



LUCL Newsletter

Issue 1.1
December 2005

From the editors

It is a great pleasure to present the first issue of the LUCL newsletter, with a lot of contributions, such as conference reports and introductions to new faces at LUCL.



Around the globe ...

Here you can find reports of trips made by LUCL members in the past few months.

OSSA-conference 'The Uses of Argument', 18-21 May 2005, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

by Henrike Jansen

One of the nice things of attending conferences is that it enables you to meet very famous people in your field. From 18-21 May I've been to Canada (Hamilton, Ontario) in order to attend a conference of the Ontario Society of the Study of Argumentation. The conference was entitled "The Uses of Argument", named after the identically worded, very influential book of Stephen E. Toulmin. This book, published in 1958 and a pioneering work in argumentation theory, was republished in 2003, which was the occasion of this conference. Toulmin himself was one of the keynote speakers. After some remarks concerning argumentation theory, he went on to bring up memories of all sorts of things. Toulmin has reached quite an age by now and it's amazing that he actually attended Wittgenstein's lectures. In spite of his age, he was in the audience at many lectures and was always the first to make a fundamental remark.

As the organizing committee had aimed for, a considerable number of the lectures was devoted to reflections on the work of Toulmin or to applications of his argumentation model in AI-systems. Another part, including the other key note speeches, concerned more general argumentation-theoretical issues. My own paper was concerned with the argument type Reduc-

tion ad Absurdum. This is an argument of the type 'God does not exist, for if he did exist, there would be no wars'. Up to now, investigations of this type of argument have focused mainly on its logical aspects, whereas I am concerned with examining its pragmatic aspects. In my paper I addressed the question of how this argument type can be fitted into a classification of argument types. Doing this in front of an audience that for a large part consisted of philosophers with a logical background, was a challenging enterprise. But all in all I got useful comments and important philosophical references to examples of this argument.

This conference was my first one across the Atlantic. It was an interesting experience to see something of Canada, even though it was not much and Hamilton cannot be called the most beautiful part of the country. However, staying on a campus with racoons walking around at night, a nice trip to the Niagara Falls and last but not least the very kind and helpful people made a lasting impression. Nonetheless, a lot of my memories concern the very interesting papers that were presented at the conference and the lively discussions that followed them up. I have come back with many new thoughts.

13th Manchester Phonology Meeting, dates

by Dafna Graf

The annual phonology meeting in Manchester, England, is an event many European phonologists put on their schedule every year. The reason is that the meeting has an informal, uncompetitive and friendly nature: all theoretical schools are expected and indeed represented (though some more than others...) without hard feelings, the presentations may well be work-in-progress with the goal of keeping people updated as to what their colleagues are about, but are nonetheless high-level. This basic atmosphere of openness, professional curiosity and friendliness is stimulating and motivates to come back for the experience again and again. In fact, the phonology meeting is indeed a meeting of 'old friends', though the number is growing each year, and since word reached the other side of the ocean, more and more Americans are attracted to Manchester as well.



This year's meeting was no exception to the rule – there were many good papers, many good old friends and lots of fun. A special session termed “what's a phonological fact?” starred Juliette Blevins, Bruce Hayes and Charles Reiss.

International Speech Communication Association Conference on *Plasticity in Speech Perception*, London, 15-17 June, 2005

by Hongyan Wang

The International Conference on Plasticity in Speech Perception was held at the Senate House, London, United Kingdom organized by researchers at the Centre for Human Communication at UCL and co-chaired by Valerie Hazan and Paul Iverson, 15-17 June 2005. The conference aimed at bringing together researchers on plasticity in

The three talks were very diverse in their topics, but stimulating nonetheless. Two parallel sessions provided one with many topics to choose from, leading to a continuous, busy coming-and-going.

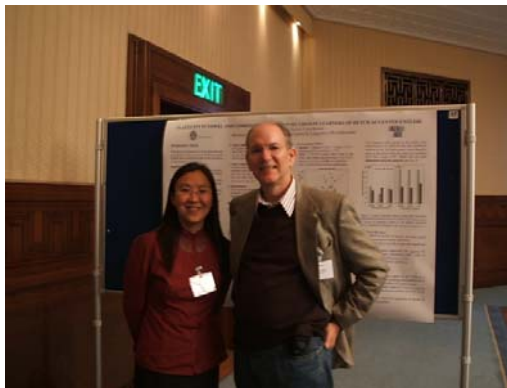


The Manchester Meeting is situated in the “Curry Mile” of Manchester, a part of town filled with Pakistani and Indian life. Traditionally, the participants of the conference enjoy at least one Indian conference dinner! The caring organization saw to it that every evening was filled with planned activity, such that there were no worries of “what shall we do tonight?”, very convenient for most of us academics. The nearby pub also enjoyed great popularity at the end of the day's sessions.

All in all, the phonology meeting in Manchester is a must-go for every phonologist in Europe who wants to be up-to-date in the field and who enjoys discussing phonology over English beer and an Indian curry.

speech perception during infancy and adulthood from clinical and non-clinical perspectives. Almost 170 individuals from 16 countries worldwide participated in this workshop. Several leading researchers, e.g. James E. Flege, Michael Dorman, Patricia K. Kuhl, and Anne Cutler gave talks and were involved in discussions.

Flege summarized research examining the production and perception of phonetic segments in a second language, focusing on the inter-subject variability in L2 research. He discussed the implication of this variability for models that attempt to account for age effects on L2 speech learning. His talk led to a good deal of discussion.



Kuhl gave a presentation and answered questions over the phone. Based on her old data and some new data on recent research linking speech perception in infancy to later language development, she discussed the theoretical connection between speech perception and implications of her findings for the putative ‘critical period’ for phonetic learning.

Cutler lectured on the lexical utility of phoneme-category plasticity with L1 listeners being confronted with foreign-accented speech. She emphasized that exposure to the same ambiguous sound in a nonword context had no effect on

category boundaries but did yield a shift in category boundaries when the string of sounds could be matched with an existing word. Adjusting category boundaries allowed more rapid recognition of a non-native speaker’s tokens.

There were about 86 researchers who presented posters on their research. Paul Iverson and Valerie Hazan gave a poster presentation on the effect of acoustic enhancement and variability on phonetic category learning by L2 learners. Catherine Mayo and Alice Turk also presented a poster.

No available theories currently explain all adult-child cue weighing differences. I presented a poster co-authored with Vincent van Heuven on “Plasticity in vowel and consonant perception by Chinese learners of Dutch-accented English” and had lot of feedback and comments from Chinese and Dutch experts as well as from other researchers. I had a discussion with Flege and Cutler on the whole project and the final data of our experiment.

In this three-day conference I met many people in this field, which was very encouraging and helpful. The PSP 2005 Proceedings of this workshop are available on CD-ROM (£10) and will be made accessible through internet on the ISCA website (International Speech Communication Association). If you are interested you are welcome to check out my copy of the CD.

Travelling to the vocative particle, July 2005

by Michiel de Vaan

In July of this year, I returned to Albania after a couple of years’ absence, with the aim of reviving my spoken Albanian. I started from Schiphol with two large, grey tubes in my luggage. In them, I had packed two wall-sized school maps, which I was going to give to a friend who teaches in a primary school in the south of Albania. Fortunately, I managed to get my bazooka-like cylinders through customs without any problem, and – even though I had to change planes in Vienna – they both arrived virtually unharmed at Tirana airport.

Albania is a beautiful country, with old picturesque towns, Mediterranean beaches of both the sandy and the rocky type, high mountains and clear rivers. After the 1997 riots and the subsequent period of unsafe travel, the touristic climate is now improving year by year. It

has come to the point that you can even buy Dutch translations of Albanian novels at the airport. Unsafe driving is probably the biggest menace for a traveller, and power failure one of the persistent minor nuisances. But this short report is not intended as a touristic advertisement. After a few days in the sticky but cleaned-up capital, I took a bus south to deliver my wares in a small town full of communist building blocks, where half of the population moved away since 1990, and a large part of the remaining half is without a steady job. I was staying with the family to whose son I delivered my maps of Europe. We visited his school, high on a ridge in a tiny mountain village, painted in sharp yellow, green and red colours. Since these were the holidays, we met some of the nine to ten years old school boys tending their families’

flocks of goat and sheep on the slopes surrounding the village.

It was in this environment that I was able to observe that the Proto-Indo-European vocative particle **ō* is still well alive on our continent. Obviously, I had learned to recognize it in Greek ω and Latin \bar{o} in my school days, and we were even taught to use a vocative particle ‘O!’ in our Dutch translations of Homer or Ovid to show that we had recognized the imperative in the sentence. But here, in southern Albania, *o!* is alive and kicking, and it has no antiquated touch to it. If you drink a coffee and want to pay, you call the waitress: *O vajzë!* If you walk down the street and someone wants to ask you a question, he’ll call out *O çuni!* When my friend was walking behind me and wanted to show me something by the side of the road, he started *O Mëshel!* Speakers from further north make fun of the southerners’ abundant use of *o!*, but to an Indo-Europeanist, who usually deals with languages which have long died out, such an encounter is a feast for the ears.



The following trip report is in Dutch – a good practice for those of you who are learning the Dutch language.

Zomercursus Faeroer Islands, augustus 2005 by Guus Kroonen

De Faeröer is een kleine eilandengroep tussen IJsland, Noorwegen en de Schotland. In augustus van dit jaar werd er voor de tweede keer in de geschiedenis een taalcursus georganiseerd. Omdat uit de vakliteratuur al duidelijk was geworden dat het om een interessant gebied ging, heb ik me meteen ingeschreven. De naam **Faeröer** betekent trouwens ‘Schapeneilanden’, en kan in het Proto-Indo-Europees vrij eenvoudig als ***pok’eso- h2ek’ieh2es** gereconstrueerd worden.

Op de zomercursus, die door de taalkundigen Zakaris Hansen en Hjalmar Petersen werd verzorgd, raakten we snel bekend met de fonetiek en grammatica van het Faeröers. Fascinerend waren ook Petersens uitweidingen over de geschiedenis en dialectologie van de taal.

De taal van de Føroyingar is om een paar redenen belangwekkend. Op het achttiental eilanden bevinden zich een ongeveer 48 duizend mensen die bezig zijn met het onderhouden van hun tongval. Deze natie is ontstaan toen de vikingen in de 8^e eeuw de eilanden vanuit Ierland en Noorwegen koloniseerden, en de Noordse taal meenamen. Het Faeröers heeft unieke as-

pecten van deze taal bewaard, maar ook interessante nieuwe karakteristieken ontwikkeld.

Zo heeft het zich in middeleeuwen van de andere Noordse talen onderscheiden door middel van een geheel eigen klankwet, de occlusivering van intervocalische **w** en **j** tot **gw** en **ggj**. Zo komt het dat het woord voor ‘koe’ **ku** is in het Noors, maar **kúgv** [k^hvkf] in het Faeröers, en dat Noors **øy** ‘eiland’ beantwoordt aan Faeröers **oyggj** [otj], zoals duidelijk ook in **Føroyar**.



Lítla Dímun, het enige eiland van de Faeröer dat niet bewoond wordt.

Maar het Faeröers is ook van belang voor de reconstructie van het Indo-Europees, vooral vanwege het behoud van gepreaspireerde

stops. Deze preaspiratie markeert de continuanten van de Proto-Indo-Europese gepreglottaliseerde stops. Deze preglottalisatie is een oeroud kenmerk dat ook sommige klinkerrekkingen in het Balto-Slavisch verklaart. Zo kan het dat het Faeröerse woord **hvat** [k^hwæa:ht] ‘wat’ het voor het Proto-Indo-Europees gereconstrueerde ***k^wo^ʔt** ‘id.’ bijzonder dicht nadert.

En de cultuur was natuurlijk ook niet te versmaden. Zoals het walvisvlees bijvoorbeeld. Het is bekend dat de Faeröerders dikwijls pittoreske bruinvisslachten organiseren, waarbij de dieren met boten het strand worden opgedreven en daarna gekeeld. Het gaat hierbij vooral om de mooie traditie, naar verluidt. Om het vlees hoeft je het inderdaad niet te doen. Dat valt goed te omschrijven als een soort zoutig karton. Maar dat werd dan weer ruimschoots gecompenseerd door de schitterende natuur van frisse fjorden, donkere dalen, en bergen waar altijd wel een wolk tegen aanleunt.

38th Conference of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE 38, Valencia (Spain), 7-10 September 2005), and 6th International Workshop on Multidisciplinary Approaches to Discourse (MAD 6, Chorin (Germany), 5-8 October 2005)

by Birgitta Bexten

Attending two conferences allows for only one possible conclusion: no two conferences can be less comparable.

The SLE meeting was subtitled *Formal, functional and typological perspectives on discourse and grammar* (or – as bad tongues offered – just: *language*). This resulted in an extremely broad range of different talks. In fact, the many different subjects made it impossible for the organisers to make them fit in one of the seven thematic sessions. This again made sure, that people who did not know the program by heart, and therefore stayed in one and the same thematic slot all afternoon, would definitely broaden their linguistic horizon. Admittedly, the same is true for the workshop in Chorin. Here, too, the organisers arranged a multitude of different approaches. But in Chorin, the single slot offered different views on the same subject, namely salience.

The mixture of linguistic, musicological, and computational perspectives and the fact that all 25 attendees were kind of locked up in the middle of nowhere, stimulated a lively discussion.

Apart from the thematic arrangements, the two conferences differed quite a lot in the possibilities to socialise. While in Valencia, one had the chance to decide every day anew whom to address, with whom to have dinner, etc., in Chorin, one knew each other after the welcome dinner and – after long days full of talks and excursions – one could just fall into a chair and wait: There were just enough tables for everybody. No need to be active yourself. And last but not least – and not comparable at all –: the weather. In Chorin: golden late summer days. In Valencia: first rain, then a burning Spanish sun.

SHEL 4 (Studies in the History of the English Language), USA

by Stephen Laker

The 4th Studies in the History of the English Language (SHEL) conference was held at the Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff from 29 September to 2 October 2005. Aside from academia, a highlight of the conference was the pre-conference trip to the Grand Canyon, which is only a short ride from Flagstaff. This was an unforgettable day at one of the world's most amazing natural spectacles. But it was also a



great time for meeting other conference participants. For example, when I got into the minibus taking us back to Flagstaff I happened to sit down next to a man dressed casually in jeans, t-shirt and a baseball-cap who later turned out to be William Labov. We had a long and amicable conversation and discussed some of our ongoing research.



This year there were almost 50 conference papers arranged in parallel sessions on diverse linguistic topics. There was a notable concentration of papers on historical metrics with three special sessions being organised by Donka Minkova. Another special session was on teaching the history of the English language. Other papers looked at phonology, syntax, morphology, orthography, etymology, grammaticalisation and, especially, applications of corpus linguistics. My paper concerned palatalisation of velar consonants in Old English and Old Frisian.

Unfortunately, there was only one plenary paper instead of the planned two (Roger Lass had to cancel for personal reasons). Nevertheless, Labov gave a very interesting plenary on phonological changes, especially vowel shifting, in American English dialects. All in all, this was a very agreeable and well-organised conference. The next SHEL is already in the planning and will be held at the University of Georgia in 2007.

Third International Workshop on Semantics, Pragmatics and Rhetoric, *Donostia-San Sebastian*, 10-12 November 2005.

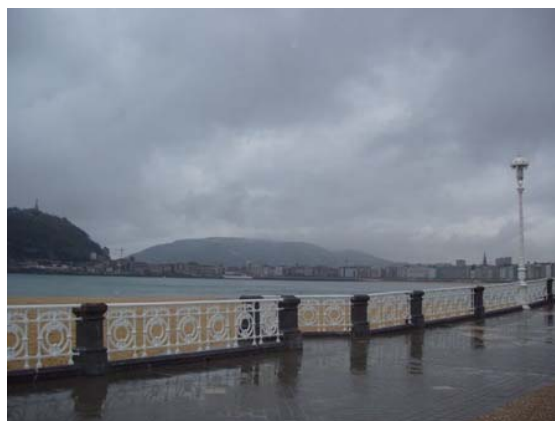
by Assimakis Tseronis

The Institute for Logic, Cognition, Language and Information (ILCLI) was founded in 1999 at the University of the Basque Country, in Donostia and since then has been organizing bi-annually the SPR workshops. The research fields within which the members of the institute work and teach courses range from logic and artificial intelligence, to semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis and rhetoric. The variety of the fields and the multidisciplinary approach to language and communication is equally reflected on the topics of the workshops organized and the papers presented by an international group of participants every time.

The SPR '05 included among the invited speakers: Nicholas Asher (Austin) working within Discourse Representation Theory, Salvatore Attardo (Youngstown) known for his pragmatic theory of humour, Diane Blakemore (Salford) working within Relevance Theory and Manfred Kienpointner (Innsbruck) known in the fields of argumentation and rhetoric. The topics of the 15 contributed papers ranged from formal semantics and pragmatics to philosophical approaches to language and communication.

The paper I presented, which is part of my work in progress for my thesis on qualification in argumentative discourse was the only one

coming from the field of discourse pragmatics and argumentation theory, this time. The good standards of the facilities and the efficiency of



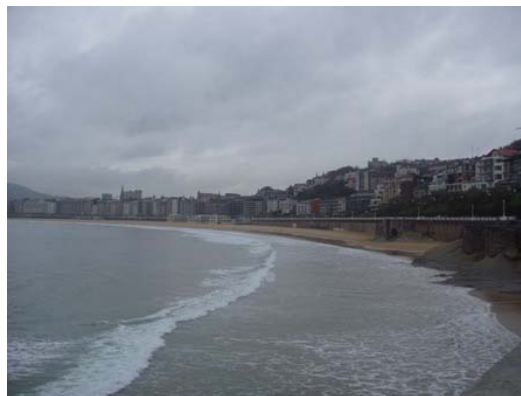
the local organizing committee, comprised mainly of PhD students of the ILCLI, together with the relatively small number of participants (around 50) guaranteed a cozy and informal environment where one could move from interesting academic talks to social get-together and back during coffee and lunch breaks.

Donostia is a lively university town open to the sea in the north and surrounded by mountains in the south. This creates a dramatic landscape with the houses arranged amphitheatrically on the one side and the waves breaking

against the rocks and on the sandy beach on the other side. There are a number of attractions in the city, including open air sculptures by local artists. One of the most entertaining and highly recommended ways to experience Donostia by night is to go 'poteo', common practice in all the cities and towns of the Basque country. 'Potear' is something like pub-crawling only that there is eating 'pintxos' (Basque for *tapas*, only bigger) and drinking 'zurrito' (Basque for beer) involved. Walking in the narrow streets of the old part of the city and along the seaside is really worth it, even when it is rainy and wet, as it was especially on the last day of the workshop.

The SPR'05 workshop like the previous ones organized by the ILCLI has been success-

ful in bringing together senior and junior researchers with a common interest in the pragmatics of language defined in a broad sense and in offering great hospitality in a very beautiful city



like Donostia.

Introductions

LUCL is pleased to introduce the new secretary:

Margreet Verra



My name is Margreet Verra and in mid October I joined the office of LUCL, for 12 hours per week. My special assignments are the M.Phil Linguistics Programme and providing assistance to Gea Hakker. Actually, I have two jobs in Leiden: I also work as a secretary at the Department of Slavic Languages and Cultures & Russian Studies, for 20 hours a week.

I worked as a manager in the development aid for 15 years. During 10 years I worked for the Terre des Hommes Foundation in the Hague, where it was my job to organize heart operations in the Netherlands for children from developing countries, like Indonesia, Ethiopia and Congo. I enjoyed this job very much, since I was able to help hundreds of poor and ill children with a heart operation that improved the quality of their lives. Unfortunately, after 10 years

Terre des Hommes decided to stop this individual kind of development aid.

I then found a new job at the Interplast Foundation in Leiden as an office manager. At Interplast Holland I had to do the opposite of what I did for Terre des Hommes: I had to send medical teams to development countries. During these medical missions Dutch voluntary surgeons operated hundreds of children with cleft lips and burn contractures. So again, this was a job where I had to organize and arrange all day long with the aim of helping poor children. After five years, the organization decided to start building hospitals in development countries, instead of sending medical teams all year. So I had to find another job again and I feel very privileged to have found two jobs at the University of Leiden. Of course, no poor and sick children here, but I do hope to assist you all as well as I can!

About my private life: I have two children, a 15 year old daughter and an 11 year old son.

I work at the LUCL office three mornings a week: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

See also: our new member listing on the web: all addresses, phone numbers, etc.

Obituaries

Dr. Hanny Vermaas †



On 12 July 2005 Hanny (Johanna Aleida Maria) Vermaas (55) sadly died in Nijmegen. Hanny had been a medical miracle for the last ten years but, unfortunately, the miracle did not last. As a result of her illness she had to give up a career as a secondary school teacher of Dutch and writer of educational textbooks. During the following 10 years of her illness Hanny, as a volunteer, carried out a diachronic study and a large-scale survey on the present-day use of forms of address in Dutch (*jij/je ~ u*) as a function of region, gender, age, social status and religious denomination (all of speaker and addressee). The results of the study were reported in a dissertation which she successfully defended in Leiden in 2002 (promotor: Cor van Bree). The thesis became the best selling title among the 120 LOT dissertations published so far. After the publication of her dissertation Hanny went on to write many popularising books and articles on the same topic, as a guest researcher of ULCL. Her work received ample attention in the media, with radio appearances and many interviews in newspapers and magazines.

Hanny was married to Peter van Hoof, to whom we extend our condolences. We wish him strength in carrying his loss.

Vermaas, J.A.M. (2002). *Veranderingen in de Nederlandse aanspreekvormen van de dertiende t/m de twintigste eeuw* [Changes in the Dutch forms of address from the thirteenth to the twentieth century]. LOT dissertation series nr. 60.

Prof.dr. Sergie A. Starostin †



We are saddened to announce the death of Prof. Dr. Sergei A. Starostin, on September 30, 2005. Prof. Starostin, who was Professor of Comparative Linguistics at the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow, had received an honorary doctorate of Leiden University on June 7, 2005. Honorary promotor was Prof. Dr. A. Lubotsky.

We remember Prof. Starostin as a brilliant historical linguist who worked on the Sino-Tibetan languages, the Altaic hypothesis, but also on Caucasian, Indo-European and Paleo-Siberian languages. He was a brilliant programmer who developed important tools for the construction of etymological databases. His project, *The Tower of Babel*, presents the etymologies of hundreds of languages.

Word tips for Linguists: How to survive MS Word

by Jeroen van de Weijer

How to align glosses – perfectly

Syntacticians and morphologists sometimes need to align glosses, and it would be nice if they did it perfectly. The *worst* way to do this is by using spaces (or tabs and spaces) to get the glosses at the right spot under the words that have been glossed. It almost never looks right, and if anything changes (font, margins, etc.) things go wrong and you'll have to do it all over again. The *best* way to do is to use a table, with borders set to "No border" and a cell for every word, phrase or morpheme that needs to be aligned:

(1)	The mad hatter	jump	-ed	over the Queen's tea-party
	De gekke hoedenmaker	spring	PAST	over het theekransje van de Koningin
	'De gekke hoedenmaker sprong over het theekransje van de Koningin'			

Tips: (i) if you have an empty cell in the leftmost column of the table, you can insert your example number there; (ii) to select a whole table, press Alt-5 (5 **on the numeric keypad**); (iii) set cell margins to 0 in Table Properties → Table → Options; (iv) you can automatically convert text to tables in the Table menu. Once you practise with this, you'll get very quick and your glosses will look better than ever.

Have a nice tip? Send it our way!

Defences

LUCL celebrated a number of PhD defences in the past few months: Graziano Savà (10 Oct), Daniel Baum (19 Oct), Peter Kraal (20 Oct), Mark de Vos (3 Nov), Elisabeth de Boer (14 Nov) and Danny Jaspers (30 Nov). An impression can be found below



Graziano Sava



Mark de Vos



Elisabeth de Boer



Peter Kraal



Dany Jaspers

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