CORPUS-ASSISTED DISCOURSE STUDIES

More than the sum of Discourse Analysis and computing?

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS
ASR Fatemeh Torabi & Vera DEMBERG (Saarland University, Germany)

**Tendency for Causality in Implicit Discourse Relations**

**KEYWORDS:** causal relations, discourse connectives

Discourse relations can be expressed with or without their explicit cues: “The streets are wet because it was raining”. In the latter case they are called implicit, as the inference relies only on the content of the arguments. The question here is whether language users prefer causal relations to other types of relations in the absence of cues. We elaborate on some related hypotheses such forth in the literature via studying the proportion of implicit occurrence of relations in a large body of natural text, i.e., the Penn Discourse Tree Bank [3]. Sanders [4] proposed a causality-by-default hypothesis: “readers start out assuming the relation between consecutive sentences to be causal”. According to the Uniform Information Density hypothesis [1], humans tend to spread the intended information evenly across a text. At the level of discourse connectives, this would mean that presence of these cues is necessary when the relation is unexpected, but that a connective may be implicit if the relation is predictable. Putting together these two hypotheses, we would predict that causal relations are generally expected and their markers might be left implicit much more often than that of other kinds of relationships. Murray [2] also posed a continuity hypothesis put that readers expect subsequent sentences in a text to be causally congruent and continuous, and that is why adversative connectives are more essential discourse cues than causal ones. Similarly, causal connectives that imply a non-linearity by presenting a consequence before its effect are more important cues than those, which keep the forward temporal transition. Therefore, we would predict that causal relations are more often left implicit than adversative relations. Also, forward causal relations (where the reason comes first) should be more frequently expressed without connectives than backward causals. We found that causal relations are the most frequent implicit relations among 16 types. In comparison with the total explicitness calculated for all relations (0.46), pragmatic cause and cause respectively obtained 0.86 and 0.65 implicitness. However, two other types of relations, namely restatement and instantiation beat causal types (0.95 and 0.82). We observed a significantly bigger implicitness ratio for forward vs. backward causality (0.69 vs. 0.62). Furthermore, each of these causal relations showed much bigger implicitness ratio than their negative counterparts (0.19 and 0.07). All of these measurements were significant at p-value<0.001. Our findings partially confirm the causality-by-default hypothesis, but suggest that other types of relations exist that tend to appear with no discourse connective. Our observation about different types of causal relations is in line with the continuity hypothesis, which invites a study of temporal relations in the same corpus.

**REFERENCES:**

Keywords: Signposts to objectivity?

Keywords: keywords, reflexivity, objectivity, Islam, method

Keywords offer discourse analysts a corpus-driven method of identifying salient lexical items in corpora, thus directing researchers towards interesting discursive elements in texts that they may not have noticed. Therefore, the technique has the potential to enable a more objective form of analysis, and in this talk I demonstrate how an examination of the keyword Moslem in a corpus of news articles about Islam, was revealing in terms of how particular newspapers position themselves.

However, in order to subject the keywords process to a more reflexive form of analysis, I revisit six of my own studies which have used this technique, asking questions which include: what proportion of keywords obtained did I analyse, what actually constituted an “analysis” and what decisions resulted in certain keywords receiving much more attention than others? The results raise further questions about how confidently we can claim objectivity in this form of analysis, at least for my own research. This is not to say that keywords should be abandoned as a methodological tool, but researchers should consider the benefits of a giving a more reflexive account of their own decision making procedures around keywords.
BARCZEWSKA Shala (Jan Kochanowski University, Kielce, Poland)

The 1925 Scopes Trial: A Discursive Event in Shaping Modern Discourses on Evolution

KEYWORDS: event, metaphor, discourse analysis, internet mediated news

The phrase ‘discursive event’ was first used by Foucault in The Archaeology of Knowledge to describe the discourse that revolves around a particular memory or event. In Jäger and Mair (2009) this is further defined as an event appearing “on the discourse planes of politics and the media intensively, extensively and for a prolonged period of time.” It is this extended influence on the “development of discourse” that makes the study of discursive events informative tools in discourse analysis (2009:48). Examples given of events that have thus influenced discourse are Chernobyl and the 1999 success of the Austria Freedom Party. Other authors have similarly identified the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin (Gabay 2006) and Hurricane Katrina (Faux II & Kim 2006).

This study will look at the role of the 1925 Scopes trial as a discursive event in the current debate over the passage of “teach the controversy” bills in Tennessee. To do this, a corpus of online news stories and blog articles written at the time of the bills’ passing has been created and analysed. Attention has focused on the use of the Scopes trial to create/confirm contemporary discourse on the evolution debate. Furthermore, the question is raised as to whether it is the historical trial or its retelling in the 1960s film Inherit the Wind that has engrained itself in collective memory. It will do this by analysing the references to the trial and their implied relationship to the April 2012 “teach the controversy” legislation.

Metaphorical and evaluative language found within the corpus that further explain the significance of the 1925 trial will also be discussed. Comments will also be made regarding the trial’s presence in discussions on evolution legislation across genres and in terms of distance from the event. It is believed that understanding the role of the Scopes trial as a discursive event will shed light on the stereotypes that continue to colour the debate.

REFERENCES:
Beyond corpus and discourse analysis? The possibilities and challenges of triangulation in CADS

KEYWORDS: methods, data, triangulation, news, television

This paper focuses on the use of triangulation in Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS). CADS is broadly defined here as a cover-all for studies that combine the methodologies of corpus linguistics (e.g. frequency analysis, keywords analysis, concordancing) with the analysis of discourse in various ways. This includes both studies that bring together corpus linguistic analysis and close and in-depth discourse analysis and those that use corpus methodologies to study discursive phenomena or to examine ‘discourse types’ (Partington 2010). Triangulation is also used in a broad sense, to refer to all kinds of research that combine data, methods or theoretical frameworks.

I will discuss the possibilities and challenges of triangulation in CADS by drawing on my own experience in doing corpus and discourse analysis in the past 10 years (focussing specifically on my research on newspapers and television series). I also propose a new approach to the linguistic analysis of television series that draws on Pennycook’s (2007) notion of transtextuality, developed in the context of studying another product of popular culture, hip hop. Pennycook (2007: 53) argues that texts ‘need to be understood productively, contextually and discursively’. Following this assumption, the suggested approach takes into account the pretextual history and subtextual meanings (ideologies/discourses) of television texts as well as the context in which they occur, intertextual echoes (e.g. between texts and paratexts) and the posttextual engagement with the texts by audience members. In order to do so, the research design incorporates three types of triangulation: the triangulation of different data, methodologies, and theoretical perspectives (Denzin 1970). I will argue that this three-fold triangulation, though not without its challenges, offers the potential for complementarity (exploring different aspects of the same cultural phenomenon), development (one method provides research questions for the subsequent method) and expansion (broadening the scope of the research project) (see Angouri 2010: 35).

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The discourse functions of shell nouns have been the subject of considerable debate over the past four decades. Numerous studies have cast light on the role of nouns like objective or problem in the rhetorical organisation of certain broad written genres, namely academic prose and newspaper language. The corpora used in most such studies have been geared to these particular broad genres. This raises the question of whether the encapsulating and reifying discourse function of these nouns is genre-specific or a wide-ranging phenomenon of language. Closely linked to the corpus employed is the type of analysis adopted, ranging from the fully automated analysis of a large corpus such as the Bank of English (e.g. Schmid 2000) to the manual analysis of a small and highly specialised corpus (e.g. Flowerdew 2003). The former relies on a set of pre-defined queries modelled on the syntactic patterns assumed to prevail in the contextual use of these nouns, i.e. N-Cl and N-be-Cl. Automaticity proves beneficial in two respects: i) it is quick, and as a result, ii) large amounts of data from a large corpus may be feasibly processed. Such a method, however, may limit the scope of the analysis because of the restrictive nature of most automatic corpus queries, forcing the researcher to disregard certain other linguistic features. The “systematic misses” of an automatic approach (Schmid 2000: 51) stand in contrast to the amount of detail obtained from a more corpus-driven manual analysis of a small corpus. Studies of this type have been centred on genre-specific corpora (e.g. Flowerdew 2003: biology lectures vs. textbooks) and have been mostly concerned with the identification of the rhetorical features of these nouns. Thus, there seems to be a need for a study that employs a small though more balanced corpus and that provides an all-encompassing linguistic perspective on the use of these units.

This paper aims at the manual identification of formal, syntactic, textual and semantico-pragmatic features of shell noun phrases, inspired by Hoey’s (2005) theory of lexical priming. The aim is to provide an overall account of the general primings to which readers and listeners may be exposed when encountering these nouns, based on a representative sample of the English language at large. The sample was obtained from a list of 950 lemmas extracted from the literature. The evidence studied is a random set of 40 concordances per lemma drawn from the BNC Sampler. In view of the potential priming differences between word-forms (Sinclair 1992), 20 concordances are analysed for the singular and 20 for the plural.

It is hoped that this study will provide fresh insights into the advantages that a fully manual analysis of corpus data brings to certain areas of discourse analysis, especially those where the aim is to enrich our understanding of the overall linguistic and discourse behaviour of some units.

REFERENCES:
Triangulating corpus data for the analysis of scientific discourse across languages: The case of the contextual aspect of authorship

KEYWORDS: authorship, data triangulation, medical discourse, CADS, intercultural analysis

Analysis of language use in the real world is currently grounded on the interface of corpus and discourse (Charles, Pecorari and Hunston 2009). The corpus approach relies on observation of large amounts of "real-world instances of language use" (Baker 2010: 94), while discourse analysis focuses on short and fragmentary texts (Stubbs 1996), following "close-reading backed up with introspection" (Partington 2008: 29). Therefore, the enhanced value of corpus approaches as an empirical form of analysis is arguably that of allowing generalizations about linguistic patterns and trends which are difficult to propose within the framework of discourse analysis only (cf. Widdowson 2004: 115, Baker 2010: 94). Furthermore, another consequence of combining corpus with discourse techniques — as framed within corpus-assisted discourse studies (CADS: Stubbs 1996, Partington 2008) — is the possibility to compare practices within similar discourse types aimed at gaining insights into areas of similarity and difference. The present study is carried out from the standpoint of the CADS theoretical framework, and aims to compare the contextual aspect of authorship in biomedical research articles in two languages, English and Spanish. As regards the question of authorship, many journals have endorsed the Uniform Requirements of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) which states that only named authors who meet a set of criteria and take public responsibility for the research must be listed. Thus it is necessary to explore authorship manifested in texts by means of first person plural pronouns due to its social, academic and financial implications. The methodology follows a top-down approach, namely, the discourse unit types are determined before beginning the corpus analysis (Biber, Connor and Upton 2007). The Introduction-Methods-Results-Discussion/Conclusion sections become the basic units of the subsequent discourse analysis of authorship, using corpus methods to investigate the extent to which it also has systematic linguistic characteristics within each article section. Based on corpus data triangulation (cf. Marchi and Taylor 2009), these findings are then compared for various sub-corpora, that is the analysis is applied separately to a corpus of English L1 research articles published in English-medium international journals and to a corpus of English L2 research articles published in the same journals by their Spanish counterparts. Finally, results are checked against a control corpus of Spanish L1 research articles published in national journals. Findings of the analysis of three corpora of medical research articles show that there are rhetorical differences and similarities as regards authorship. Finally, corpus data triangulation methodology in the analysis of medical discourse from an intercultural perspective is discussed. More specifically, data triangulation outcomes of convergence, dissonance and complementarity (cf. Marchi and Taylor 2009) are considered to be particularly suitable for the purposes of discourse analysis from an intercultural perspective on the rhetorical concept of authorship in the complex environment of scientific research article publication.

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Cho Ji-Myoung (Yonsei University, South Korea)

How does Korean Society Accept Multiculturalism?
A corpus-based analysis of discourse representation in the press

KEYWORDS: multiculturalism; discourse analysis; collocational patterns; cultural keywords, discourse prosody

Damunhwa (multicultural(ism)) has become a mainstream issue in the Korean society which perceives itself as racially homogenous. It has disturbed Koreans to such an extent that it may be called a multicultural shock, but there has been little general reflection upon what is ‘multicultural’ and how it is accepted in the Korean society, apart from a few conventional discourse studies with a feminist perspective.

This study presents a case-study of how the so-called multiculturalism is construed in Korean newspapers by investigating the ‘Multiculturalism Corpus’ (c. 1,100,000 words) of English newspapers published after 2000 in Korea and comparing it with English corpora. It analyses collocational patterns of the core concept-word of multicultural along with other keywords, such as foreign(er) and migrant. The Korean ‘multiculturalism’ which started as an initiative to conserve a traditional value of paternity brings different cultural issues from that of the European societies.

It is found that multiculturalism in Korea is treated as a ‘soft’ issue, rather than ‘hard’, i.e. a domestic and affective issue, compared to the construal in the US and UK corpora. The narrative of ‘a domestic problem’ is constructed by the use of following significant collocates: the number of the multicultural families (the most significant collocation) is growing, they are the receiver of ‘support’ (support, center, help, education programs/policy for children from multicultural families) granted by the government. The discourse prosody of ‘domesticity’ and ‘affectivity’ is more sharply manifested by the N+1 collocates: families, society, children, backgrounds, education, marriage, center, couples, households (vs. society, Britain, city, London, world, nation, identity, population, community in the UK news corpus). A multicultural society, on the other hand, is only talked about in a rhetorical way (e.g. becoming/moving a (increasingly) multicultural society, Can Korea Become a Multicultural Society?). The recurrent noun phrases formed by the coordinator and reveal and may contribute to strengthening an entrenched perception of ‘foreign-ness’ about multiculturalism or people from multicultural backgrounds, including foreigners and multicultural families, immigrants and multicultural families, and (im)migrant workers and multicultural families.

The paper concludes that the ‘multiculturalism’ in the Korean society is the ‘other-culturalism’ where the Koreans themselves are not included, and that the corpus approach can be effective in examining cultural perception or attitude both cross-culturally and diachronically through cultural keywords whose patterns of use may be obscure to the naked eye.

REFERENCES:
CLARK Caroline (University of Padova, Italy)

Portrait of a Prime Minister

KEYWORDS: CADS, news discourse, representation, evaluation.

This paper looks at how the former Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, was presented to the British newspaper ‘audience’ in the two-year period before his resignation. While it goes without saying that one expects to find interest in his private life vying for newspaper headlines, the aim is to investigate how this ‘portrait’ was constructed, and differences which emerge compared with the other major European leaders, Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy.

Following the CADS approach, a series of separate corpora (totalling 4.5 million words) were compiled for each of the three leaders and each of the quality papers (The Times, the Guardian and the Daily Telegraph). All articles mentioning the leaders were collected for the two-year period 2010-2011 during which all three were in office.

Since the corpora were compiled in such a way as to permit several variables, they were analysed for how the figure of Berlusconi was portrayed compared with the other leaders, and how the separate papers (representing three different political views) each portrayed the three centre-right leaders.

The corpora were analysed using Wordsmith Tools to extract wordlists and keywords which were used as the basis for an analysis based on evaluative language (see Martin & White 2005), that is, how the British broadsheet newspapers constructed their stance towards the European leaders, how they presented this stance, and how they positioned their readers.

Conclusions are discussed on several levels. On the first, the findings are generally aligned with expectations, that is, the three leaders tend to be reduced to easily recognisable caricatures as respected, tolerated or mocked. However, this analysis aims not to be purely descriptive, and is not limited to painting a predictable picture. On a further level, the paper explores the language of evaluation and appraisal in the context of the CADS approach, and the construction of newspaper stance. It also confronts some of the difficulties and limitations of the approach when analysing implicit and token evaluation in particular.

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Partington, A. The Armchair and the Machine: Corpus-Assisted Discourse Research
COSTELLOE Laura (University of Limerick, Ireland)

Finding the agent: questions of blame in newspaper representations of French urban violence in 2005

KEYWORDS: CDA, corpus linguistics, agency, newspaper discourse, French urban violence

November 2005 saw a significant flashpoint in the long-running history of tensions between minority groups and those in power in France: two teenagers, allegedly while hiding from the police, were electrocuted in a Parisian electrical sub-station, which was the catalyst for the spread of violent riots across banlieues or urban districts in French cities lasting for a number of weeks. Mindful of the printed news media as important sites of ideology production (Fairclough, 1995), this study contributes to a growing body of work on newspaper representation of the banlieues (c.f. Moirand, 2010; Sedel, 2009), with a focus on the particularly traumatic events of November 2005.

This paper considers the attribution of agency in the discourse surrounding the 2005 riots and proposes that a discourse of blamelessness is one which pervades French newspaper representations of these events; arguably it represents one of the predominant macro-discourses through which the urban violence is constructed and represented. A qualitative critical discourse analytical methodology is combined with quantitative corpus linguistics techniques in the analysis of a corpus of approximately 1,500 texts, with the aim of identifying where – if anywhere – the French media places the blame for the outbreak of violence. A small but representative sample of the corpus is first examined from a CDA perspective (following Fairclough 1995; 1989) to point towards typical discursive patterns employed in the construction of a discourse of blamelessness. These findings then guide the analysis of collocation and concordance patterns in the corpus in an attempt to generalize CDA findings across a collection of texts incorporating a variety of perspectives from the French printed news media (right/left, regional/national). Particular emphasis is placed on the construction of agency, and the analysis highlights how a variety of lexico-grammatical and linguistic devices are used to present the causes for the riots predominantly without an associated agent.

The paper questions the ideological implications of avoiding agency for the 2005 riots, and argues that the obfuscation of blame allows French journalists to avoid any meaningful discussion on France’s complex political, social and cultural difficulties. It shows how the outbreak of violence is presented as somewhat inevitable, if not unexpected, thus permitting journalists to avoid blaming either their readership – mainstream French society – or the already prejudiced minority groups for the widespread violence.

REFERENCES:
Analysis of Keywords in Czech Political Texts

KEYWORDS: keyword analysis, Czech, political texts, diachronic approach, corpus

This is part of a larger project on statistical analysis of keywords (Baker 2010, Baker & Ellece 2011) in political texts in Czech. Our claim for this presentation is that keyword analysis (Scott & Tribble 2006) may play more than a supplementary role to qualitative discourse analysis. It may help us discern shifting overarching themes, which in turn suggest subtle social change not easily accessible by intuition. Keyword analysis, then, can be a powerful and valuable tool to spot subtle social and cultural changes underway in certain extreme scenarios.

As the first step in supporting our hypothesis, we will present the results from our pilot keyword analysis of President Husák's New Year's addresses (NYAs) (1977-1989). These texts were chosen with an intention to test the limits of keyword analysis, as they are perceived to be ritualistic and show little indication of social change. Keyword analysis will reveal subtle shifts in the assortment of keywords and the recurrent words and phrases in slightly different contexts over time, conveying different nuances at different points of history.

We will extract keywords from each NYA, using statistical methods (chi-squared and/or the log-likelihood test). Since the genre and the source of examined texts are constant we can focus on differences between texts which arise from changes in time and topic. Each text will be compared to (1) the corpus consisting of periodicals of 2000-2010, (2) the corpus consisting of periodicals of 1970s-1980s and (3) all the other NYAs by Husák: we will obtain 36 sets of keywords (three different sets from each text). For each text we will:

1. identify the keywords unique to a specific year(s) and keywords that consistently occur throughout the 13 years
2. examine the words that consistently co-occur with the keywords
3. examine whether keywords repeated in more than one year have the same collocational patterns

The results from (i) will yield the first approximation of the theme of the text; the results from (ii) and (iii) will zoom in on the functions and semantics of the keywords as they will reflect how the keywords are used. The steps (i-iii) then enable us to interpret the themes of the text and how they change over time. The results from the three keyword groups will likely provide us with three types of information: how an average contemporary reader might read what they consider to be “historical texts”; how the average reader in the totalitarian regime might have read each NYA each year; and the specific features of each NYA.

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Czech National Corpus (www.korpus.cz).
DI CRISTOFORO Matteo (Lancaster University, UK)

Rethinking dysphemisms and euphemisms: a corpus-based constructional approach to Italian taboo language

KEYWORDS: taboo language; swearing; euphemisms; construction grammar; corpus linguistics.

This paper focuses upon research aimed at providing a more detailed definition of the phenomena known as dysphemism and euphemisms in the context of a constructional approach to language (e.g. Goldberg 2006). In the last decades increasing attention has been devoted to the study of taboo language, swearing and impoliteness, with a particular focus on so-called swearwords (dysphemisms) – (i.a. Allan and Burridge 2006; McEnery 2006; Ljung 2011). In order to provide a wider understanding of how taboo language works, I propose a constructional approach to the set of features known as dysphemisms and euphemisms. Drawing from the study on “conventionalized impoliteness formulæ” conducted by Culpeper (2011), I will first analyse the two phenomena in terms of their relation to taboo language constructions, in order to suggest that taboo language is conveyed both by words in isolation and through more complex constructions. Pieces of evidence gathered through the analysis of occurrences of dysphemisms and euphemisms are drawn from the itWaC corpus, a 2 billion words corpus collected from the web (Baroni M., et al. 2009). The corpus has been queried using SketchEngine, and analysed through its tools (e.g. WordSketches) and Collostructional Analysis (Stefanowitsch & Gries 2003). This allowed me to identify patterns and construction conveying taboo language. In this presentation I will focus upon the role that verbs have in such structures, arguing firstly that the role of verbs is as important as the role of swearwords in conveying taboo language. Secondly, I will propose a wider definition of dysphemisms and euphemisms based on the aforementioned analysis: on the one hand, verbs can be treated as euphemisms based on their use in certain constructions. On the other hand, the status of dysphemisms and euphemisms as taboo language can be determined on the dependence they have on the constructions in which they are used. I therefore propose a gradient relationship between dysphemisms and euphemisms based on this degree of dependence. This feature, together with the ones already outlined by previous studies, provides a wider definition and a better understanding of how taboo language can be linguistically recognized on the basis of its use in complex constructions.

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DUGUID Alison (University of Siena, Italy)

Modern-diachronic corpus-assisted discourse studies (MD-CADS): using the SiBol sister newspaper corpora

KEYWORDS: Diachronic discourse studies, Informalisation, Newspaper discourse, Language and social change

Modern diachronic corpus-assisted discourse studies (MD-CADS) employs large corpora of a parallel structure and content from different moments of contemporary time in order to track changes in modern language usage but also social, cultural and political changes over modern times, as reflected in language.

Using recently compiled much larger corpora from different time periods, each containing over 100 million words of newspaper texts, corpora constructed to be as similar in content, composition and structure as possible, the first set of MD-CADS work from the SiBol group, were able to study a variety of fine grained lexico-grammatical changes, secondly typical discourse practices within a discourse type (that is typical ways of saying things) and also compared earlier with more recent attitudes to certain social, cultural and political phenomenon, as projected by the mainstream UK quality press, (Partington ed. 2010). The corpora, a complete year of Times, Telegraph and Guardian from 1993 and then from 2005 were enhanced by the addition of Port2010 compiled by Charlotte Taylor. The intent has been to track how language patterns and meanings, as well as the discourse practices these might reveal, can change over comparatively brief periods of modern times.

Grammatical developments observed include changes in time of an increase in the use of personal pronouns and verb contractions and a decline in the use of honorifics as well as differences in choice of linkers and modals. Other developments observed included changes in evidentiality, that is, how newspapers give evidence for the claims they make, the ways in which science is reported and, above all, that the UK so-called ‘quality’ papers are adopting many of the language behaviours once thought more typical of their tabloid rivals including an increase in hyperbolic evaluation and vague language.

Sociopolitical and cultural studies also saw changes in what the UK papers considered moral and immoral over the period and what were favoured “moral panics”, changes and similarities in the way BOY and GIRL were represented and the appearance of disturbing new representations of antisemitism in Europe and the UK.

This paper gives some details of the SiBol project and results and illustrates some of the more recent findings.

REFERENCES:
FERRARI Federica (University of Bologna, Italy)

At the crossroads between subject and object of research: negotiating discoursal identity in academic writing – a case in point

KEYWORDS: (academic) identity negotiation, identity attribution, space, subject and object of research, operational keywords

Investigating the discoursal negotiation of identity in academic writing is undoubtedly crucial for the construal of a disciplinary discourse community and ultimately also of professional identity. Besides, the complexity of identity investigation in academic writing is also to be expected given the interaction between writer and reader in the “social” process of text production/reception (Bakhtin 1981) and the ritualised genre tendency to hide subjective identity behind collective communities as well as to “downplay” the inter-personal, while “foregrounding complex contents” (Silver 2012, forthcoming). This complexity becomes more intriguing in light of that merging of the subject of writing and the object of research, which may be also typical of academic endeavouring.

That being said, what happens when dealing with disciplines whose object of research is indeed the psychological “subject”? This paper interrogates two discourse domains identified within Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis, which for their very object of enquiry might be expected to pose serious problems for a distinction to be maintained between subject and object of the discourse.

This paper investigates academic identity construction starting from a comparison between academic identity attribution (‘external’ definition of the discipline) and academic identity negotiation (‘internal’ definition of the discipline). More specifically, from the evidence offered by two parallel minicorpora of research articles of Psychiatry (‘Psychy Corpus’: 1,158,062 tokens) vs. Psychoanalysis (‘Psycho Corpus’: 771,591 tokens), we investigate subject and object identity construction, relations and spatial positioning, i.e. spatial position of subject and object with respect to one another. Space is here meant dynamically in terms of the distance taken by the writer (subject of the discourse and ‘Psych. Doctor’) from the Discipline and its object of research, the ‘subject’, or patient (significant in this respect is the different behaviour of “I” – keyword for psychoanalysis – and “patients” – keyword for psychiatry, in the two corpora).

Contrastive analysis of frequency wordlists and parallel keyword lists, in addition to analysis of relevant “operational keywords” (Ferrari 2008: 1), also developed in cognitive perspective, are used to attempt to answer the following questions:

1) How is the identity of the subject of writing (Psych-Doctor vs. Corpus Linguist at first and then Psychiatrist/Psychoanalyst) defined? Who/where is the Psychiatrist/Psychoanalyst with respect to both the Discipline and its object?

2) How is the identity of the psychiatric/psychoanalytic object (the ‘subject’, or patient) defined? Who/where is the ‘patient’? How does this object appear to be perceived?

3) What is the distance between Psych. Doctors as writers and a) the Discipline b) its object of research?

Preliminary observation suggests that the less the distance from the Discipline, the more the distance from its object of research, the ‘subject’, or patient.

REFERENCES:
FRAGAKI Georgia (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

Adjective evaluation in spoken interaction

KEYWORDS: adjectives, adjective category, conversation, evaluation, text type

A recent study of adjectives in a corpus of opinion articles from Greek newspapers has suggested that various categories of adjectives can be used for evaluation (Author, 2011). Among these, a special category of evaluative adjectives has been identified, involving modal adjectives (e.g. pithanós ‘possible’), comment adjectives (e.g. perivóitos ‘famous, notorious’) intensifying adjectives (e.g. plíris ‘total’) and adjectives of importance (e.g. simandíkos ‘important’). The study of the recurrent use of adjectives in the corpus has been the basis of forming a categorization of adjectives, which was then used as a useful starting point for the observation of their evaluative function.

This paper attempts to study evaluation through adjectives in a different set of data, namely spoken discourse. The data include 270.000 words from everyday, spontaneous interactions between, mainly, young women and men, taken from the spoken part of the Corpus of Greek Texts (see Goutsos 2010). The relevant literature on English adjectives has pointed out that both their frequency and use significantly differ across text types (cf. Biber et al. 1999, Yamazaki 2002). In this frame, it is important to investigate:

- a) the categories of adjectives used in conversational data and their relative frequencies,
- b) how adjectives contribute to discourse evaluation,
- c) the devices involved in adjective evaluation, including positive or negative semantic orientation, semantic prosody, phrasal patterns etc.,
- d) the particularities of evaluation with adjectives in conversation.

The findings of the paper are expected to respond to the conference’s main question by pointing out the contribution of corpus-assisted discourse studies in identifying the significance of a linguistic phenomenon and its distribution across text types. In particular, it is suggested that corpus methods can be crucial in finding out the typical use of adjectives in discourse evaluation and how this differs between conversational and newspaper texts.

REFERENCES:
GABRIELATOS Costas (Edge Hill University, UK)

**Corpus-based methodology and (critical) discourse studies: Context, content, computation**

**KEYWORDS:** corpus approaches, (critical) discourse studies, diachronic studies, contextual analysis

The presentation will discuss practices employed in two recent research projects in order to address two common interrelated criticisms of corpus approaches to critical discourse studies, namely that they …

- do not (sufficiently) take account of the relevant context;
- merely examine groups of words (e.g. keywords, collocates) – or, at best, concordances of a few words around the node.

The examples come from work carried out within the following two projects:


Both projects employed large corpora comprising all British national newspapers, and had a strong diachronic element (Baker et al., 2008; Baker et al., forthcoming a, b; Gabrielatos, 2007; Gabrielatos & Baker, 2008; Gabrielatos et al., 2012).

The central aim of the presentation is to demonstrate that these criticisms stem from outdated and restricted conceptions of corpus research. That is, irrespective of whether they may be justified in individual cases, these criticisms do not concern the potential of corpus-based approaches. More specifically, the main points to be illustrated are:

- Corpus researchers have no less access to sources of relevant contextual information than (critical) discourse analysts.
- A corpus-based contextual analysis; that is, a preliminary quantitative analysis of the diachronic frequency development of corpus texts, reveals patterns which not only pinpoint areas that can be usefully examined in detail, but, more importantly, uncovers helpful contextual elements, which can inform the interpretation of results.
- Corpus analysis need not stop at the examination of short concordance lines, but can involve the close analysis of longer stretches of text, or whole texts if necessary – while at the same time retaining the ability to quantify the results.

**REFERENCES:**


GABRIELATOS Costas (Edge Hill University, UK) and Anna MARCHI (Lancaster University, UK)

Keyness: Appropriate metrics and practical issues

KEYWORDS: keyword, frequency differences, effect size, statistical significance, metrics

In this paper we examine the definitions of two widely-used interrelated constructs in corpus linguistics, keyness and keywords, as presented in the literature and corpus software manuals. In particular, we focus on

- the consistency of definitions given in different sources;
- the metrics used to calculate the level of keyness;
- the compatibility between definitions and metrics.

Our survey of studies employing keyword analysis has indicated that the vast majority of studies examine a subset of keywords – almost always the top X number of keywords as ranked by the metric used. This renders the issue of the appropriate metric central to any study using keyword analysis.

In this study, we first argue that an appropriate, and therefore useful, metric for keyness needs to be fully consistent with the definition of keyword. We then use four sets of comparisons between corpora of different types and sizes, in order to test whether and to what extent the use of different metrics affects the ranking of keywords. More precisely, we look at the extent of overlap in the keyword rankings resulting from the adoption of different metrics, and we discuss the implications of ranking-based analysis adopting one metric or another. Finally, we propose a new metric for keyness, and demonstrate a simple way to calculate the metric, which supplements the keyword extraction in existing corpus software.
HOEY Michael (Liverpool University, UK)

**Textual colligation - where corpus linguistics and discourse analysis meet**

**KEYWORDS:** lexical priming, textual colligation, paragraphing, news stories, fiction

Lexical priming theory predicts that the chunking of texts should be lexically driven and that corpora should suggest the kinds of lexical driver that make paragraphing possible. This paper divides into three parts. The first reports an experiment in paragraphing a news story carried out with experienced teachers of English and shows that conventional explanations of paragraphing are of doubtful value; a corpus-based explanation is offered instead. The second reports AHRC-funded corpus-linguistic research undertaken by myself, Matthew Brook O’Donnell, Michaela Mahlberg and Mike Scott into the text beginnings and text chunking of hard news stories, that substantiates the explanation found in the first part. The third part offers highly tentative analyses of the text beginnings and chunking of 19th century English novels in a preliminary attempt to show that the phenomena identified in parts 1 and 2 of my paper are applicable to a genre of a very different kind.
IZQUIERDO-ALEGRIA Damaso & Ramon GONZALEZ-RUIZ (Universidad de Navarra, Spain)

Evaluation through retrospective labels in Spanish editorials: a CADS approach

KEYWORDS: evaluation, retrospective labels, editorials, CADS, stance

Retrospective labels are noun phrases which package the propositional content of previous stretches of text. They are of particular interest in Discourse Studies, since, along with this cohesive function, retrospective labels are able to introduce subjective conceptualizations of their antecedents through the meaning of the words comprising such noun phrases. Therefore, this device often plays an implicit evaluative role: in Yamasaki’s words, “the label’s cohesive function obscures, or takes priority over, the evaluative function, which is performed only implicitly” (2008: 80).

Following the scope of the (still few) studies on the matter (especially López-Samaniego 2011), the aim of this paper is to examine the use of retrospective labels in a newspaper opinion discourse-type: editorials, which “present the official position of a newspaper on a topic that is considered to be of particular societal importance at the time of publication, and, as such, are supposed to carry a significant persuasive value” (Le 2004: 688). More specifically, we have carried out an analysis of the editorials published in 2010 in two major Spanish newspapers belonging to clashing ideologies: El País (left-wing) and ABC (right-wing). The selected texts form altogether a corpus of over 500,000 tokens which was automatically tagged and lemmatized by the corpus builder Sketch Engine.

We adopt a corpus-assisted approach (Partington 2008), insomuch as we combine a balanced quantitative/qualitative methodology: firstly, we made automatic queries based on tag sequences in order to make evident the main retrospective labels in a relatively large corpus; secondly, we explored the evaluative and persuasive force of such occurrences. The data obtained shed light on the way Spanish editorialists attain persuasion: they reveal that retrospective labelling is a very productive resource which seems to play an essential role in conveying stance implicitly, as will be shown in this paper.

REFERENCES:
What are these corpus linguists talking about? An MD-CADS content analysis of the IJCL

KEYWORDS: MD-CADS, academic articles, International Journal of Corpus Linguistics, content analysis, keywords

The purpose of the present study is to highlight changes both in the topics and in the discourse features of academic articles in the field of corpus linguistics over a period of twelve years and provide food for thought about the reasons behind these changes. It can be considered yet another type of modern-diachronic corpus-assisted discourse study (MD-CADS) and it builds upon Taylor (2008).

The corpus examined comprises all the articles published in one of the discipline's most authoritative academic journals, the International Journal of Corpus Linguistics, between 2000 and the end of 2011. Collected in electronic form and divided into subsections both as regards text types (abstracts, article bodies, references, etc.), and period of time (EARLY: 2000-2004; MID: 2005-2008; LATE: 2009-2011), the texts have a total of 1.5 million tokens.

Concordancing software (WordSmith 5.0) was used to compare different parts of the IJCL corpus and highlight keywords and key clusters. This initial stage was followed by qualitative analysis of the concordance lines of keywords occurring over a substantial number of articles in order to identify diachronic changes as well as similarities (see also Taylor Forthcoming) in topics treated as well as lexical trends that could be generalised to the journal and possibly the field as a whole.

Initial findings emerging from keyword analysis suggest that, whereas earlier articles in the IJCL indicated greater focus on topic fields such as translation, terminology and collocation, more focus in later years is placed on discourse, grammar – particularly modality – and spoken language.

A further research direction was introduced by comparing the IJCL corpus with a specially compiled corpus of articles from another social sciences discipline. This comprised all the articles from the online version of Sociology, the journal of the British Sociological Association, between 2008 and 2011, making up a reference corpus of almost 2 million tokens. This has enabled further investigation into what makes corpus linguistics discourse distinctive.

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Taylor, C. Forthcoming. ‘Searching for similarity using corpus-assisted discourse studies’. Corpora 8(2).
KRISHNAMURTHY Ramesh (Aston University, UK)

From “lexical computing” to “corpus linguistics” to “CADS”

KEYWORDS: corpora, linguistics, lexis, discourse, methodology

My early delight in the acquisition and study of languages (1948-1983: Tamil, English, French, Hindi, Latin, German, Sanskrit) resulted in me being called a ‘linguist’ (aka polyglot). However, I grew increasingly despondent at the inadequacy of existing language descriptions, as embodied in dictionaries and grammars, and the seeming futility of the linguistic arguments they engendered (invented example > generalisation; invented counter-example > counter-generalisation).

I was astounded in 1983 on being shown a KWIC concordance from the Cobuild corpus (then 7.3m words), and being asked to produce a description of the highlighted lexical item. Data-driven lexical analysis enabled me to focus on the realities of usage, phraseology, social context, and pragmatics. Corpus methodology gradually unearthed validatable quantitatively-based generalisations, probabilistic patterns, replicable analyses, and arguments could be conducted on observable and measurable features. Coherent and consistent relationships could be traced between lexical forms, grammatical functions, and construed semantics. At least the linguistic phenomena were now objective, and only their interpretation remained subjective.

Eager to discover the benefits of this new corpus-driven lexical approach to the study of language(s), I applied it to lexicography (1987), grammar (1991), pedagogy (1991), semantics (1993), stylistics (1995), ideology (1996), collocation (1997), lexical sets (2000), genre analysis (business language 2001; junk emails 2002), bilingualism (2003), language change (2003), and a variety of other topics (e.g. dialects, swearing, politics, semantic change, suffixes, economics, etymology, Americanisms, internet jargon, CALL, chunks, metaphors, translation, EAP). More recently, much of my research has concerned the discourse surrounding social issues (e.g. climate change 2010; feminism 2010; the UK riots 2012). Hence, I presume, my presence at this conference.

I have considered myself to be a Corpus Linguist for 30 years now, but I am still not quite sure what that means. I still use the same basic methodology as I have always done: a) looking at frequency lists (on the basis that if a feature is frequent, it is significant), now enhanced by n-gram lists; comparing the distributional features with other corpora; b) looking at collocation profiles (as indicators of frequent phraseology and chunks); c) looking at concordances (working towards an understanding of the meanings generated). The corpora have grown much larger, the software has continued to develop (e.g. the keywords function), and my understanding of language and linguistics (hopefully) has broadened, deepened, and grown richer, more complex, and more sophisticated.

John Sinclair’s subtitle for Looking Up (1987) was “An account of the COBUILD Project in lexical computing”, which still strikes me as odd, because it suggests that computing is the primary activity, and relegates lexical computing to a subtype. For me, Corpus Linguistics is still the best description of the activity I engage in, linguistic analytical study which culminates in validation against corpus evidence. I fear that Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies underplays the role of corpora in my research. However, ultimately, I am less concerned by any labels assigned to my work than I am by its quality, rigour, relevance, vitality, and impact.
“We Don’t Torture”: A Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis of New York Times Articles on the War on Terror

KEYWORDS: critical discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, systemic functional grammar, news, terrorism

Since the initial news coverage of the Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo Bay atrocities in 2004, clear and compelling evidence has come to light of the systematic brutality of US interrogations in the war on terror, amounting to war crimes. Newspapers like the New York Times, however, omit the word ‘torture’ from their news coverage when referring to US actions. Backlash from readers led the NYT editors in 2011 to admit that this was their official policy. NYT editors claimed their use of terms like harsh interrogations presented the story in a more neutral way.

Using a combination of techniques from corpus linguistics and critical discourse analysis (CDA), this study presents an analysis of the New York Times’s descriptions of violent interrogations to test their claim of neutrality. These types of studies (Baker et al 2008, Upton & Cohen 2009) can produce more empirical evidence for ideologically significant patterns in news texts.

Here, a corpus of New York Times front page stories on the torture scandal was analyzed to profile the newspaper’s use of the word torture. Using the transitivity framework of systemic functional grammar, concordances of torture were analyzed to identify the Actors and Goals in the co-text, to identify who was torturing whom. Additionally, detailed transitivity analyses of declassified government documents and human rights texts which describe violent interrogations identified the Processes hit, beat, and strip as significantly frequent. The New York Times corpus was then analyzed again to profile the uses of these Processes along with their associated Actors and Goals. Finally, a sample New York Times news text on the Abu Ghraib torture scandal was given a transitivity analysis to identify its Processes denoting physical violence. Throughout this study, descriptions of physical violence were also analyzed to identify how often they appeared as uncontested fact (he was beaten), vs. how often they appeared in a reported clause with potentially doubtful veracity (he claims he was beaten).

When combined, these analyses show that New York Times coverage of the torture scandal did not present events neutrally, as the paper claimed. Journalists ignored available facts and shied away from graphic descriptions, including very few specific accounts of US torture of prisoners, which they presented as doubtful and unsubstantiated. This creates a very different picture of the abuse of detainees than that presented elsewhere, on a morally, politically and legally significant issue.

REFERENCES:

MING Liu (Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong)

Competing and hybridized Discourses over Renminbi Appreciation: A Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) Approach

KEYWORDS: CADS, English media; China Daily, stancetaking, media discourse analysis

The changing Chinese media in a globalizing context have been a subject of intense interest to some communication researchers in the last two decades. It has been acknowledged that China and its media have been increasingly caught in the competing forces of nationalism and globalism, which result in a unity of contradictions in China's media. This is especially true of China's English media, which are known for their special statuses and functions in China's media systems (Guo, 2010; Mody, 2010). While some communication researchers have illuminated the hybridized nature of China's English media through content analysis (e.g., Guo & Huang, 2002), few researchers have sought to examine it through detailed discourse analysis.

This research will focus on China Daily, the largest and also, for a long time, the only English media in China, and aim at illuminating how its hybridized nature affects its ways of representing intergroup conflicts when alternative versions of representations are always available in this globalizing world. The debate over Renminbi exchange rate between the U.S. and China will be taken as a case study. It is proposed that the hybridized nature of China Daily can be revealed through examining its unique ways of stancetaking in its representations of Renminbi issue. All the reports of the Renminbi issue since 2001 in China Daily will be taken to build a China Daily (CD) corpus, and in order to highlight the special nature of China Daily, the coverage of the same issue in the New York Times (NYT) during the same time period will also be taken as a comparable corpus. An integrated framework of stancetaking based on Du Bois’s (2007) concept of stance, Thompson and Hunston’s (2000) theory of evaluation and Martin and White’s (2005) Appraisal theory will be established, and the CADS approach will be employed. For corpus analysis, the corpus-analytic tools Wordsmith 5.0 and Wmatrix 3.0 will be used.

The significance of this research is that it brings together the insights of communication studies and discourse analysis, with a view to providing a better understanding of special nature of China's English newspapers as well as establishing an integrated analytic framework for the analysis of stancetaking in newspapers.

REFERENCES:
"The results demonstrate that ...". A corpus-based analysis of evaluative that-clauses in medical posters

KEYWORDS: Corpus-based analysis, Academic discourse, Specialised discourse, Evaluative that

Poster sessions at scientific conferences made their first appearance in the US in 1974. Since then posters have rapidly become a major format for scientific communication at conferences. Although there are many scientific guidelines for poster preparation and presentation, little attention has been paid to the study of scientific academic posters from a linguistic perspective. This may depend on the fact that posters are commonly regarded as less prestigious than research papers (Swales, 2004; Swales/Feak, 2000). This genre has probably been neglected also because of the predominance of visual elements in it. There are, nevertheless, textual traits which characterise the inductive reasoning typical of scientific discourse, in general, and of medicine, in particular, in that generalization and theoretical abstraction derive from specific observations of certain phenomena. In posters, due to space/length constraints, generalised and theoretical claims tend to be lexicalized or ‘topicalized’, rather than discussed. Thus their relevance needs to be recognized synoptically. As Sala (forthcoming) claims, such recognisability is obtained through adherence to domain-specific epistemological peculiarities in representing effectively how knowledge and the process of knowledge-making take place to persuade the reader of the associated poster’s worth. One of the most powerful ways of expressing evaluative meaning in academic discourse is by means of that clauses (Hyland/Tse 2005).

It is the purpose of this research to investigate evaluative that-clauses in order to see how the inductive reasoning of scientific discourse is organized in medical posters. This study, comprising a corpus of 532 medical posters (1,043,570 running words) presented at international conferences, draws on Hyland / Tse (2005) in trying to classify the type of evaluative that-clauses in terms of evaluative stance, evaluative entity, evaluative source and evaluative expression. The results suggest that the various classes of evaluative that are differently distributed: from authorial self-reference in the Introduction section there is a switch to data reference in the Results and Discussion sections. In addition, epistemic stance, present almost everywhere, seems to foreground the highest degree of objectivity and reliability. In this context, the authorial voice appears as a mere instrumental tool metadiscursively guiding the reader into the right interpretation of facts and findings. This seems to be supported by the presence of verbs in the matrix clause introducing the that-complementizer, which refer to research procedure (demonstrate, show, indicate) and cognitive processes (suppose, assume, hypothesize) featuring the scientific mind at work.

REFERENCES:
MARCHI Anna (Lancaster University, UK)

“Times, they are a-changeable”: Different MD-CADS perspectives on tracking the “Arab Spring”

KEYWORDS: diachronic analysis, research design, methodology.

What do we mean by diachronic analysis? Since, quite indisputably, everything happens in time, anything can potentially be studied diachronically. There is no “right” span, diachronic simply indicates the type of variable we are primarily interested in, i.e. time. In this talk I wish to explore paths of research design and address some methodological issues concerning diachronic analysis.

Contrary to what could be expected from the title, and I hope not too disappointingly, you won’t hear much in terms of findings about the Arab uprising. You will be presented instead with a series of doubts and choices about how to approach a phenomenon such as the evolution over a period of time of the representation of the so called Arab Spring in a corpus of White House press briefings.

The issue of time units and the level aggregation of time variables will be discussed in detail and the corpus will be tested in various ways, in order to address the issue of how the segmentation of research units affects the analysis. Both epistemological and practical considerations will be taken into account, such as the specific characteristics of the study corpus (e.g. size, contextual information, and so on), the problem of proliferation of variables and the issue of superimposed divisions as opposed to bottom-up segmentation.

The case studies of Egypt, Libya and Syria will be explored in some detail, in particular by means of comparative collocation analysis and future directions of the analysis will be introduced, if “time” allows.
McENERY Tony (Lancaster University, UK)

Primed for Violence? Language and violence, a case study

KEYWORDS: lexical priming, violence, radicalization, discourse community

This talk will explore the link between language and violence. I will look at one discourse in particular, jihadist discourse, in order to describe, exemplify and theorise the link between language and violence. To do so I will use and develop the apparatus of lexical priming theory (Hoey, 2005) and critical discourse analysis (Fairclough, 1989; Wodak and Meyer, 2001) to show that, at a level not recoverable necessarily to the conscious mind, it is possible to account for how an incitement to violence is being promoted by a text within a discourse community. To do this I will explore collocational networks and link that method to critical discourse analysis and lexical priming theory.
PACE-SIGGE Michael (Liverpool University, UK, and the University of East Finland)

Can do – but able to? The occurrence patterns in informal communication corpora and what they might tell us.

KEYWORDS: able to, E-mail corpus, Occurrence-pattern, Prosody, SMS corpus, Spoken language, stance marker

“English has a rich supply of grammatical devices used to express “stance”, epistemic or attitudinal comments on propositional information.” (Biber 2004: 107). Biber, Conrad, and Reppen (1998: Chapter 8) describe a general decline in the use of modals over the past centuries, whilst highlighting a rise in the use of semi-modals. However Biber expresses doubt why able to or need to can be called a semi-modal (2004: 108f.). Berman et al. call able to “an expression of prepositional attitude” (2002: 24) and there is agreement that there is rather little research in this rare stance marker.

The positive prosody of the item able (to) is reflected in the OED definition: “having the means, capacity, or qualifications to do something; having sufficient power; in such a position that a particular action is possible; worthy, qualified, competent, capable”. The use of the term in a more informal setting could be expected to reflect this high self-belief. Can do and able to appear to be rather frequent in use in self-help and motivational literature and Tiggelaar, for example, links it to what is termed personal growth and the ability to change (cf. Tiggelaar 2007: vii). This paper looks at the occurrence of able and whether it can be seen as an indication of a can-do attitude or whether presence (or absence) does only reflect colligational patterns or reveals deeper socio-cultural attitudes.

For the purpose of this research, the focus is on forms of communication classed as less formal than the standard written corpus. Evidence from several transcript-corpora of informal British English varieties, private e-mails, Spam and the Enron e-mail corpus as well as corpora of short message service items (SMS or text) will be investigated. The use of can do and able to will be investigated in the context of both its source and usage in order to see whether, beyond the schematic search for high-frequency items or key words, a targeted analysis of words with a highly prosodic value can be seen as a suitable approach when undertaking corpus-based CDA.

REFERENCES:
PARTINGTON Alan (University of Bologna, Italy)

CADS: When challenges are virtues

KEYWORDS: discourse organisation, lexical priming, evaluative cohesion, irony, scientific honesty

Corpus-assisted discourse studies is a broad enough church but not totally ecumenical or all-forgiving. In this introductory talk I want to outline some of the church architecture and some of the righteous practices that offer an opportunity for success and Salvation as well as one or two bad ones that lead to wrack, ruin and the Other Place.

Drawing mainly on work conducted by the SiBol group (on the simple basis that it’s what I know best) I give some indication of the eclecticism both of topics and of corpus techniques. Always up for a challenge, the SiBolites have frequently concentrated on themes regarded as thorny issues for (semi-)automated analyses, for example, metaphor, irony, wordplay and the search for similarities rather than differences across varieties of language.

CADS practitioners are very much “linguists-who-use-corpora” as well as corpus linguists and I want, therefore, to outline some of the ways CADS has contributed to three major areas of contemporary language theory, namely, Sinclair’s description of discourse organisation, lexical priming and evaluation. I will argue that these are not separate systems but are synergetic. The Sinclairian idiom principle predicts that we are primed with expectations about which items normally occur together, whilst the principle of evaluative harmony or cohesion is one of the principle psycho-pragmatic forces influencing which items tend to – and we are primed to expect to - co-occur in texts.

We will also muse on how CADS sits within the wider framework of scientific research methodology, including on the interplay of inductive information accumulation and hypothesis testing, on what we mean by scientific objectivity, on the fostering of the “culture of the counter-example”, on the role of cherry-picking (when it’s allowed and when it’s to be avoided), on how to stay scientifically “honest”. We might then contrast this with some of the “cargo-cult science” (Feynman) practices often on display in a more politicised field like critical discourse analysis where all too often, to coin a phrase, “the science is settled” before it has even begun.
SAWAKI Tomoko (University of New South Wales, Australia)

Engagement analysis between the traditional and postmodern history thesis corpora

KEYWORDS: Interpersonal elements; Academic writing; UAM corpus tool; Postmodernism; Stance taking

Despite the recent attention to interpersonal elements in discourse analysis, the quantitative analysis methods that investigate such elements are still under-developed. Many unexplored interpersonal features of discourse may be revealed through the corpus coding of interpersonal elements, and the statistical processing of the coded texts.

This current paper examines the different stances taken by authors in academic writing. For the analytical framework, it uses the system of Engagement, which has been developed within Appraisal theory (Martin & White, 2001). Despite the recent rapid development in Appraisal theory, the majority of Appraisal analysis has been conducted qualitatively. Hence, this current paper is one of the first attempts to quantitatively examine Appraisal resources.

The data comprises 40 introductory chapters taken randomly from history PhD theses produced in Australian universities during the time period of 2000–2010. The total size of the dataset is 230,707 words. It was decided to use history theses as the data source because humanity theses have been reported to be becoming increasingly personal and subjective, with the emergence of postmodernism (Casanave, 2010; Hall, 1985; Hodge, 1998; among others). As such it can be considered interesting to examine how the distributions of Engagement resources differ, depending on whether the thesis author takes the typical traditional or the postmodern stance toward history writing.

First, a moves analysis was conducted to identify postmodern personal anecdotes, and those that contained such anecdotes were grouped as ‘the corpus that contains postmodern moves’ and the remainder as ‘the traditional corpus’ (Sawaki, 2012). Second, the Engagement resources of each corpus were coded manually using the UAM corpus tool (2008). Finally, the occurrences of each of the Engagement resources between the traditional and postmodern corpora were examined using a chi-square test. The statistical testing was conducted by the software R.

The results show that the traditional corpus is significantly high in ‘acknowledge’ and ‘endorse’ resources, whereas the postmodern corpus is high in ‘deny’ and ‘entertain’ resources. Qualitative analysis was conducted to explain the results, concluding that the authors’ different stances toward history writing lead to different occurrences of Engagement resources.

REFERENCES:
SEALEY Alison (University of Birmingham, UK)

Corpus assisted discourse analysis – an interdisciplinary resource?

KEYWORDS: cross-disciplinarity; social theory; collaboration; re-use of data; methodology

This presentation will report on three projects where existing data, collected by social scientists, has been processed for corpus assisted discourse analysis and reinvestigated by the presenter. It will use examples from each of these projects to demonstrate how the tools of the corpus assisted discourse analyst can be used to shed new light on the data, as well as how the expertise of researchers in other disciplines can contribute to the research pursued by the discourse analyst.

Project 1
150 oral history interviews were conducted in a large English city to mark the millennium. This was a collaborative project funded by several local institutions, including a university, a newspaper and the City Council. The interviews were conducted by experienced oral historians, and deposited with the Central Library for posterity, including for further research. The transcripts were processed for linguistic analysis, and comprise a corpus of 1.8 million words. Findings from the corpus-based analysis are reported in two journal articles by the presenter (one published, one in press), and reveal both social and linguistic patterns which are currently being further explored in Project 2.

Project 2
The social theorist, Professor Margaret Archer, has published extensively on structure, culture, agency and reflexivity. This last theme is explored empirically, in a project funded by the ESRC, by means of an extensive set of interviews with a wide range of participants about their ‘internal conversations’. Her own analysis gives rise to a typology of ‘modes of reflexivity’ which people articulate as they reflect on their subjective responses to their objective circumstances. The transcripts of these interviews, processed into corpus format, are being analysed by the presenter to explore how far Archer’s typology is supported by linguistic patterns in these self-reports.

Project 3
A leading scholar in the field of human-animal relations, Professor Nickie Charles, worked with the Mass Observation Archive on a directive asking panellists to write about the role of animals in their lives. Their responses have been made available in digital form to the presenter for corpus analysis, so that, again, the insights deriving from the qualitative sociological analysis and the linguistic patterns can be compared and the extent of their complementarity explored.

The presentation will consider a number of the methodological and conceptual issues that are raised by this kind of collaboration.

REFERENCES:
SPINZI Cinzia (University of Bologna, Italy)

Appraising security across the years. A synergy between corpus and system.

KEYWORDS: diplomatic discourse; security; appraisal; concgram; ideology

Despite its resistance to change, diplomatic discourse is undergoing a process of transformation due to a more “complex, interwoven and fast-moving global environment” (Margaret Beckett’s speech 2007). This study is concerned with the constant evolution of word meanings due to changes in context and, more ambitiously, with their evaluation across the years. If language change constitutes one of the focuses of Corpus Linguistics, the “voyageur sans bagages” for the "relative absence of theoretical elaboration" (Hunston and Thompson 2006: 3), the analysis of the ways in which speakers "negotiate and naturalize subjective and ultimately ideological position" (Miller 2002: 120) is the object of study of the Appraisal Theory (Martin and White, 2005), grounded within the Systemic Functional Grammar, namely “un système où tout se tient” (Hunston and Thompson, 2006: 3).

Hence, this work also addresses the theme of bringing together two complementary strands of linguistic investigation placing itself in the recent tradition that combines Corpus Linguistics and Systemic Functional Grammar (Koller and Mautner 2004; Bayley 2008; Miller and Johnson 2009). It shows how linguistic analysis can help to uncover some of the evaluative meanings target readers are routinely exposed to.

The results come from a corpus-assisted discourse study of diplomatic speeches, seen as the expression of the foreign policy of a country, delivered by the British Foreign Ministers and covering a time span of fifteen years. The corpus was interrogated using two pieces of software WordSmith Tools 5.0 (Scott, 2007) and ConCgram (Greaves, 2009) so as to identify the concgrams of security and their canonical forms (e.g. collective security; the threat to security; climate security) across the different ministers.

Security, evaluated on the scale of ‘significance’ (Martin and White 2005), has shown a continual evolution over the years and is undergoing a process of ‘rescaling’: from its main traditional meaning linked to territorialisation, it is penetrating all levels of ‘governance’. Furthermore, the interaction between the two approaches has provided the means of depicting the way in which ideological discursive positions are construed globally across texts and ministers.

REFERENCES:
I want to use this paper to argue that the search for similarity in discourse analysis is equally as important as the search for difference. Indeed, as Baker (2006: 182) notes, the way that differences and similarities interact with each other is ‘an essential part of any comparative corpus-based study of discourse’. Although it has often been noted that corpus-assisted discourse analysis is inherently comparative (e.g. Partington 2009), I emphasise that such comparison does not exclusively imply the analysis of difference and discuss ways in which the analysis of similarity can be productively incorporated into our existing frameworks. In the paper, first, I will set out the reasons why I consider the search for similarity to be relevant to the analysis of discourse using corpus linguistics, I will then go on to survey some possible ways of doing this, and finally I take the representation of boy/s and girl/s in British broadsheet newspapers as a case-study in order to explore what we can learn from applying a similarity-centred approach.

REFERENCES:
And there it isn’t: (how) can we access the absent using CADS?

KEYWORDS: absence, methodology, migration

According to Baker (2006: 183) ‘presence tends to take precedence over absence in a corpus, because we often may not know what is missing’. This in turn may lead to a skewed and potential misleading picture of the discourse under analysis. In this paper, I address the issue of absence and attempt to group and identify some ways in which we can identify what is not in the corpus when combining corpus linguistics and discourse analysis. As such, this paper falls into a methodological tradition of developing and grouping resources that help us to avoid bias or (partial) blindness where possible.

Absence may be an issue at several different levels; from the corpus construction (is it as representative as possible?) to the various stages of the analysis. If we consider Fowler’s crystallising statement that “there are always different ways of saying the same thing, and they are not accidental alternatives. Differences in expression carry ideological distinctions (and thus differences in representation)” (Fowler, 1991: 4), then it is clear that (critical) discourse analysis is founded upon the analysis of present and absent choices. As such, the issue of absence is not unique to corpus-assisted discourse studies, but to all discourse studies. In this paper, I explore how we may try to tackle the issue employing both analyses that start from corpus linguistic methodologies and from discourse analytical tools in order to get a richer perspective on the data. For instance, from the corpus perspective we may attempt to identify (potential) absence through selecting/creating relevant corpora in order to use one of the central tools; keywords. While from the more discourse analytical starting point, methods may include the analysis of grammatical relations (are certain participants or processes missing?) or, similarly, but at a different linguistic level, using frame-based approaches (are certain expected slots left unfilled?). In addition, the integrated use of non-linguistic contextual data may be employed to establish a set of expectations about the data which will allow for absence to be identified.

In order to explore the range of methods available, I take my current research project into the representation of migrants as a case-study and investigate what additional information may be gained through the search for absence – and where we cannot (yet) identify what is not in the discourse.

REFERENCES:
TSUCHIYA Keiko (Tokai University, Japan) and Kumiko MURATA (Waseda University, Japan)

A diachronic corpus-based analysis of the terms ‘housewife’ and ‘shufu’ in British and Japanese newspaper articles

KEYWORDS: diachronic corpus, gender studies, written discourse, newspaper archives, Japan and the UK

This presentation will report on a diachronic corpus-based analysis examining how housewives (or shufu) have been described in British and Japanese newspaper articles over the past 30 years and what is implied by their descriptions in terms of their relationship with the respective societies, i.e., Japan and the UK. It compares articles from a Japanese newspaper, Nihon Keizai Shimbun (hereafter, The Nikkei) with articles from a British newspaper, The Financial Times (The FT). The selected articles include the words ‘shufu’ and ‘housewife’ respectively and are compared both qualitatively and quantitatively. The frequencies of ‘shufu’ in the articles of The Nikkei, a Japanese equivalent of The FT, and ‘housewife’ in The FT from 1982 to 2010 were compared. In addition, detailed qualitative text analyses were diachronically conducted in the articles in 1982 and 2010.

Thus, this study integrates diachronic corpus-based analysis with detailed text analysis based on close reading. The focus of the analyses is placed on descriptions of housewives in the newspaper articles through the eyes of the writers, which could partially be reflecting societal values and gender roles. This approach is worthwhile as there seem to be only a limited number of projects which analyse gendered texts in newspapers using diachronic corpora (Baker 2010; Fasold et al. 1990; Stubbs 1996).

The results show that the explicit assumption that housewives are responsible for household chores is shared in the articles in 1982 and 2010 both in The Nikkei and in The FT. However, some changes were observed in the total number of occurrences and the references of the term ‘housewife’ in The FT in 1982 and in 2010, which might imply changes in the writers’ awareness of gender issues.

In sum, the assumption that housewives do household chores does not seem to have changed over the three decades in Japan despite the social and political changes during the same period. By contrast, the tendency seems to have weakened in the UK.

REFERENCES:
Dancing with corpus linguistics: A comparison study of media discourse in Hong Kong and Mainland China

KEYWORDS: media discourse, corpus-assisted discourse analysis, social context, Mainland China, five categories of co-selection

Understanding a single lexical item requires more than just a grasp of the literal meaning of it but involves more effort in the understanding of the underlying meanings. A seemingly simple geographical item, noi6 dei6 (内地) (literally means Mainland) referring to Mainland China in Chinese media, can actually convey totally different messages depending on what kind of content this item appearing in and on what kind of context in which it is produced, as compared to, for example, the media in Hong Kong. This study will first examine the different usages of two Chinese items, i.e., daai6 luk6 (大陆 in Traditional Chinese characters) and noi6 dei6 (内地 in Traditional Chinese characters) as the proper nouns of Mainland China but carrying different social connotations in Hong Kong media. A Chinese corpus has been compiled for this study to investigate how these two lexical words are used in Hong Kong media discourse after the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997. The findings on the usage of these two terms will be later compared to the use of dà lù (大陆 in Simplified Chinese) and nèi dì (内地 in Simplified Chinese) in The Lancaster Corpus of Mandarin Chinese (LCMC) (McEnery & Xiao, 2004), a corpus created based on written Mandarin Chinese published in Mainland China. The study aims to look into the distinctive usage of these two items in the media of Hong Kong and Mainland China through the application of the model of extended lexical units (Sinclair, 1996, 2004) in order to have a better understanding of the underlying meanings of these core words by studying their co-occurring items with the help of ICTCLAS (Zhang, 2011), a Chinese word segmentation and part-of-speech tagging system, and AntConc (Anthony, 2011).

Different connotative meanings are found to be attached to these two geographical items in different social contexts. The findings of this study indicate that language meaning is a context-specific process that cannot be separated from the social context in which the discourse is produced. It is also argued that corpus-assisted discourse analysis allows us to examine the language patterns of a lexical item through looking into the concordances and the context in which the lexical item is produced.

REFERENCES:
Email addresses and affiliations of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valentina Adami</td>
<td><a href="mailto:valentina.adami@univr.it">valentina.adami@univr.it</a></td>
<td>University of Verona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Alessi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:glennalessi@mac.com">glennalessi@mac.com</a></td>
<td>University of Modena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatemeh Torabi Asr</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fatemeh@coli.uni-saarland.de">fatemeh@coli.uni-saarland.de</a></td>
<td>Saarland University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Baker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:p.baker@lancaster.ac.uk">p.baker@lancaster.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Lancaster University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Baker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:baker@unizar.es">baker@unizar.es</a></td>
<td>Academia General Militar de Zaragoza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shala Barcewska</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sbar@ujk.edu.pl">sbar@ujk.edu.pl</a></td>
<td>Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monika Bednarek</td>
<td><a href="mailto:monika.bednarek@sydney.edu.au">monika.bednarek@sydney.edu.au</a></td>
<td>University of Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miguel-Angel Benitez-Castro</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mabenitez@ugr.es">mabenitez@ugr.es</a></td>
<td>University of Granada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinzia Buldorini</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cinzia.buldorini@libero.it">cinzia.buldorini@libero.it</a></td>
<td>Macerata University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oana Maria Carciu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ocarciu@unizar.es">ocarciu@unizar.es</a></td>
<td>University of Zaragoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ji-Myoung Choi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amancio.choi@gmail.com">amancio.choi@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Yonsei University, South Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Clarke</td>
<td><a href="mailto:caroline.clark@unipd.it">caroline.clark@unipd.it</a></td>
<td>University of Padua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Coffey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:coffey@cli.unipi.it">coffey@cli.unipi.it</a></td>
<td>University of Pisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Costelloe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Laura.Costelloe@ul.ie">Laura.Costelloe@ul.ie</a></td>
<td>University of Limerick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Václav Cvrček</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vaclav.cvrcek@ff.cuni.cz">vaclav.cvrcek@ff.cuni.cz</a></td>
<td>Charles University, Prague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matteo Di Cristoforo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:m.dicristofaro@lancaster.ac.uk">m.dicristofaro@lancaster.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Lancaster University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Duguid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:duguid@unisi.it">duguid@unisi.it</a></td>
<td>University of Siena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberta Facchetti</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roberta.facchetti@univr.it">roberta.facchetti@univr.it</a></td>
<td>University of Verona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Fagan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:faganj@aston.ac.uk">faganj@aston.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Aston University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federica Ferrari</td>
<td><a href="mailto:federica.ferrari10@unibo.it">federica.ferrari10@unibo.it</a></td>
<td>University of Bologna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Fragaki</td>
<td><a href="mailto:efraga@phil.uoa.gr">efraga@phil.uoa.gr</a></td>
<td>Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costas Gabrielatos</td>
<td><a href="mailto:costas@gabrielatos.com">costas@gabrielatos.com</a></td>
<td>Edge Hill University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Hoey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hoeymp@liverpool.ac.uk">hoeymp@liverpool.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>University of Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dámaso Izquierdo-Alegría</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dizquierdo@alumni.unav.es">dizquierdo@alumni.unav.es</a></td>
<td>Universidad de Navarra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janehelen.johnson@unibo.it">janehelen.johnson@unibo.it</a></td>
<td>University of Bologna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramesh Krishnamurthy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:r.krishnamurthy@aston.ac.uk">r.krishnamurthy@aston.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Aston University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Lingle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lingle-w@kanda.kuis.ac.jp">lingle-w@kanda.kuis.ac.jp</a></td>
<td>Kanda University of International Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefania Maci</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stefania.maci@unibg.it">stefania.maci@unibg.it</a></td>
<td>University of Bergamo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcello Maneri</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marcello.maneri@unimib.it">marcello.maneri@unimib.it</a></td>
<td>University of Milan – Bicocca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Marchi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.marchi@lancaster.ac.uk">a.marchi@lancaster.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Lancaster University/University of Bologna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony McEnery</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.mcenery@lancaster.ac.uk">a.mcenery@lancaster.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Lancaster University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Milizia</td>
<td><a href="mailto:d.milizia@scienzepolitiche.uniba.it">d.milizia@scienzepolitiche.uniba.it</a></td>
<td>University of Bari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liu Ming</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liumingford@gmail.com">liumingford@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Hong Kong Polytechnic University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Morley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:morley@unisi.it">morley@unisi.it</a></td>
<td>University of Siena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Murphy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.murphy@unicatt.it">amanda.murphy@unicatt.it</a></td>
<td>Università Cattolica di Milano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cristina Nisco</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cristinansico@hotmail.com">cristinansico@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>University of Naples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoshiyuki Notohara</td>
<td><a href="mailto:notohara@nifty.com">notohara@nifty.com</a></td>
<td>Doshisha University, Kyoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Pace-Sigge</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scouse@liverpool.ac.uk">scouse@liverpool.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>University of Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Partington</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alanscott.partington@unibo.it">alanscott.partington@unibo.it</a></td>
<td>University of Bologna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoko Sawaki</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tomokosawakigillard@gmail.com">tomokosawakigillard@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>University of New South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Sealey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.j.sealey@bham.ac.uk">a.j.sealey@bham.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>University of Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinzia Spinzi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cinzia.spinzi@unibo.it">cinzia.spinzi@unibo.it</a></td>
<td>University of Bologna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Stermieri</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anna.stermieri@unimore.it">anna.stermieri@unimore.it</a></td>
<td>University of Modena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Taylor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Charlotte.Taylor@port.ac.uk">Charlotte.Taylor@port.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Portsmouth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanie Tsiamita</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Fanie.Tsiamita@liverpool.ac.uk">Fanie.Tsiamita@liverpool.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>University of Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keiko Tsuchiya</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tsuchiya.keiko@gmail.com">tsuchiya.keiko@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Tokai University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco Venuti</td>
<td><a href="mailto:venuti@unina.it">venuti@unina.it</a></td>
<td>University of Naples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francesca Vigo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vigof@unict.it">vigof@unict.it</a></td>
<td>University of Catania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Hoi-Lun WAN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helen.wan@ucl.ac.uk">helen.wan@ucl.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>University College London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Yi-Jia WANG</td>
<td><a href="mailto:egjcwang@inet.polyu.edu.hk">egjcwang@inet.polyu.edu.hk</a></td>
<td>The Hong Kong Polytechnic University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cesare Zanca</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zanca@unisi.it">zanca@unisi.it</a></td>
<td>University of Siena</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature Straniere Moderne
Università di Bologna

Conference organising committee
Alan Partington, Anna Marchi, Jane Johnson, Costas Gabrielatos, Alison Duguid,
John Morley, Charlotte Taylor, Federica Ferrari.

Cover: Allegory of Grammar (Laurent de La Hyre, 1650)