



ALAA Newsletter

Newsletter of the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia

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Message from our outgoing President

As president of the Association I have very much enjoyed participating in the work of our exemplary group of people. I mean this quite literally. We all know that voluntary associations depend, by their nature, on voluntary effort, and yet that effort is there in abundance. I want to thank all the organisers of conferences, and the members of the executive, especially those retiring from their positions in 2008, for their excellent efforts to support and continue our work. I have decided not to seek re-election in 2008, for the predictable reasons of pressure of demands which will accelerate during from late 2008. I hope that I have managed to make a contribution to our association and will be pleased to serve again in the future, but for now I am unable due to long periods of absences overseas and additional new tasks.

Regards, Joe

Prof. Joe Lo Bianco wins language policy contract in Ireland

In the annals of language policy and planning the example of Ireland looms large. It is well known that in 1922 the Republic of Ireland declared Irish its official language but has since engaged in a struggle to strengthen the language eroded through direct and indirect colonial policy. This struggle highlights the complex relation between formal policy and actual language use, between school learning and community presence, and between expert input and speaker behaviour.

In 2003 the Irish government adopted a new policy statement and passed a new law to try to strengthen Irish and then advertised for consultants to prepare a long term strategy to lift the number of speakers (active daily users) of Irish from the present 70 000 or so to some 250 000 among several other goals.

In 2007 I joined with a group of colleagues from Dublin City University, the University of Wales and the University of Geneva to lodge an application for a Government of Ireland project on Irish. Our tender was successful and we have been commissioned now to prepare a 20-year

strategy plan to increase speakers of Irish and bolster the language.

Irish today is an official language of the European Union and Ireland today is a dramatically transformed country. A classic nation of emigration, in the past exporter of millions of its people to all parts of the world, including many as convicts to Australia, and later as free settlers; Ireland today hosts growing numbers of immigrants from all parts of the world. This means that a future role for Irish must take account of its various 'lives'; as a language of heritage for the vast diaspora of Irish in the world; a community and official, but still endangered language in Ireland itself; a minority language in the Province of Northern Ireland, and therefore a British indigenous language; a sister Celtic language with Scottish Gaelic and also Breton in France.

In these complex roles what is the future of Irish? With each improvement in economic fortunes more English language is introduced into the western reaches of the country, so that today the traditional heartland, the Gaeltacht, has shrunk dramatically. These last strongholds of intact Irish communication are now only tiny 'dark green' shadings on the emerald tourist maps that greet you at Dublin airport. Ireland today is celebrated as the "Celtic Tiger" with impressive economic growth reversing centuries of decline and departure. It is an exciting but daunting prospect to think through policy measures to bolster Irish.

ALAA's bid for AILA 2014

ALAA is in the process of finalising the documentation for bidding to host the AILA2014 World Congress. The chosen venue is the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Professor Roly Sussex and Dr. Christina Gitsaki are chairing the congress team and since late last year they have been working with Ms. Trish Levey at the BCEC to put together the necessary information for the bid documentation. The BCEC is in the process of securing funding from various government sources to support ALAA in our bid. The documentation will be submitted to the AILA Executive Board in early June. At the end of August a delegation with representatives from the congress committee and the BCEC will present the bid to the AILA Executive Board in

Germany who will then vote on whether ALAA will host the AILA2014 Congress or not. Should ALAA win the bid, it will be a long and difficult 6 years for the congress team and a great benefit for all ALAA members as they will be better positioned to attend the AILA2014 congress. More on the progress of the ALAA bid in the next newsletter.

Reported by Dr. Christina Gitsaki

From the Editor of ARAL

To Academic staff who are members of ALAA

Expression of interest in reviewing for ARAL

ARAL receives papers from a range of disciplinary areas, and it is helpful for the editors to have a profile of ALAA members' expertise and whether they would be ready to review papers for ARAL on an occasional basis.

If you are interested, please cut and paste the segment below and return it by email to Roly Sussex, Editor (sussex@uq.edu.au). Remember to put "ARAL reviewing: expression of interest" in the Subject: line.

Please provide both macro and micro keywords, to help the editorial team match papers to reviewers. Many thanks
Roly Sussex

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ARAL reviewing: expression of interest

I am interested in having my name added to a database of expertise for occasional reviewing for ARAL:

Personal name:

Family name:

Title:

Department / School:

Institutional address:

Email address:

Domain of expertise keywords:

Expressions of interest: guest editorship of special issues of ARAL for Members of ALAA

Following an initiative of Nina Rubino during her period as editor, ARAL's third issue each year is a special thematic issue.

The issues for 2008 and 2009 are set, but not for 2010 and beyond. If you would like to express an interest in guest editing a special issue of ARAL from 2010, please contact me (sussex@uq.edu.au).

I would particularly encourage proposers to think about exploiting the capacity of ePress in the online version of the journal to provide support for multimedia materials, thus making ARAL a multimedia journal. The paper version has text links which readers can use to activate the online material.

I need to know:

- 1) Thematic focus, title, volume outline and rationale
- 2) Proposed editor or editorial team

Many thanks
Roly Sussex, Editor

Report from the Interim Nomination Committee

At the last Annual General Meeting held in July 2007, an ALAA Interim Nomination Committee was appointed, comprising of the Immediate Past President, Howard Nicholas, three general members of the Association, Cathie Elder, Anne Pauwels and Ingrid Piller, and chaired by Antonia Rubino as one of the ALAA Vice Presidents.

As per its mandate, the Committee has just finalised (i) a slate of nominations for the executive positions that will become vacant at the next Annual General Meeting; and (ii) rules and timelines for the operation of the continued Nomination Committee.

The next task of the Committee will be to prepare a slate of nominations for its own replacement or continuation.

Unfortunately one of the members of the Committee Anne Pauwels, has just resigned as she has taken up a new position at Birmingham University. We would like to thank Anne very much for her great contribution and wish her all the best in the new job.

ALAA Conference - 4-6 July 2008 University of Sydney

As all members will know by now, the 33rd Annual Conference of ALAA will be held at the University of Sydney from 4-6 July, with the theme "Critical Dimensions in Applied Linguistics", and as part of LingFest 2008 (<http://www.lingfest.arts.usyd.edu.au/>)

As already announced, plenary speakers are Celia Kitzinger, (University of York, U.K); Ryuko Kubota (UNC, Chapel Hill, North Carolina); James Martin (University of Sydney), Alastair Pennycook (University of Technology, Sydney) and Jen Hay (University of Canterbury, New Zealand - Jointly with ALS)

The Conference promises to be a very interesting one, with over 150 papers and poster presentations on a wide range of topics and several international presenters. Abstracts are available on the website, and the final program with scheduled presentations will be shortly on it as well. Note also the interesting program of the joint ALAA/ALS day, with colloquia on Conversational Analysis, Second Language Acquisition and Japanese linguistics.

Please note that the **Annual General Meeting of ALAA** will take place on Sunday 6 July and it would be important if as many members as possible could participate, as there are a number of important issues to discuss, including the revision of the current ALAA Constitution.

Books available for review for the Australian Review of Applied Linguistics

Please contact the Reviews Editor Dr Liz Ellis liz.ellis@une.edu.au if you are interested in reviewing one of these. I will send guidelines for reviewing and discuss a deadline with you. If you haven't already done so, please first check

the publisher's website for more details of the book which interests you.

- Algeo, J. and T. Pyles (2005). The origins and development of the English language. Boston, Thomas Wadsworth.
- Anthonissen, C. and J. Blommaert, Eds. (2007). Discourse and human rights violations. Amsterdam, John Benjamins.
- Baldauf, R. B. J. and R. B. Kaplan, Eds. (2007). Language planning and policy in Latin America. Clevedon, Multilingual Matters.
- Bruce, I. (2008). Academic writing and genre: a systematic analysis. London, Continuum.
- Caffarel, A. (2006). A systemic functional grammar of French: from grammar to discourse. London, continuum.
- Davies, A. (2007). An introduction to applied linguistics: from practice to theory. Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press.
- Farrell, T. S. C. (2007). Reflective language teaching. London, Continuum.
- Fellbaum, C., Ed. (2007). Idioms and collocations: corpus-based linguistic and lexicographic studies. London, Continuum.
- Gass, S. and A. Mackey (2007). Data elicitation for second and foreign language research. New Jersey, Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Gibbs, R. W. and H. L. Colston (2007). Irony in language and thought: a cognitive science reader. New York, Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Hanauer, D. I. (2006). Scientific discourse: multiliteracy in the classroom. London, Continuum.
- Hansen, J. (2006). Acquiring a non-native phonology - linguistic constraints and social barriers. London, Continuum.
- Harris, R. and C. Hatton (2007). Definition in theory and practice: language, lexicography and the law. London, Continuum.
- Jackson, H. and E. Z. Amvela (2007). Words, meaning and vocabulary: an introduction to modern English lexicology. London, Continuum.
- Kaplan, R. B. and R. B. J. Baldauf, Eds. (2007). Language planning and policy in Africa, Vol. 2: Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Tunisia. Clevedon, Multilingual Matters.
- Lambert, B. E. (2008). Family language transmission: actors, issues, outcomes. Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang.
- Lee, J. F. and A. G. Benati (2007). Second language processing: an analysis of theory, problems and possible solutions. London, Continuum.
- Liceras, J. M., H. Zobl, et al. (2008). The role of formal features in second language acquisition. New York, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Liddicoat, A. (2007). An introduction to conversation analysis. London, Continuum.
- Liddicoat, A. J. and R. B. J. Baldauf, Eds. (2008). Language planning and policy: language planning in local context. Clevedon, Multilingual Matters.
- Liddicoat, A., Ed. (2007). Issues in language planning and literacy. Clevedon, Multilingual Matters.
- Omoniyi, T. and G. White, Eds. (2006). Sociolinguistics of identity. London, Continuum.
- Paltridge, B. (2006). Discourse Analysis. London, Continuum.
- Placencia, M. E. and C. Garcia (2007). Research on politeness in the Spanish-speaking world. New Jersey, Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Royce, T. D. and W. Bowcher, Eds. (2007). New directions in the analysis of multimodal discourse. Mahwah, New Jersey, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Schane, S. (2006). Language and the law. London, Continuum.
- VanPatten, B. and J. Williams, Eds. (2007). Theories in second language acquisition. New Jersey, Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Weinert, R. (2007). Spoken language pragmatics. London, Continuum.
- Yamaguchi, T. (2007). Japanese linguistics: an introduction. London, Continuum.
- Yong, H. and J. Peng (2007). Bilingual Lexicography from a communicative perspective. Amsterdam, John Benjamins.

A message from the outgoing Information Officer

It's been a very interesting 12 years. I was nominated for the position of Information Officer at the 1996 ALAA Congress at the UWS. Since then we have seen one of the most dramatic communications revolutions in generations: the World Wide Web. I was pleased to have been in on that more or less at the beginning. The new technologies and the so-called 'dynamic Web' have well and truly overtaken my self-taught efforts in being a webmaster, and thus I believe it's time for new

(and younger) blood to take over the reins of this very interesting position.

I have enjoyed the tenure, but it's now time to move on. And, in the inimitable words of the late Douglas Adams, "So long, and thanks for all the fish".

Peter White

Forthcoming Conferences

HCSNet Workshop on Narrative & Communication Disorders: Call for Abstracts

The aim of the workshop is to bring together Australian and international researchers with an interest in narrative and communication disorders. The workshop will address developmental and acquired disorders of both child and adult language and perspectives from neurotypical populations; it will consider topics in theory, methodology and analysis. The intention is to take a truly interdisciplinary approach, involving speakers and participants from a range of areas covered by the broad domain of cognitive science, and to generate fruitful leads and directions for further research. Thus we expect that researchers from linguistics, psychology, speech pathology, psychiatry, computer science, cognitive neuroscience and other areas will find the workshop of interest. Interested researchers are invited to submit 200-250 word abstracts for paper or poster presentations by 2nd June 2008.

Further details are available on the workshop website at <http://www.hcsnet.edu.au/hcsnetevents/2008/ncdworkshop>.

For further information please contact Associate Professor Lesley Stirling lesleyfs@unimelb.edu.au or Dr Susan Douglas sdouglas@unimelb.edu.au.

In view of the late posting of this call, there is some flexibility about the due date for abstracts: please contact the organizers.

Applied Linguistics Association of Australia

University of Sydney

July 4, 2008 – July 6, 2008

Part of LingFest 2008

Critical Dimensions in Applied Linguistics

The origins of Applied Linguistics were in the application of linguistic understandings to a wide range of contexts and issues. In the past decades the field has moved beyond relating language to social contexts to a dynamic approach to language addressing issues such as difference, access and disparity. It has become a more open field of interest in language involving an increasingly interactive approach between social and political contexts, language and research approaches.

The rapid worldwide increase in migration and reactions to it, the expansion of media and technology, political changes at international and local levels are both challenges and opportunities for research in applied linguistics. At the same time constraints such as market economy-driven research funding and greater central control of research agendas have limited the ability of the field to respond.

The theme of this year's conference 'Critical Dimension in Applied Linguistics' reflects the recent work in Applied Linguistics that examines the socio-cultural, economic, and political dimensions of language and language use.

Details about registering for ALAA or other Lingfest events can be found at <http://www.lingfest.arts.usyd.edu.au/>

A Closing Riddle -- results

The contest only had one response, from our President, who said:

"It takes 3 applied linguists to change a light globe, if you research the issue quantitatively, and 14 if you take a hermeneutic subjectivity discursal-analytic approach". So there.