Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

PhD Applied Linguistics (Lexical Studies)
February 2020 Newsletter

Contents

Dear students, friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the February newsletter for the Applied Linguistics (Lexical Studies) group. We are now looking forward to the Lexical Networks Conference on the 5th and 6th March. This year, we are moving the conference back to the Swansea University Singleton campus. The conference was hosted here in the early days of the (then) Vocabulary Acquisition Research Group, and now we can take advantage of the new meeting rooms in Taliesin Create, where inspiration abounds.... We're very pleased to welcome Tony Clark, Senior Research Manager at Cambridge Assessment, as keynote speaker. Tony collaborated with us on a language teaching report for Welsh Government in 2018, and you may have been lucky enough to be at the plenary talk he gave with Guoxing Yu, his then supervisor, at the 2017 BAAL Vocab SIG ("extracting sunlight from cucumbers"!), or to hear his excellent closing remarks at the Language Testing Forum last autumn. Our other keynote speaker is, as always, Paul Meara, founder of the research group, who this year will be speaking on "The state of the art?" (yes, with a question mark...).

If the weather where you are has been like the weather in Swansea these past few weeks you'll have forgotten what a blue sky looks like. Cornelia's found a picture (left) to remind you, complete with daffodils to wish you Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus for Sunday.

This month's newsletter includes congratulations, publications, and a call for book reviews. Please send your contributions and intentions for submissions to Cornelia.

Best wishes,

Tess and Cornelia

Newsletter produced by the Department of Applied Linguistics at Swansea University, in collaboration with CLCR Cardiff University

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News from the Network

Thank you to all those who have let us know that you plan to attend the **2020 Lexical Studies conference**. If you are giving a presentation, including a poster presentation, and have not sent us your abstract yet (about 200 words) please do it now!

We send our congratulations to Dr Miguel Varela, our most recent graduate in the PhD programme. Miguel successfully defended his thesis on spaced repetition of vocabulary in January. Miguel was supervised by Cornelia Tschichold and examined by Tammy Alexiou and Jim Milton.

Jeff Stewart has sent us news about a paper that he published in *System* with Tim Stoeckel and others. The study was presented at Vocab@Tokyo, showing that VST tests with "I don't know" options are worse at predicting active recall of vocab knowledge than VST versions that don't use them. This study was cited by Batia Laufer and later Jeff, Stuart Mclean and Aaron Batty replied to this in a Language Testing paper. Jeff would love to hear the network's take on this debate!

Jill Bogg's paper on corrective feedback was published last month – we recommend reading it! Boggs, J. A. (2019). Effects of teacher-scaffolded and self-scaffolded corrective feedback compared to direct corrective feedback on grammatical accuracy in English L2 writing. *Journal of Second Language Writing*, *46*, 100671.

The Department of Applied Linguistics was well represented again this year in the Swansea University Research and Innovation Awards. Nuria Lorenzo Dus won the award for Outstanding Research Supervision; you'll remember that this award went to Jim Milton last year.

Steve Morris and Tess Fitzpatrick were shortlisted for the Outstanding Contribution to the Arts, Culture and Society award for their work on *Welsh and Applied Linguistics* projects.

A big thank you must go to Federica, who always keeps her ear to the ground in these matters and who sent us, among other things, this call for book reviews for the *Australian Review of Applied Linguistics*. The topics should cover all the areas you are interested in!

> ***Australian Review of Applied Linguistics*** [(ARAL) https://benjamins.com/catalog/aral] is currently calling for **book reviews** and welcome reviews of books related to all areas surrounding applied linguistics. Topics include but are not limited to sociolinguistics, research methods, second language acquisition, language teaching, assessment, technology-enhanced language teaching, and language policy.
>
> It is a great opportunity for researchers and practitioners, particularly **emergent researchers and doctoral students**, to contribute your reviews to ARAL. They are also looking for more scholars to join the **reviewer team** of ARAL. If you would like to discuss your book review proposal or contribute your expertise as a reviewer to ensure the rigor and efficiency of ARAL, please email the editorial team at **araleditor@gmail.com**. (posted on Social Media)

And another opportunity for publishing your work: ELT Research is inviting contributions on research in English language learning, teaching and assessment from around the world, news of research-related events, and links to web-resources. The submission deadline is the end of June. For details, see the IATEFL Research SIG website. It seems perfect for PhD students who may have done a pilot study or have other things in progress.

This year's IRIS Replication Award has been launched. Please have a look on the IRIS website for more details. Submissions for this year's prize of £300 close on 30th November 2020.

Quote of the month

"When they're done properly, one-person studies can have all of the statistical power and scientific rigor of studies involving hundreds or thousands of people." From Chris Woolston's **The Value of One: What can we learn from case studies?**

Dates for your diary

- **2020 Lexical Studies conference**: Swansea, 5-6 March 2020.
- **BAAL Vocabulary Studies SIG Annual Conference 2020**: University of Sheffield, 23rd and 24th April, 2020. Please note that registration closes on the 29th of March, 2020 https://baalvocabsig.wordpress.com/
- Eurosla 2020 will be in Barcelona on 1-4 July 2020. See https://www.eurosla.org/first-call-for-papers-eurosla-30-2020/
- BAAL 2020 will be at Northumbria University on 3-5 September 2020 . See https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/news-events/events/2020/09/baal-2020/

Study tips and resources

Those of you planning on coming to Swansea for the first week in March, have a look at the list of courses for postgraduates available to you:

- Monday (am)　　　The balanced researcher
- Monday (pm)　　　The seven secrets of highly effective researchers
- Tuesday (am)　　　Planning your research career
- Thursday (am)　　　Advanced Endnote
- Friday (am)　　　Muddled about metrics

Swansea students can book any of these courses [here](#).

On Friday morning there will be a course on "Managing Workloads and Organising Research" specifically for Arts and Humanities research students. This course is open to all PhD students attending the conference.

Task for this month

All students have now chosen their paper to summarize and we'll proceed to the first step in the summarizing, with the aim of arriving at an OASIS summary by the summer. The first step is to read the paper and draft the "What the researchers did" section. This gives the methodology as a bulleted list, using non-technical language. Please consult the OASIS guidelines for examples of translating technical into non-technical language.

Please submit to Cornelia at c.tschichold@swansea.ac.uk by 6 March 2020.

This month's webpages

Andrew Wimhurst sent us a link to an article about the humble word *the*: [Is this the most powerful word in the English language](#)?

With the recent travel restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak, apps for language learning may become (even) more popular. Here is a piece from the BBC on this topic: [Language apps: Can phones replace classrooms](#)?

If health issues are more your cup of tea, have a look at this: [Languages affected differently by brain disease](#), also from the BBC.