, Parental Advisory: Language]

Session 2: Extraterrestrial and Historical Linguistics (Attic, B)

- 8:00 Ruaperz P. Huawell
Alemannic aliens made me undergo the Second Consonant Shift:
On the extraterrestrial origins of some OHG sound changes
- 8:00 Laurie M. Bowman
Rondonian: There's Universal Grammar, And There's *Universal* Grammar
- 8:00 Professor Milton
Rethinking Runes: The Reason for Ianoitceridib Writing and Rhotacism
- 8:00 N. E. Cringe
Fick's Law in Proto-Germanic: New Evidence from Upper German Grain-
Based Diarrhea Cures

Plenary Session (The Whole World, I)

- 8:00 God
The Truth about Proto-World
Response: Joseph Greenberg & Merritt Ruhlen

God
The Truth about Universal Grammar
Response: Frederick Newmeyer & George Lakoff

Session 3: Applied, Psycho-, Socio-/Antisocial- Linguistics (Backyard)

- 8:00 Jeanne M. Schueller
On Grice's Conversational Maxims: Observations from “the field”
- 8:00 Charles J. James
The History of Pass-Fail Grading in German Language Instruction
from Comenius to Heidi Byrnes
- 8:00 M.C. Lind
Heav°y Metal Umlauts°
- 8:00 Jason Roberts, Rebel Alliance Linguist at Large
Constraint Ranking in Corellian Basic: Evidence from Honorifics
- 8:00 Steven R. Geiger
Northern “wè.skæÕ...n.síÕn”: “Dialect” of English or language unto itself?

Session 4: Theory (Garden Room, B)

- 8:00 “Professor” Mark L. Loudon
Graphosymbolism
- 8:00 R. Descartes
Chomsky’s theories aren’t remotely ‘Cartesian’
Response: N. Chomsky: Are too!
Counterpoint: Descartes: Are not!
Countercounter: N. Chomsky: I think you are, but what am I?
- 8:00 Monika Chavez
[no title]
- 8:00 Luanne von Schneidemesser
My favorite lexicographical joke

Session 5: Morphology & Syntax (Upstairs Study)

- 8:00 Chris Bongartz
Nouns and other nouns in English noun phrases: An interactive analysis
- 8:00 Diana Elgersma
Serious-ass morphology: The anal emphatic in English
- 8:00 John McCarthy & Alan Prince
Reduplication, reshmultiplication, redupli-bloody-cation:
Come on, you didn’t REALLY believe that OT stuff, did you?
- 8:00 Cora Lee Nollendorfs
OT: The perspective from the East Hall of the 8th floor of Van Hise Hall

Conference Abstracts

“Hey look, *all the cool* people submitted.”

All listings are alphabetical by author’s last name. Abstracts have been edited to ensure consistency of form and to reflect the views, prejudices and personal whims of the conference organizers.

Nouns and other nouns in English noun phrases: An interactive analysis

Chris Bongartz

This paper considers nouns and other nouns with a focus on MILC 2. Consider the examples in (1):

- (1) a. my dog Rusty
b. my dog of Rusty
c. *my Rusty dog

Now compare (1) with (2):

- (2) a. *this song love
b. this song about love
c. this love song

Now compare (1) and (2) with (3)

- (3) a. *this wine France
b. this wine from France
c. *this France wine
d. this French wine

Clearly, the situation is a mess. Only *love* in (2c) can show up to the right of its head noun. *Rusty* and *France*, however, must stay to the left. *France* needs a preposition to even stay to the left of the head. To the right of the head, *France* becomes *French* - which is fine given the quality of French wine. Yet *Rusty* - well, *rusty dogs* is not something you want to see at MILC2.

Rondonian:
There's Universal Grammar,
And There's *Universal* Grammar

Laurie M. Bowman

Preliminary research into indigenous South American languages has brought to light several possible isolates, i.e., languages which have no known structural or historical relationship to any other language. But no linguistic breakthrough has proven so astounding as that which followed the recent discovery of a tribe of rain forest dwellers in the Brazilian state of Rondonia. (See reprint, next page.) After extensive analysis of the tribe's language based upon the empirical findings of Pertz (1996), Montoya (1998) determined that Rondonian bears "no resemblance to any known language group either in vocabulary or syntax. . . . many [of their words] relate to concepts in astrophysics." Montoya's conclusion that the Rondonian language was acquired from extraterrestrial beings has significant consequences for the theory of Universal Grammar.

The Rondonian lexical inventory reflects the central importance of space travel to their culture. First, Rondonian possesses at least 242 different words that can be translated by English 'star' and 104 words for 'galaxy'. Second, while lexical items referring to astrophysics are largely monosyllabic, words referring to basic human concepts are typically polysyllabic and more phonologically complex, as shown in (1).

- (1) a. [ma] 'antimatter (ablative singular)'
 b. [ʔ√gril~Ÿo:wah] 'man (nominative singular)'

Finally, and perhaps most intriguing, the word [sɛ̃mu:] carries two meanings, 'ancestor' and 'small, thin gray being with a large head, large black eyes, and three fingers'.

Prior to Pertz's discovery, most linguists had assumed with Chomsky that "[u]niversal grammar may be thought of as some system of principles, *common to the species* and available to each individual prior to experience" (1981:7, italics mine). Clearly, this position must be rethought in light of this astonishing new evidence. While further studies are needed to uncover the complexities of Rondonian morphology and syntax, it is clear that Montoya's research will forever change our conception of Universal Grammar.

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no title

[Why would I want to give away what I am going to be talking about?]

by Monika Chavez [I will say that much.]

To clarify a little, my paper will have something to do with gender and the acquisition of German. Gender is an important learner variable. German is an important language¹. Of course one may get entangled in a host of questions which have been plaguing second language acquisition research eternally (or at least all the way back to ALM), such as: (1) Why study variation by gender - and not pay attention to other critical learner characteristics, such as hair color, proximity to the blackboard when engaging in peer-oriented discourse, or the number of fake I.D.s used as compared to fake I.D.s confiscated²? Clearly, however, we prefer to base our analysis on stable traits (after all, our second year³ students themselves are here today and gone in German 225). Some detractors may further argue that gender is not to be confused with sex - a point with which most researchers heartily agree and which, by the way, has been muted by a restricted speech code⁴. (2) Why look at German, and not, let's say English, French, or Spanish? As is obvious to anyone with some sense, German is an extremely gendered⁵ language; and by this very fact disproves at least 87 stereotypes you have always had about German: For example, gender renders German much more romantic than commonly thought. People are even said to have fallen in love while pondering some of the more stupendous examples of gender, such as the well-known utensil group. Moreover, rules⁶ governing gender in German⁷ contradict the notion of German⁸ as logical. This latter point should not be stressed, however, so as not to endanger future enrollments of engineering and science majors.

I am finding myself giving away more and more about the paper which has happened to me - to great detriment - before, while giving a conference presentation. In consideration of this painful memory I will forego summary - or for that matter, conclusive - remarks.

¹ Although one must concede that the issue of whether to accord German language status is still very much debated in Austria, particularly in the Danube Valley.

² Such an analysis would be complicated further by the determination of a suitable temporal unit, e.g., week, semester, year, or program, etc. - and may further intersect with choice of academic major.

³ I forgot to mention, we are at looking at second year students (or, as we prefer to call them, subjects) who, as a group, have been identified as particularly gender-prone.

⁴ I have thus been advised not to explore this question without legal counsel.

⁵ Three clearly outnumbering two and again making us question from where the so-called Romance languages take their name.

⁶ A forthcoming paper by the notorious Prof. Loudon will - without doubt - bring about a true paradigm shift. We fully expect that correlations between word-shape and semantic properties constitute only the beginning of a large and promising body of work. Extending this line of research into gender issues must be considered all but inevitable.

⁷ as opposed to, Germans.

⁸ Again, note the distinction from "Germans".

Fick's Law in Proto-Germanic: New Evidence from Upper German Grain-Based Diarrhea Cures

N. E. Cringe,
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Though the existence of a PIE causative infix *-n- is well documented (though for counterevidence, cf. Kuryłowicz 1964, Lehmann 1974, Szemerényi 1989, Watkins 1976, Benveniste 1935, 1948, 1969, Delbrück 1889, Meillet 1937, Pokorny 1969), little evidence has yet been found for a causative *-l-. However, a new etymology has been discovered for Upper German/American English *schlitz* 'brand of beer' which provides apparently conclusive evidence of a mutation from *-n- to *-l- in alcohol-related or post-consonantal onset contexts (the so-called "Fick's Law" of the title, as it was first proposed by the eminent Friedrich Konrad August Fick in 1884). Specifically, the new etymology rests on archaeological evidence of certain low-grade beers and meads as a diarrhea cure among northwestern Indo-Europeans (Farvrompøopen 1998, Teitbauels 1997a, c, and others report the recent unearthing of brown glass bottles, clay pots, and human remains in a squatting and apparently quite painful position across Germania Superior, Northern Italy, Southeastern France, and remote parts of the Scottish Highlands). Given this new find, PGmc. *sk-l-it 'to cause to defecate' is supported by the otherwise etymologically obscure Upper German *schlitz*. It is also possible that northwestern Indo-European dialects phonologized a variant of *perd 'to make a wind go gently', which, after a root structure constraint reversed the voicing distinctions in the stops became first *bert, after lowering of e>a/_r then *bart, and finally after r-vocalization, *bat. Again with the contextual variant of the causative infix *-n- (here [l]) and the Upper German consonant shift, this PGmc. *b-l-at is attested in yet another grain-based constipation remedy, the (apparently not quite as effective) *blatz*.

WARNING: CONTAINS POSSIBLY OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE

Serious-ass morphology: The anal emphatic in English

Diana Elgersma

This paper will examine the current trend in American English to use words associated with scatology as an emphasizing particle (e.g. ‘-ass,’ ‘butt-,’ ‘n’ shit,’ etc.), which I will henceforth refer to as the “anal-retentive hypothesis (ARH).”⁹

In the case of ‘-ass,’ the most overwhelmingly productive of the intensifiers, ‘ass’ is used as a suffix, which attaches to adjectives: *big-ass*, *dumb-ass*, *ugly-ass*, *weird-ass*, *whack-ass*, *crazy-ass*, *lame-ass*, and *stoopit-ass* being among the more common, but virtually any adjective can serve as the base: *tasty-ass* (‘This is one *tasty-ass* donut!’), *curly-ass* (‘Those are some *curly-ass* fries!’), and *hairy-ass* (‘That’s one *hairy-ass* ass!’) Mono- and bi-syllabic adjectives are the most frequent bases for the ‘-ass’ affix; however, though marked, tri+-syllabic adjectives are not ungrammatical: *reflective-ass* (‘Oo-ie! That’s one *reflective-ass* mirror!’) or *Wisconsin-ass* (‘Woof! That’s some *Wisconsin-ass* cheese!’)

Although the origin of the ‘-ass’ suffix is unclear, it would seem to have spread from a more restricted nominalizing morpheme, which attaches not only to adjectives, but also to verbs: *bad-ass* (‘Check the dude in the leather jacket - he’s a total *bad-ass*!’), *hard-ass*, *slack-ass*, *whup-ass* (‘If you don’t shut up, I’m gonna open up a big can of Texas-style *whup-ass* on ya.’), *lazy-ass*, *stupid-ass* and *kiss-ass*, for example. Note that many of these can also be used as emphatic adjectives (*stupid-ass*, *lazy-ass*, *slack-ass*, *hard-ass*).

One interesting case is the word *backward*. There are several variants with this particular base, including *bass-ackward*, *backasswards* (infixation), or the **prefixed** *ass-backward*. This latter variant can potentially be explained as an iconic reversal; that is, putting the normally suffixed ‘-ass’ in a prefixed position is in itself **backward**. It is possible to have the attributive variant *backward-ass* (‘That’s one *backward-ass* idea’), however, this particular construction cannot occur as a predicate adjective: *‘That idea is *backward-ass*.’

In some dialects of American English, these adjectives can be inflected as past participles. The most common example of this is *half-assed*, as in ‘This was a totally *half-assed* attempt at humor.’ This form seems to be attested most often in a past-tense context, although it is not restricted to this context; i.e. ‘This **is** a totally *half-assed* attempt at humor’ is not ungrammatical.

There is also an allomorph of the suffix ‘-ass,’ which is much more restricted in usage: the prefix ‘butt-.’ This prefix is limited to pejorative connotations; for example, it is possible to express *ugly-ass* as *butt-ugly* and *stupid-ass* as *butt-stupid*. Yet ‘butt-’ is not productive: *crack-ass* but **butt-crack*; *candy-ass* but **butt-candy*.

Finally, I would like to comment briefly on the collective suffix ‘n’ shit.’ This is a fairly productive form, e.g. ‘We went to the zoo, and there were all these lions and tigers *n’ shit*,’ ‘So he was all freaked out *n’ shit*,’ etc. The implication being that there were not only lions and tigers at the zoo, but a wide variety of other exotic and wonderful animals, and that aside from being freaked, this person was experiencing a vast array of other (disturbing) emotions.

⁹ Thanks to Meredith Hassall, Kristin Lovrien and Mike Lind for many insightful discussions and insights into this topic.

It would seem that, in accordance with the proposed ARH, scatological morphology is increasingly pervasive in American English informal speech. Further research is needed to follow up on some recent pieces of data from other anal-retentive languages. (For example the German prefix *arsch-* ‘ass,’ as in the form *arschlangsam* ‘ass-slowly,’ which, based on preliminary study, seems to be adverbial: *Man, aber er fährt arschlangsam!* ‘Man, does he drive extremely slowly!’)

“This is a bunch of ass.”
-John Cleese, *Fawlty Towers*

The Mora You Drinka: Quantity and Liquid Vocalization

Meredith Hassall

That alcoholic beverages have a tendency to speak is well known. It occurs in a broad range of languages. The paper examines this phenomenon in modern terms and shows the loquaciousness of certain liquids to be directly proportional to the quantity that has been consumed. Further, this is shown to be secondarily related to timing: vocalization is less likely to occur when consumption is extended over a long period of time. Quantity and timing bring about vocalization; quality plays no role. The presentation includes a hands-on segment during which participants are invited to convince themselves of the validity of these findings. The implications of these findings will be of interest to linguists in many disciplines, particularly those prone to auditory hallucinations.

WARNING: CONTAINS WAY OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE, LOTS OF IT

“The Lord is my *whore and my comfort”: Morphological and lexical blocking of lenition in colloquial Dutch

David J. Holsinger

Depts. of Bitterness and Misogyny,

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam/P.J. Meertens Instituut/

Philipps-Universität Marburg/Deutscher Sprachatlas/University of Wisconsin - Madison

The only recent work on lenition worth a shit (Holsinger in progress, 1998 a-z, 1997) analyzes consonant weakenings in Dutch, as in other languages, as prosodically driven. A set of positional markedness constraints may limit the occurrence of certain features to 'strong' positions within a prosodic domain and may prohibit marked features from other sites within a prosodic domain. The features and domains vary cross-linguistically, and there is some shifting of the domains in which certain constraints apply even within languages, i.e. in fast speech forms.

Such a distribution should be uncontroversially post-lexical and not subject to lexical or morphological blocking. However, in colloquial Dutch, the degree of variation in consonant weakening has, in fact, been lexicalized to some extent and may have affective or sociolinguistic relevance:

(1) Careful speech: [dat vas n/©u:dě blowjob]
 “That was a good blowjob.”

Casual speech: [dat vas n/©u:jě blowjob]
 “That was a good blowjob.”

In a few cases, doublets with and without lenition have entered the lexicon with different meanings:

(2) No lenition: [dei`zě bru:děer he:ft je mu:děer ©ěnøkt]
 “This monk fucked your mother.”

Lenition: [dei`zě bru:r he:ft je mu:r ©ěnøkt]
 “This brother fucked your bitch of a mom.”

And in some cases, the potential for fast-speech elision is blocked by the presence of other non-equivalent lexical items:

(3) [dě hei`r ís mn/hu:děer] “The Lord is my protector ...”
 *[de hei`r ís mn/hu:r] “The Lord is my whore ...”

This paper has absolutely nothing to say about such alternations and what their source or explanation might be. Really, all I wanted to do was to put a bunch of dirty words and sacrilege into an abstract.

The History of Pass-Fail Grading in German Language Instruction from Comenius to Heidi Byrnes

Charles J. James

Since the introduction of Pass-Fail grading (a.k.a. PF) by Pfarrer Phillipp Pfister of Pforzheim in the year 1555, German teachers have felt compelled to compromise their grading to accommodate students whose performance on typical evaluation schemes such as multiple choice items, open question, fill-in the blanks, or Aufsatzthemen has often fallen short of expectations. The option of students actually selecting PF as an alternative to the usual A-F grading scheme left teachers with no choice but to accept student input into instruction. This study will trace the evolution of PF from the late 17th century until February 27, 1998, through aspects of student-teacher interaction in the areas of phonology, morphology, pragmatics, and proficiency, including ratings on the ACTPFL OPFI. There may actually be results.

WARNING: CONTAINS PROBABLY OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE

Your phonology may be redneck if ...:
The prosody of “Foxworthy’s Law”

B. Kloppt & B. Hämmert
*Fernuniversität des Südens, Muscle Shoals/
Harry’s Smoked Meat & Fresh Game Emporium, Biloxi*

Foxworthy’s Law is obviously wellknown to every historical linguist, dialectologist, phrenologist, professional bassfisherman and British schoolboy, but to date an adequate phonological account of the phenomenon has been lacking. The Law has been informally stated as: “You may be a redneck if all of your four letter words have two syllables” (Foxworthy 1997).

As is well known, taboo words in English, so-called ‘four-letter words’ (Carlin 1988), have a monosyllabic CVC templatic form, where the vowel is lax. This is exemplified in (1), using the familiar transcription whereby <*> represents any lax vowel:

(1) CVC *h*ll, d*mn, sh*t, f*ck*, etc.

Foxworthy’s Law simply captures the fact that, in the “Redneck” dialect of Southern US English (cf. Newman 1981) such forms are preferentially realized under emphasis with two distinct sonority peaks, the first normally a tense vowel, the second a reduced vowel of variable quantity. More interestingly, this tendentially includes formation of an onset in the new second syllable. With full vowels, this is accomplished via glide epenthesis, illustrated in (2):

(2) /hèl/ > [he.jë-]
/Bít/ > [Bi:.jít]
/dæm/ > [dæ.jëm]

For other cases, the onset is formed by laryngealization or glottalization, as in (3). (We use [÷] here to represent laryngealization and/orglottalization as well as the optional full glottal stop.)

(3) /fäk/ > [fä.÷ëk]

The stress patterns of such forms have previously been treated as mundane examples of left-headed feet ($\phi = s, w$), but until now, specialists and amateurs alike (see Dullard 1983, for a strikingly stupid example of the latter) have failed to note the critical role of stress in PROVOKING such templates, established only last year in our own already-classic sociolinguistic study (Bloppt & Bämmert 1997).

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Heavy Metal Umlauts

MC Lind
 Dept. of Rap and Metal Studies
 Funk U.

In this paper, I show that Heavy Metal umlauts are not randomly assigned, as has previously been maintained. (See Prince 1998; Prince and Smolensky 1993; Luke 18:32.) Rather, they adhere to a series of specific constraints. In an OT framework, it becomes quite clear that these constraints work together to produce a "Most Metal" candidate. Although this paper only deals with synchronic data, historical factors certainly cannot be overlooked and further research is definitely in order regarding Death Metal's roots in the pre-Germanic music genre know as "Doom" Metal, or Ragna Rock.

In addition, one must not, of course, overlook the role of Satan in the naming of Heavy Metal bands, but as very little documented evidence exists on the subject of the Dark Lord's phonemic inventory, any theory based solely thereon would be mere conjecture. Though Satan's fingerprints are all over Heavy Metal, the precise nature of his effect is undefinable and, frankly, just too damn sinister to be dealt with by mere mortals. Christ, on the other hand, makes His position very clear. In 54 known Christian Heavy Metal band names, not a single umlaut can be found. This leads to the Jesus Constraint:

(1) *UML

Thou shalt not umlaut.

Christian bands have this constraint ranked extremely high, other metal bands have very little respect for the Gospel and, as a result, rank this extremely low.

The productive constraint here is the Cool-Looking Band Name constraint, which forces umlauts in the interest of a bitchin' album cover:

(2) SECÖND σ

Umlaut the vowel in the second syllable.

Thus: *Blue Öyster Cult*, *Motörhead*, *Deathtöngue*. Band names do exist which umlaut in an unsimilar fashion, but they are not in the Heavy Metal genre: *Hüsker Dü* (punk band); *Mötley Crüe* (would like us to think they're Metal, but, c'mon, I mean really...)

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Graphosymbolism

“Professor” Mark L. Loudon

Ever wonder why “bulbous” is not “tultous”? I have made a revolutionary discovery (cf. everything written by E. Nyland) whereby words are invented whose meanings match their shape, no, not phonetic, graphic. This is a theory which is certain to generate controversy but is right because I know it is.

Notice, if you will, the connection between the meanings of words starting with letters who have curves versus those with sharp edges:

“bulb”--“rounded shape to shed light around a room”

“blowhard”--“roundly obnoxious person (often with round *b*elly)”

“beef”--“general form of ground round”

etc., etc., etc.

“toast”--“sharpened bread”

“terrific tie!”--“sharp!”

“tell a tall tale”--“be understood only by sharp people”

etc., etc., etc.

We even find graphosemantic blends, e.g.

“Tammy Faye Bakker”--“short, bulbous person with pointy eyelashes”

In my presentation I will outline the inviolable universal principles discussed here and draw parallels with non-alphabetic writing systems using characters, as well as character actors. Ever wonder why Chinese characters bear a striking resemblance to pagodas? Further, I will indicate ways that linguists can make up new languages based on my perfect system (language planning), including use of capitals for really big things.

Phonology Nowadays

Monica Ann Macaulay

M.A., Ph.D., Mrs.

Linguistics will fall to it’s knees, my theory of phonology of Manomoly is revolutionizing the entire field due to my brilliance. For example, if you looked at number 1),

1) The cat is on the mat

it becomes clear. That English has /æ/ and /ø/.

Now let us look at Manomoly, an Indian language of great **antiquity**. The vowels seem to suffer from an excessive backness, they are all back. For example, [a], [o], [á], [ù]. bùl ‘lech’, lùviněsky ‘immodest young girl’. (i is derived from o in the postlexicon, naturally.)

The purpose of my study seems to be that I will prove a language that has only back vowels, thus the universal tendency of vowel systems to show some modicum of balance in their vowel system will be thrown to the winds, because a new theory will have to be developed, which will account for this kind of vowel system, as we find in Manomoly, the Indian language, which has only back syllabics. In his book, **Chomsky** opines, “All vowel systems find a beautiful harmony in their form,” but this will be shown to be wrong, dead wrong. Now let us turn to the entire vowel system, of Manomolly, the Indian language.

First I looked at the vowel charts of many languages, finding only balance. Yet this is an error of analysis, we know because the vowels in IPA are not all balanced. Then looking at Manommaly, it's the following that the entire vowel chart looks like:

ü u
 ú ©
 o ä œ
 ò
 â á

Also, PRO is ungoverned in Menomoly.

The Shaking Velum

Marianne Milligan

In this paper we give proof positive that the traditional articulatory description of velar consonants is wrong: in fact the back of the tongue does not raise to approach/touch the velum but indeed the velum “shakes” therefore producing velar consonants; to prove this we will use x-rays and video.

Rethinking Runes: The Reason for lanoitceridib Writing and Rhotacism

Professor Milton, Bradley University

New archeological evidence has revealed fascinating information about the development of runes and reading in the early years of the Common Era. From a bog south of Helsingor, a well-preserved urn has been unearthed. The urn contains the older Futhark, each character engraved onto a separate, small, flat stone. Archeologist Thor Thoreson believes that these stones are part of a game used by his ancestors to pass those long, dark evenings. Individual letter stones have been found throughout the North Germanic area and had thus far remained unexplained. This indicates the widespread

popularity of the game. More common wooden Futhark sets have likely decomposed by now.

Allowing words to be spelled from left-to-right or right-to-left greatly increased the freedom with which one could utilize one's letters. I argue that this way of thinking about the language was carried over into the actual inscriptions. To the early Norse, the “forwards” and “backwards” forms were equivalent.

This new evidence also elucidates a stubborn dilemma facing scholars of runic, that of /R/. This has long been interpreted as rhotacism in progress based only on later developments in Germanic. My analysis shows that this was actually another aspect of the game: a single letter-stone could be played either as [r] or as [z], much like the “blank” tile in the game's modern equivalent. As with bidirectionality, this was carried over into the inscription system.

The prospects for future research are staggering: once the point values for the individual characters are established, we will learn indispensable information about their frequency of occurrence and about phonotactic restrictions on early Germanic.

OT as Seen from the Perspective of the East Hallway of the Eighth Floor of Van Hise Hall

Cora Lee Nollendorfs
Scholar, non-Linguist

We easterners are at least as concerned with OT as you westerners, and we protest vigorously any idea that this is your exclusive bailiwick. Indeed, since, as I argue, you deal with the topic inappropriately, ill-advisedly, and incorrectly, I represent the point of view that you should get your hands off of it and leave it to those of us who can protect and fertilize the turf.

First of all: OT is *not* a theoretical problem, but rather a practical, real-life concern. Linguists themselves realize this, at least on a basic level: we have seen your photograph showing OT as a county road sign, and we note that today's MILC conference itself features a paper on “The Role of OT in German Final Divorcing.”

Secondly: there is too much OT in the west, just as there once was in the east. It is an annoyance when one puts in too much of it and gets paid for none of it. It robs us of our sleep, goes unrecognized when it comes to assessment of merit, and probably would only be held against us — as proof of our inefficiency — if our long extra hours in the office *were* known. But we easterners have gotten things back under control. We close our doors and go home. Our motto: *down with OT, hurrah for less work and higher wages!* We believe — correctly — that our students should *not* be informed about or given examples of OT, much less encouraged to subject it to scholarly investigation. Instead, any remnants of its existence should be hidden from them — if only in order to prevent their leaving the profession even before they enter it. You all should simply throw it out instead of trying to mitigate its sting with notions of “constraints,” “sympathy,” “harmonic analysis,” and—best of all— “final violations.”

The main body of my paper — to which I will allude only briefly at this point — contains a rude tongue-lashing against Joe, Rob, Monika, Monica, and a number of others, some in attendance at this conference, who are teaching OT, thereby abusing

students and allowing them to get the right idea about the fate of those who complete degrees. As an anecdotal example: I once knew a Germanic linguist who took a position, received tenure, and has been putting in OT—and *hard* time, at that— ever since.

Of course, you linguists may argue that I am not using the term “OT” as you prefer to use it, that OT is indeed a proper field of study and even worthy of being a department in its own right. Such a position, if proven true, would show me to be way off base and might completely ruin my paper. Fearing this kind of unpleasant collegial attack, I checked up. Indeed, one can study OT at the UW, just as one can study PT. And (to my surprise, as I am never wrong) those being trained in this program seem to be doing something quite different from what I had envisioned. Their course of study seems to prepare them for health-related careers and to turn them into useful members of society. Now I ask you: is this what you linguists want? Or —put in other terms— is this what any of you might actually be suited for? You all might *need* therapy *because of your occupation*, but I cannot believe that you could act as occupational therapists yourselves.

We come to the central issue: what is the meaning of “OT”? I asked Paul, my boss: “OT or not OT?” and he replied: “That is the question!” Just *you* try to find out anything from the staff at *Monatshefte*! Then, believing that we could make better progress if we were to agree on a definition, I consulted some dictionaries of abbreviations and picked out the following to offer as some of the more choice possibilities:

- (1) OT means “ob der Tauber,” as in the phrase “Rothenburg OT.”
- (2) OT means “oberer Totpunkt.” Well: this could lead to some workable material.
- (3) OT means “Ordo Teutonicus.” Maybe: Axel Hahn, Ph. D., O.T.
- (4) Or is it English? OT means “Old Testament.” Such as “German Final Divorcing in the Old Testament.” Really! Or “Constraints on Final Divorcing in the Old Testament.” Or “The Application of Sympathy Theory to the Old Testament.” Or “Old Testament Constraints on Harmony and Sympathy.”

With so many choices, I fear you may find my contribution worthless simply because I do not seem to know what OT is, but you should think again. Actually, it has finally dawned on me what you guys are up to. Namely, you linguists have been engaged in a secret operation whose objective is to take over and colonize the German Department. You have already conquered large numbers of the students and overfilled your own classes and seminars, while we literature professors remain oblivious to both the ambush itself—even though it has by now developed into full-scale warfare— *and* to our defeat. We persist in teaching away to the empty seats and bare walls of the eastern programs. The dreaded OT, I have concluded, is a code-name for Occupation Troops, and every day there are more of them. They are filling the western offices and the western hallway. They are blocking everyone's access to the coffee pot and to the xerox machine. They are even overflowing into the eastern hallway. No wonder you are supporting it; no wonder there is a certain division on the Eighth Floor between the east and the west.

In conclusion I say: *Death to OT! Long live peaceful understanding within the GD! Come and see an example of how peaceful co-existence is possible by visiting Mona in her south-side suite of offices, where east meets west and all notions of OT are banned forever!*

WARNING: CONTAINS HONORIFIC LANGUAGE

Constraint Ranking in Corellian Basic: Evidence from Honorifics¹⁰

Jason Roberts

Rebel Alliance Linguist at Large

In previous analyses of honorifics in Standard Imperial Basic (SEB), it has been shown that the constraint 'HonorX' prevents utterances such as:¹¹

(1) *Yes, **Lordness** Vader

while allowing:

(2) Yes **Lord** Vader

This constraint limits the number of honorifics allowed in an utterance.

However, in Correllian Basic(1) this constraint seems to be violable, and lower ranked than in SEB.

Correllian Basic (CB) allows all of the honorifics allowed in SEB:

(3) Chewie, take **the professor** in the back and plug him into the hyperdrive
Leia

(4) **Sweetheart**

(5) Your **Highness**

(6) **Princess**

CB allows for multiple honorifics, even within the same word:

Yes your **worshipfulness**

Your **highnessness**

Your **worshipfulness**

Additionally, CB allows for utterances which violate the 'Say Nothing Stupid' constraint as shown in (7) below:

(7) Your Worship

¹⁰ This research was supported by a grant from Emperor Palpatine's Imperial Intelligence Agency, Office of Linguistic Supervision, #3456-532211-CORB. Data taken from holotranscript of Millennium Falcon ship's log.

¹¹ The author wishes to thank his consultant Han Solo, speaker of the dialect of Basic spoken on Corellia. Any and all errors are due to interference from the Rebel Alliance.

The Correlian Basic data will be used as evidence supporting the necessity and utility of constraint ranking in linguistic analyses.

My favorite lexicographical joke

Luanne von Schneidemesser
Lexicographer extraordinaire

A panda sauntered into the saloon, sat down at the bar and told the bartender “Give me a sandwich and a beer.”

The bartender had seen many strange characters out west, and knew it was important to keep his cool, so he replied, “Sure, stranger,” and slapped a ham sandwich and a cold one in front of the bear.

The panda chomped on the sandwich and gulped down the beer. He then deftly pulled his six-shooter, aimed at a whiskey bottle behind the counter, and pulled the trigger. The bottle exploded into glass pieces and shattered onto the floor. The bartender was dumfounded as he watched the bear return his gun to his holster and walk out the front door.

“Hey, what the hell is going on?” shouted the bartender as he ran after the bear. The panda stopped and said, “what did you want??”

“Well, I sure didn't expect you to shoot up the bar. Besides, you still owe me for lunch.”

“I'm a PANDA. Look it up.” replied the bear and went on his way.

The bartender was too upset and nervous to rile such an unpredictable sort, so he picked up his unabridged dictionary from the shelf, and found the entry for “panda.”

“Damn!!!” he muttered. He realized that there was nothing he could do about it. There it was, in black and white, written by an authority no less than Noah Webster himself:

pan-da — n. A large bear-like member of the Raccoon family native to the mountains of China and Tibet, with distinctive white and black markings. Eats shoots and leaves.”

On Grice's Conversational Maxims: Observations from “the field”

Jeanne M. Schueller
SOSUME Metropolitan University, Kobe

In this paper, I will examine Grice's (1975) conversational maxims, namely, of quality, quantity, relevance and manner, as applied to academic and non-academic settings. As a participant-observer, I have the unique opportunity to interact with colleagues and peers while simultaneously collecting valuable data, which will undoubtedly have a profound effect on the fields of pragmatics and sociolinguistics.

In academic settings, the conversational maxim of relevance has been found to be violated most frequently (based on number of utterances). This type of violation tends to occur following presentations, where an audience member, instead of asking the speaker a related

question, launches into a tirade of unprecedented pedantry. The second most frequently abused maxim is quality. As has been observed on numerous occasions, speakers in academic settings tend to say whatever they damn well please, despite obvious lack of adequate evidence. The third most common infraction is manner. At a recent event, it became painfully clear that even seasoned professionals in “the field” neither adhere to, nor show knowledge of, any of the four maxims, most specifically manner. Finally, the maxim of quantity is violated least.

Since considerable data has been collected in academic settings, in this paper I will briefly describe, then thoroughly elaborate on previous findings. Secondly, I will analyze the contemporary situation of adherence to the four maxims in non-academic settings (more specifically, non-academic settings attended by large numbers of slightly loopy linguists). In the rest of the paper, I will comment extemporaneously on recently (and concurrently) collected data. Finally, I will discuss important pedagogical implications. Audience interaction will be welcomed and handouts will be provided.

WARNING: CONTAINS CANADIAN SPELLING

Climatic considerations: An explanation for Canadian Raising

Laura C. Smith
Canadian Citizen

Traditionally, Canadian Raising has been viewed as a distinctive feature of the Canadian variety of English. A reexamination, however, of its distribution supports the notion that Canadian Raising should not be considered a means of bolstering Canadian identity in the face of the mighty American cultural onslaught. The occurrence of the so-called Canadian Raising in Northern Wisconsin and possibly other northern American states which experience extremely cold winters points to a plausible correlation between climate and Canadian Raising. Jack Dawson (a native Wisconsinite) noted before his death on *Titanic*, that Wisconsin Winters are some of the worst around. This fact coupled with the notoriously cold and snowy Canadian Winters supports such a proposal. The corpus of lexical items affected by Canadian Raising also supports this claim: e.g., I am going to freeze if I don't get *out* of the *ice* and snow and into my *nice* and warm *house* until it is *about* springtime when it is *nice*, *bright* and warm *outside*. Articulatory phonetics provides an explanation of this phenomenon. The severe cold felt by Canadian Raising users causes the speaker to lose full range of motion of the jaw. In light of this minimised movement, the jaw is not able to fully open to produce the low vowel of the American diphthong, thus leading to the articulation of the mid-vowel, karat, in its place. Consequently, the raised diphthongs are produced. Thus, this paper will call linguists to consider climatic factors as possible motivations for phonological developments.

Alternate proposal: Since everything is (over)taxed in Canada, the longer the articulation of the diphthong, the higher the taxes. Consequently, to avoid dying from the tax, speakers shortened articulation of the glide by raising the diphthongal vowel to reduce taxable vocalic production. This articulation spread southward to Northern Wisconsin by the free movement in earlier times of families over the imaginary line that really divides the two countries before the imaginary line was realised.

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