

EDITORIAL

Corpora and Bilingualism

We are pleased to introduce a selection of the latest language-related research carried out by postgraduate students and staff at the University of Reading in a volume that marks the sixth year of LSWP, a publication based in the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics (DELAL) but open to relevant contributions from other disciplinary angles and methodologies.

Following a very well-attended *Language Studies PhD Conference* in March 2014, several of the speakers came forward and submitted manuscripts based on their presentations. Most of these hailed from DELAL but there were also PhD students from the Institute of Education, the Department of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, and the Graduate Institute of Political and International Studies.

Much as we are proud of the authors who made it into the volume, we also wish to thank those whose work could not be included. It has been an enlightening experience to edit your work, especially when mediating between novice authors and experienced peer reviewers! We hope that authors and readers alike are pleased with the outcome.

The papers in the present volume belong to two main areas of linguistic research: 'Language and Corpora' and 'Bilingualism and Language Learning'. In Part I, J. Laws and C. Ryder describe the methodology used in compiling *MorphoQuantics*, a corpus of complex words in spoken English that identifies word-initial and word-final derivational morphemes and their etymology and meaning, and defines the types and token frequencies of these morphemes. The main finding is that, although the number of existing word-initial affixes is nearly double that of word-final affixes, they occur in similar numbers in the corpus and the latter are three times more productive. *MorphoQuantics* is presented as an invaluable resource for research in L1/L2 acquisition and clinical and educational language studies.

In the second paper, A.A. Tsirigotis offers a new perspective on the meaning of *cyberwarfare* in the Information Age, viewed not merely as the use of the Internet for military purposes but as part of a new discourse on war. By analysing data from a corpus of British defence and security policies using discourse analysis methodology, the author explains how the semantics of *force* has changed diachronically, from being associated mainly with military assets to expressing Britain's ability to project its influence in the world. This paper indicates that linguistic research into the discourse of war can help us to understand future policy developments.

Part II opens with J.E. Hofweber's overview of research on bilingualism and executive control processes where code-switching is a variable. Bilinguals are reported to outperform monolinguals in executive control tasks that test inhibitory control and task-switching. The author's plan is to investigate the impact of bilingual code-switching on executive control skills to establish whether bilinguals' advantages in cognitive control arise from task-switching or inhibitory control, and whether different code-switching types impact executive control functions differently.

In the next contribution, A. Attwood looks at patterns used to express motion events in English and other languages. From a cognitive semantic perspective, he suggests that these patterns represent a challenge for language learners, particularly when the L1 differs

typologically from the L2, because of the transfer of L1 conceptualisation to the L2. According to the author, one way to overcome this problem in language learning is the use of teaching materials that employ alternative forms of input enhancement.

The final paper in this volume, by B. Sebina, outlines an investigation of the phenomenon of L1 attrition among Botswana children attending private English-medium schools where L2 English is dominant. After providing an overview of recent studies on L1 attrition in phonetics, the author moves on to describe the linguistic situation of Botswana and a linguistic feature affected by L1 attrition, i.e. the length of the penultimate syllable in Setswana.

Throughout the preparation of this volume, we have relied on the valuable assistance of our coordinator Jacqueline Laws, who successfully organised the March conference in her capacity as Departmental Director of Postgraduate Research Studies. Thanks are also due to the many anonymous reviewers who carefully read and evaluated submissions – often during their summer vacation! Below is a list of students and staff that kindly assisted in this task last year (Volume 5):

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