

# Eurolinguistics Newsletter

No. 8 (April-Mai 2012) The Eurolinguistic Circle of Mannheim (ELAMA, e. V.) on behalf of The Eurolinguistic Association (ELA)

## Editorial

Dear Eurolinguists,

This eighth issue of the Newsletter contains three conference reports: First, we report on the Roma Convegno 2011, which was a major event with more than 40 papers and three different programmes between April 18-20 at three different universities in Rome.

Second, we report on the smaller conference in Božava on the Island of Dugi Otok in the Adriatic Sea outside the city of Zadar, 18-20 May.

Third and finally, we also give a short report on the Transeurasian symposium held at the University of Leuven in Belgium between 21-23 September, 2011.

Under the common topic “Language, Culture and Identity”, the Roma Convegno 2011 was started at the Tor Vergata University on April 18 with 12 papers on “Eating and Identity” in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. It was not so much the food itself which was focused upon, but rather its cultural, historical and traditional heritage and evidence of its special status in Italy: a) business and marketing; b)



Fig. 1: Monument to Victor Emanuel II and Trajan's Column in Rome

the naming of people and places from food denotations; c) the role of bread and local changes in how it is eaten over the past 50 years; d) the food at Papal Banquets and its names between the Renaissance and the Baroque; e) the presentation of Mediterranean diet; f) the connection between food and tourism in Italy; g) the culinary metaphors between the Ancient and Modern World; h) the importance of food names and gastronomics for the economy in different European countries (See the more detailed report below in 1.1-1.5).

The next day, on April 19, at ‘La Sapienza’, nine papers on different topics were offered: “Eurolinguistics and Communication”, opening with the importance of a unified na-

tional language (e.g. Italian as a Radio and TV language), but also the important role of local dialects and the great value of linguistic varieties, populist language and different registers for everyday communication were discussed. The whole spectrum of further papers cannot be discussed here (See the detailed account, also in 1.1-1.5 below). Suffice it here to mention the characteristics of the Second Session at ‘La Sapienza’ besides the very popular performance of the Neapolitan comedian Alessandro Siani.

The second main programme at “La Sapienza” was, however, of a more serious nature under the heading of “Translation and Interpretation”: 1) Language as a Tool of Categorization; 2) Doctor – non-



Native Patient Interaction; 3) Problems of Financing a TV show or a Documentary. In all, there were nine papers presented on the second day (April 19) at 'La Sapienza' in the first morning session.

Another nine papers were held in the second session of the afternoon (April 19) at 'La Sapienza', where other topics such as 4) Linguistic Certification (TOESP) were discussed; 5) Common features of Cognitive and Latent Europeanization; 6) Identity, Language and Intercultural Writers; 7) Areal linguistics and Suprasegmental Patterns; 8) The Language of Promotion and Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome. The third day (April 20) at the Università Tre was devoted to the overall topic "Cultural Identities, Idioms and Languages of Global Communication" in a number of papers: 9) Hegemonic and Minority Languages; 10) LSJeuropean – an International Common Language for Europe; 11) Tourism and Language; 12) Imagination as a Performative Act; 13) European Lexicography; 14) Linguistic Repertoire and Identity; 15) Evolution of Women's Language; 16) Anglicization and English-Indianization; 17) Dialectic Relationship between Identity, Language and Culture; 18) Media and Otherness and the Advent of the Homo Digitalis; 19) National Identity and Gender Nationality.

After this series of lectures a round-table discussion con-

cluded the session at the Università Tre.

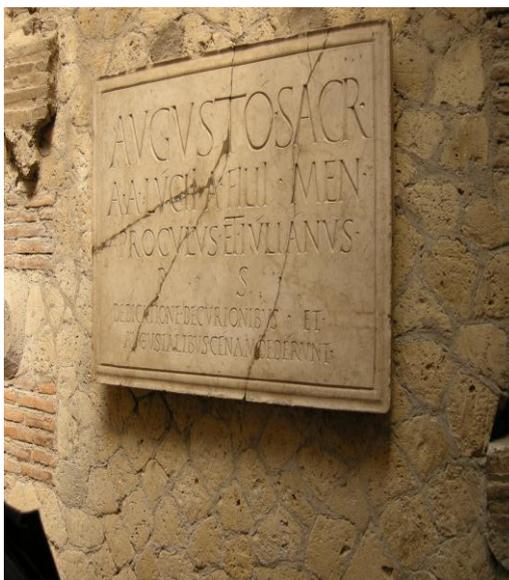


Fig. 2: Roman inscription "AVGVSTO.SACR" on a Palatine wall

Whereas more than 40 papers in all were presented on the topics: "Language Culture and Identity (at Tor Vergata Univ.), EuroLinguistics and Communication (at 'La Sapienza') and Cultural Identities, Idioms and Global Communication (at Università Tre), there were only a few papers with explicit formal linguistic aspects in an ethnic, geographical, structural or historical sense.

The majority of the papers presented in Rome could therefore be said to have been overwhelmingly of a literary/esthetic and stylistic/emotional/social orientation. With the exception of the ELA-papers, the term EuroLinguistics was used as a cover-term at the 2011 Convegno for all sorts of other disparate topics which belong more to literary and esthetic

disciplines. With EuroLinguistics in its own right it had very little to do.

However, the 2011 Convegno can otherwise be said to have been a great success among the participating students, professors and non-academics, when it comes to making EuroLinguistics known as a new alternative view of Europe and its languages and cultures, and not only the traditional national languages but instead complemented with a multitude of other aspects., i.e. aspects of the use of European languages in cooking, diet, the media (film, radio, TV, internet communication, theatre), business, marketing, financing, politics, tourism, language teaching, linguistic certification, gender roles etc. I think that in this respect the 2011 Convegno had its best success: To make Europe a popular idea again in the distressing days of bank and currency crises!

However, this rich flora of the different use of languages in all these spheres of cultural active-ties would be more adequately labelled with a different title like **Euro-pästik** 'Europeanistics', whereas EuroLinguistics would be better defined in a more limited sense as the science of language and a science per se with emphasis on the linguistic structures and their function in space, time and social dimensions.



Finally, I also extend my thanks to Dr Laura Ferrarotti and Ms Simona Seghezzi, both University of Rome “La Sapienza”, for assisting in writing the report on the 2011 Convegno in Rome. Also, I am very grateful to Mrs Agnes Milovan-Solter at the University of Zagreb for contributing the report on the Božava Symposium in May 2011.

Last but not least, I also send my thanks to my colleague and friend, Prof. Gaetano Castorina, whose energetic contribution to the cause of EuroLinguistics in Italy and A.E.S. among colleagues and students in Rome made all these Convegni between 2005-2011 possible in cooperation with ELA(MA) inside Italy and other Europe-minded organizations outside Italy: France (Lille) and Spain (Murcia). Without his personal organizational talent and financial support to our common EuroLinguistics campaign south of the Alps, the spread of information on EuroLinguistics would not have been possible.

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## 1. The Roma Convegno (April 18-20, 2011)

### *Language Culture and Identity*

#### *Introduction*

The EuroLinguistic-Sud Association sponsored a three-day conference entitled “Language, Culture and Identity”.

Each day of the conference took place at a different Roman university and was led by one of the three conference coordinators, most of whom are Association members. These three coordinators were Manuela Cipri of the University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’, Francesca Dragotto of the University of Rome ‘Tor Vergata’ and Marinella Rocca Longo of the University of Rome ‘Tre’.

The main objective of the conference was to demonstrate the importance of the common thread between culture, language and identity in the daily lives of human beings. In order to illustrate these links, each university was given an interconnected topic to present. Amongst the vari-

Feast of Africa Festival, Medusa Film, Radio Chat, the Comparative Humanities Center, and many others.

As a general premise, communication is the means through which cultural identity is formed and defined; through communication the individual expresses his/her own identity as well as the identity of others. Language is the most obvious means of communication and is more than a mere form of verbal expression; its function is much broader: language helps us define territories, ethnic groups, and nationalities. Furthermore, it is a means of communication through visual, deixis, cognitive and in general semiotic elements; these elements employ a variety of media that embody the complex picture of identity. The wealth and complexity of technological developments has created an environment of rich communicative and expressive possibilities. Paradoxically, this wealth of information may lead to incommunication due to an abundance of resources. The disgregation of cultural identity, due to the wealth of information and stimuli from numerous languages and idioms, is analogous to a greenhouse effect, given that, a communication block, where there is no fruitful exchange amongst these cultures, may risk the loss of these specific identities. Through the course of the conference attempts



Fig. 3: View of pine trees and a bulwark on the Palatine in Rome

ous sponsors at the conference were: the Minister of Heritage and Culture, the Province of Rome, the Association ‘Learn to be Free’, the



were made to answer crucial questions which are currently ever-present in all aspects of interaction between people in all fields of knowledge. These questions include: What is cultural identity today? How does it communicate? How can it be persevered while respecting the communication specificity of every anthropological, linguistic, cultural, and social area?

### 1.1 Papers at the Tor Vergata University-The First Day, April 18

On the first day of the conference, April 18, the following topic was presented:

“Eating and Identity between Language and Culture Belonging to the Romance Area (“Man ist was Mann isst”). The scholars presented the common thread of nutrition that runs through both multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. They attempted to elucidate that within a given ethos it is pertinent to examine the widespread concept of identity while explaining attitudes, which are psychological, anthropological, linguistic, nutritional-gastronomical, commercial, and so forth.

In his introduction to the conference, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Rino Caputo, stressed the importance of the collaboration amongst the three Roman universities in the organization of the Euro-linguistic conference on cultural and linguistic identity. When bearing in mind Europe, the concept of cultural

and linguistic identity is a crucial concept.

Louis Begioni (Univ. of Tor Vergata-Université de Lille 3) opened the conference with an interesting paper on: “Une soupe de legume ou une salade de fruit: Les metaphors végétales désignant la tete en francais et en

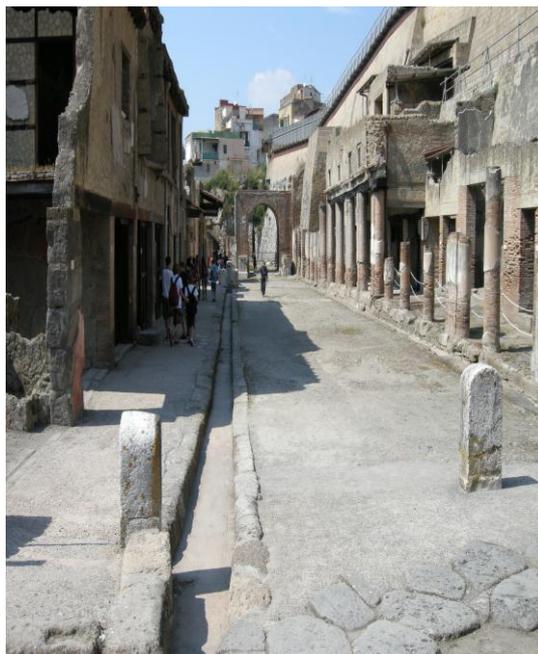


Fig. 4: The Main Street in Pompeii

italien”, the uses of metaphors in typical expressions of everyday language. This paper was followed by a talk by Enrico Prosperi (University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’, President of SIPMED Italian Society of Psychology and Medical Pedagogy and Vice President of the Italian Society of Medical Clinical Psychology). In his discussion, Prosperi stressed that food has various function and does not just serve a biological function. He explains that the role of food goes beyond a medical and psychiatric standpoint when enhancing linguistic-social communication and interpersonal relationships.

Then Ernesto Di Renzo (University of Tor Vergata) spoke about “Rural Adjectives of Post-Modern Foods. A question of Marketing?” in which he explored the question regarding the neorural naming of food. He argued that the question of the rural naming of food is two-fold: is it a reflection of the cultural, historical, and traditional heritages? Alternatively, is the choice of based on an advantageous stance for business and marketing? Di Renzo provided examples of rural world food naming that originated for various motives: from the place of production, to practices and technologies to material culture. He concludes that these objectives and symbols are strongly influencing this realm.

Later, Tiziana Biolghini (Coordinator of the Social Farms Forum of Rome) presented “the Project Terramica”. The objective of this project is to promote human rights and integration through reform of local welfare for social disabilities, which affect language abilities, such as autism and mental health. This initiative is supported by some universities, local social farms, and local administrations

Then Enzo Caffarelli (Director of RION – Italian Journal of Onomastics and the Scientific Coordinator of LION – International Laboratory of Onomastics, University of Tor Vergata) -lectured about the “Names of People and Places

in the Construction of Food Identities”. He presented a menu organized by seven fundamental points, each corresponding to a distinct kind of food consumption identity. For example, the preserved identity characterized by the Gentilini’s Vittorio biscuits which are dedicated to King Vittorio Emanuele III); the celebrated identity (artisan products that are traditional to a specific region and can generally be found at village festivals); identity: ex-ported or stolen identity (for instance, the name Stromboli, which is very common in the US and in Canada); the disputed identity (in which the ethnic attribution is dubious); the shared identity (an identity attributed to globalization; many originally local foods can be found everywhere, such as hamburgers and pizza); with the covert identity there is a semantic shift which gives way to names like: the ‘Fiorentina’ (a big steak) and the Bavarian ( a dessert); the deconstructed identity is especially used in restaurants and refers to dishes whose creative names are derived from onomastics, from specific localism or well-known traditional or innovative names.

Then Luigi Lucchi (Mayor of Berceto, Parma) presented the paper “The Bread Tree”, in which he spoke about the changes in local eating habits over the – past fifty years. These changes affected the landscape, economy and the culture of people’s lives. At this point, Professor Castorina

(University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’) observed how important it is to discover and preserve one’s own traditions, which have an effect on the sociolinguistic behavior especially from a eurolinguistic point of view. In fact, new words are introduced, like ‘orthorexia’ or ‘nutriceutics’ which are constructed from the combination of international word elements, thus representing a perfect instance of eurolinguistic neologisms.

The talk by June di Schino (University of Rome Tre), “Food and Identity at the Pappas Banquet Between the Renaissance and the Baroque Age” provided a vivid historical reconstruction of a period when the ruling class’ convivial celebrations were conceived as a superb tool to assert its power, cultural, intellectual, and political hegemony, thus underlining the crucial role held by food as a social and interpersonal function, typical of human beings.

Along the same lines, Laura Di Rienzo (University of Tor Vergata; President of the Italian Academy of Mediterranean Cuisine) dealt with “The Nutritional Transition: Has This Pro-cess Ended with the Introduction of the Mediterranean Diet in the Post-



Fig. 5: Pillars and a statue in Pompeii

Genomic Age? A journey in the Discovery of the Italian Mediterranean Diet Between Literary Sources, Archaeological Discoveries and Medical Sciences from the IV Century B.C. to the Post-Genomic Age”. What followed this long title was an introduction to the concept of the strong identity of the genomic age from the point of view of the Mediterranean diet. An interesting point made in this paper, is that food, as it is prepared and eaten by humans, should be viewed as a communication system with its own conventions, very similar to the rules pertaining to verbal languages. In fact, food grammar has its own lexis and syntax, as well as rhetoric, namely, the way it is presented, served and eaten.

The contribution by Alessandro Paltoni (Director of ‘Mare di Roma’ Consortium) explored “Identity, Language



and Tourism”, he described the various initiatives to promote tourism through the collaboration by Rome and its surrounding cities. The purpose of these tourism initiatives is to enhance the connection between food and specific places, with the intention that food products and places reflect and respect local identities; thus creating a richer cultural experience for tourists.

Later, Paolo Poccetti (University of Tor Vergata) presented a paper entitled “Language and Culture Identities Through Culinary Metaphors Between the Ancient and Modern World”. Starting out with the well-known saying: “tell me what you eat and I’ll tell you who you are and where you come from”, Poccetti explored the connection between eating, language and text typology, thus offering an unusual linguistic picture of the evolution of culinary historiography from an historical, linguistic and cultural perspective.

More specific papers examining circumscribed geographical and historical traditions were presented by Stefano Gencarau (University of Cluj, Romania – University of Lille 3); Beatrice Morandina (University of Gastronomic Sciences of Pollenzo – Coordinator of the Master Program in Italian Gastronomy and Tourism and in Food and Culture Communication); and Eugenio Scialanga (Sapori delle Terre Amatriciane Associa-

tion). Gencarau in particular, spoke about “The Rumanians of Hungary: Lexis and Identity”; Morandina’s paper dealt with “Gastro-nomic Identity: Commercial Myth or Reality?”, while Scialanga discussed “The Economic and Managerial Aspects of the Rescue of Typical Regional Products”.

### 1.2 Papers at the University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’- The second day, April 19, 2011

The second day of the conference, entitled “EuroLinguistic and Communication. New Geopolitical Scenarios”, and was held on April 19, 2011 at the University of Rome ‘La



Fig. 6: The ELAMA Team at the 2011 Convegno

Sapienza’ in the Faculty of Political Science, Sociology, and Communication. The first morning session was chaired by Mario Morcellini (University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’). He also acted as chair for the morning session and made a

few observations on language today, and in particular discussed the importance of having a national language. The widespread use of the Italian language on a large scale began with the advent of television on 3 January 1954. Language has always played an important role in the formation and expression of identity. In the post-modern era, the role of language and dialect have become even more central in identity building, their role emulates other traditional identity makers such as race. However, today dialects are in serious threat of endangerment, even so, national standard languages continue to become more impoverished. Morcellini ob-

erved that today the media holds a great responsibility for the general lexical and syntactic impoverishment and trivialization of the Italian language.

At this point, Giuseppe Castorina (University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’) made some important observations concerning language and registers. Populism in language use involves the levelling of lin-

guistic registers that are essential in order for a speaker to be able to completely express himself. Castorina also pointed out that linguistic reductionism is not to be viewed as a threat to language, if it is limited to a register expressly to a specified and explicit use of the language. In fact, sometimes it is necessary to simplify the language; however, simplification should not entail linguistic levelling on all fronts, which involves the simplification of thought and the shelving of the historical and cultural aspects of a language. We need to create connections between signifier and signified, namely, revisit the language. Everyone shall be free to express what he/she wants, since language develops and grows to meet community needs, this is why dialects are so important.

Claudio Trionfera (Medusa Film) continued the discussion and observed that all local dialects in addition to literature *tout court* have a strong presence in Italian cinema, due to their depth and expressive power. There was a phase in Italy at the beginning of the 1980s when dialect began to have a strong cultural characterization. Particularly in movies with Italian actors such as Totò, Fabrizi, and Gavioli who in Italy are representative of “comedy drama”, and are still popular today; they are the embodiment of local culture.

Then Professor Castorina in-

troduced Neapolitan actor Alessandro Siani, a true “Neapolitan comedian”, who literally entertained the audience with a number of gags and jokes, especially about Neapolitan sayings and expressions. In 2010, Siani was nominated for a Donatello Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in the film “Benvenuti al Sud” (Welcome to the South). Siani emphasized the importance of gestures in dialect word play. His talk was met with enthusiasm by both professors and students

Rita Salvi (University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’) chaired the next session of the conference.

The first speaker of this session, Maurizio Viezzi (University of Trieste), presented a study on “Translation and Interpretation of Public Services” conducted by the Special Interest Group on the multilingual and multicultural classroom in Europe. As a general premise, Viezzi underlined the importance of translation and of the role of interpreters in public services in Italy as well as in the rest of Europe where many immigrants are now living. He contends that the EU should provide translation services in public settings as well as the translation of articles and books. Furthermore, he suggests that in order to facilitate this objective, university courses should be organized to train qualified translators and interpreters.

Next, Giovanni Gobber (Catholic University of the



Fig. 7: G. Castorina and Ch. Schmitt with other Convegno participants

Sacred Heart) spoke about “Language as a Tool for Categorization of Experience”. As evident in the title, Gobber discussed the term “categorization”, which comes from Greek *catēgorō*, which means ‘to classify’, and ‘to indicate a given characteristic’, which allows the speaker to catalogue his/her experiences. The words contain categories, namely the ability to represent aspects of reality. These words contain categories namely with the ability to represent aspects of reality. The speech emphasized the fact that different languages structure experiences differently. Thus, Gobber presented two ways to categorize reality; first, the semiotic categorization, which is based on differences between various languages’ modality, second, the motivational categorization, which is based on the etymology of different words.

The next speaker, Paola Giunchi (University of Rome 'La Sapienza') pointed out in her lecture on "Intercultural Communication: the Case of Doctor – non-Native Patient Inter-action" the importance of interethnic awareness when doctors are communicating with foreign patients. Giunchi described the data from research on the inter-action between doctors and patients that has been carried out in the Caritas Association in Rome. Notwithstanding the notion that linguistic aspects are not crucial in this kind of interaction, some doctors are aware of intercultural issues and try to implement communication strategies by choosing to communicate the salient topic to the patients, checking patients' understanding, using repetitions and reformulation of what has been said. Moreover, the pragmatic order of words may also be helpful; in this way, misunderstandings and technical errors can be successfully prevented.

Alex Achille chaired the first part of the afternoon session and introduced the first speaker, Gianluca Cerasole (TV author). Cerasole produced documentaries for Al Jazeera and was a casting manager for a number of Italian reality shows. He spoke about what a TV author and director must undergo in order to obtain financing to implement a TV show or a documentary. Cerasola stipulates that in comparison to other countries, in Italy this task is

much more difficult to achieve due to bureaucratic restraints

The next speaker, Giuseppe Sciacca (TV director) continued along the same thread as Cerasola, he spoke about his experience as a TV program director. Sciacca stated his preference for producing various types of programming rather than reality TV. He showed a clip highlighting some of his work, in particular a New Year's Eve concert held in front of the Quirinale, in which the conductor Ennio Moricone directed an orchestra. Sciacca highlighted the importance of teamwork, as every team member is crucial to a good outcome of a program. Guido Barlozzetti (TV author and anchor) spoke about the complexity of television as a medium that cannot be separated by the market. There are, in fact, various "televisions" and stipulates that they should not be grouped together, but rather should be considered as different markets: TV On Demand, Web TV, Satellite TV and so forth. In addition, he points out that the TV audience has changed, it has become demanding in that it wants to decide what to watch, when to watch it and how to watch it. Barlozzetti urges the public not to be nostalgic for what television used to be, mainly a public service with educational purposes, but rather to start thinking of TV as some-

thing different, akin to a huge and elusive galaxy

Poet Vincenzo Luciani briefly spoke about the use of dialect and poetry, underlining the importance of rhythm. Luciani stressed the crucial role dialects have in our cultural heritage and mentioned a number of scholars who are carrying out important studies on dialects

### 1.3 The second session, The Second Day, April 19, 2011 at 'La Sapienza',

The second afternoon session was chaired by Marinella Rocca Longo (University of Rome Tre). She pointed out the importance of a notion like that of Englishes, which refers to the fact that many different English languages exist and that there are differ-



Fig.8: V. Merolle lecturing at the Tor Vergata, Univ. of Rome

ent English speaking countries in the world at large. She



also hinted to the question of what is a mother tongue.

She then introduced Rocco Guerra, Dean of the 'Pietro Giannone' high school, based in Puglia who thanked Professors Castorina and Ureland for all the conferences on EuroLinguistics that have been organized in all these years.

Then Professor Rocca Longo introduced the next speaker, Michael Riessler (ELA – Freiburg), inter alia, author of the book *The History of Multilingualism in Northernmost Europe*. Riessler introduced his study, which he conducted with the collaboration of other linguists, on multilingualism in the countries of northern Europe, from 1200 until today. He then spoke about the languages that have been influential throughout these years and the metamorphosis that contributed to create a number of metamorphoses that occurred which lead to the creation of a number of pidgin languages.

The next speaker, Sture Ureland (University of Mannheim), spoke about "From Contact Linguistics to EuroLinguistics" and gave an historical account of the various phases and key concepts of linguistic studies and periods that had lead to the study of contact linguistics and then the rise of EuroLinguistics. However, most of these approaches have had a monolingual origin in the past. Starting especially from Schuchardt's and Weinreich's multilingual view of Europe and

America together with Labov's sociolinguistic studies, present-day scholars have become more and more aware of the deeper mechanisms which show us the forces that underlie language change. Professor Ureland emphasized the various phases that brought about the founding of the EuroLinguistic Association (ELA) (2007) and, in particular The Puskin Theses (1999). They were mentioned as the ultimate aims of the EuroLinguistic Association which is the study of all the connections and similarities that exist between the various European languages and which constitute the invisible bonds of Europeaness, that will enable the rise of a unified European language, namely Europese.

Serafina Filice (University of Calabria) dealt with "Enhancing Scientific Terminology in ESP Courses: Rediscovering the Knowledge of a Common Greek-Latin Matrix". In her paper, Filice stressed the importance to teach vocabulary in ESP courses, which enables students to considerably improve their reading skills. Another important aspects of vocabulary learning is to develop an awareness of how a word is formed, that is, to learn the roots of words. This is when classic languages like Greek and Latin become extremely useful tools, especially for students who are studying scientific subjects in English.

The third and last session of the afternoon was chaired by

Annafranca Plastina (University of Calabria); Professor Plastina spent a few words discussing the fact that Universities have to support their placement and, in a particular, their linguistic studies, for example with a European linguistic certification like the TOESP (Test Of English for Specific Purposes), a test conceived by Professor Castorina for students who are learning English for Specific Purposes.

Then Professor Plastina introduced another speaker, Christian Schmitt (ELA – Bonn) who spoke about "Anthropological Common Features of Cognitive Processes or Latent Europeanization". Schmitt's interests lies in the contamination phenomena and the convergence among the various European languages and civilizations. Mostly Balkan linguists are concerned with EuroLinguistic issues and put their efforts into researching word etymologies in European languages. However, often-times European linguists are faced with a serious historicalscientific problem; this is because this process is rarely dealt with due to the current trend of studying single European countries and languages on a synchronic basis.

Then, Dagmar Winkler (University of Padua) discussed "Identity, Language and Intercultural Writers". She commenced by reading a famous sentence by Wittgenstein "the limits of my language are the limits of my world"; this means that the



mother tongue is the mother of every other tongue, and a good knowledge of grammar and semantic rule of one's mother tongue is crucial, especially when learning a new language. A solid knowledge of grammar will favor 'code-switching', the passage from one code to another, when learning another language and at the same time will strengthen our sense of identity.

Next, John Stewart (ELAMA – Heidelberg) discussed "The Arealinguistics of Speech Rhythm and Stress+Pitch Patterns in Languages of Europe".

Luca Fratini (Cultural Promotion and Cooperation Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) concluded the first day of the conference by describing the various programs that were being carried out for students in Europe.

#### 1.4 The third day and session on April 20, 2011 at the Università Tre

The third and last day of the conference, entitled "A Comparison Between Cultural Identities: Plays of Idioms, Languages, Languages of Global Communication," took place at the University of Rome Tre, in the Faculty of Humanities. The conference opened with an address by the Dean of the Faculty, Francesca Cantù, who emphasized the crucial role carried out by the university in the training of researchers and scholars.

Many authorities and scholars were present during the morning session to greet the audience. Amongst them were the Rector Guido Fabiani, Otello Lottini, of the Department of Comparative Literature, Mario Ali, General Di-

rector of the Ministry of Education, University and Research, Angela Benintende, Director of the Biblio-graphic and Cultural Institutes Section of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, and S.E. Trevor Mapheson, New Zealand Ambassador. The emphasis by some of these speakers was the importance and necessity of a common language which is needed to preserve national and local languages and cultures.

The first session, entitled "Idioms and the Definition of a Territory", began with a lecture by Marinella Rocca Longo (University of Rome Tre) on "Hegemonic and Minority Languages. Western Identities in the Post-Colonial Areas". Professor Rocca Longo also explored a crucial pre-occupation in regards to the use of language in today's global world both in terms of national and local idiomatic expressions. She argued that it is necessary to preserve cultural identity even with global communication. She stipulated that this could be achieved through literary publications



Fig. 9: G. Castorina and V. Merolle at the Tor Vergata, Univ. of Rome

that emphasize the importance of a specific region of a country, thus preserving the cultural identity. A good example of this is provided by a number of post-colonial writers from New Zealand who succeeded in forming and maintaining a strong cultural and linguistic identity.

Next, Erhard Steller (ELAMA - Mannheim) in his paper entitled, "European – All Mother-Tongues in One" spoke about the EuroLSJ project whose aim is to find common lexical, grammatical, and morphological traits in the European languages, and to standardize the variants which are present in them in order to establish a single, common European language, specifically, "European". Then it will be possible to enhance communication and identity in the European context.

Then Giuli Liebman Parrinello (University of Rome Tre) discussed the "Tourist, Traveler and Anti-Tourist: the Eighteenth Century Roots of a



Cultural Identity”. She argued that currently in everyday languages and in scientific discourse, there is much confusion over terminology that defines tourism. Parrinello insists that there is confusion because the terms tourist and traveller tend to overlap; the recent introduction of the concept of anti-tourist is a further term describing today’s reaction to widespread contemporary tourism. She concluded that in order to find a satisfactory definition of what tourism means it is necessary to go back to the second half of the Eighteenth Century when modern tourism arose, both as a social phenomenon and as an individual experience.

Stefano Teatini’s paper entitled, “The Imagination as a Performative Act in E. Swedenborg, G. Berkeley and W.B. Yeats”, dealt with the notion of identity as it is linked to the other’s perception. In particular, in the philosophical systems of Swedenborg, Berkeley and Blake reality not only depends on the subject’s perception but also can be created by the imagination. Teatini concludes by reflecting on the intrinsically creative essence of language and referring particularly to Yeats’ poem as a dream through which it is possible to create the universe.

### **1.5 The third day, April 20, 2011 at the Università Tre**

#### **Idioms and Translation**

Vincenzo Merolle (University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’) presented a paper entitled “On Reasons for Compiling a European Dictionary”, in which he described the project to write a European dictionary. This project stems from the conviction that today’s bilingual dictionaries are insufficient in providing a full explanation of the words’ meanings. Merolle suggested that a more complete dictionary should be compiled that not only offers the definitions of words but also demonstrates the Latin and Greek roots of words and shows the meanings of these words in various European languages. He asserted that this type of dictionary is a fundamental tool for knowledge and communication, which would be a great contribution to creating a strong European identity.

Later, Laura Diamanti (University of Cassino – Consortium Nettuno) presented the research project, “European Interculturality and Linguistic Alternance” which is currently being conducted by the students of the Faculty of Engineering of the International Telematic University of the Consortium Nettuno. The research’s aim is to study the changes occurring in the linguistic repertoire in L2 (English) students. These changes are linked to sociocultural factors and as such are determined by the influences and representations of one’s identity. These changes are asso-

ciated with socio-cultural factors that have occurred due to influences and representation on personal identity. In particular, it has been observed that some communication processes reflect given socio-cultural models that are sometimes represented through non-verbal signs. Moreover, language alternance (English/Italian) could favor the learning of one or more foreign languages and could lead to the development of a European intercultural awareness.

The topic of the next speaker, Claudia Pernarella (Consortium Nettuno), was “The Evolution of Women’s Language. Words that Mark the Borders of a Language”. Pernarella observed that throughout the past centuries each new word that has been introduced was directly connected to its’ historical and social situation’. For example, the etymology of the Italian word for ‘woman’ is ‘donna’, which derives from the Latin ‘domna’, a blended form for ‘domina’, which means ‘lady’. Up until the year 200, in Italy, the word that was used was ‘femina’. The translation of this word in other languages is revealing, for example, in French ‘femme’ today means ‘wife’, while in English the word ‘woman’ is a blend of ‘wife-man’, in other words ‘wife’. These terms underline two deeply culturally traits that describe the role of women in our society: her ties to a man, and her role in procreation. Other examples of words presented in the lecture sup-



ported the premise that words, both old and new, are highly influenced by society, which can in turn alter the meaning of a word, thus, resulting in a different connotation.

The idea of identity is revisited by Elisa Messina (University of Rome Tre), in her discussion on “Indian Anglicization or English Indianization? An Apocryphal Dilemma in Post-Colonial Literature”. Messina stressed the significance of identity by highlighting that it is a strong and powerful value. She illustrated her argument through the example of how words were able to change the destiny of India. In fact, in India a univocal form of Standard English does not exist. India succeeded in the struggle against language osmosis, in India there are hybrid forms of local English. Then, Simona Nati (University of Rome Tre) spoke about “Language as a Tool to Approach an ‘Other’ Reality: *The Case of The Matriarch* by Witi Ihimaera”. Nati presented her analysis of this New Zealander novel, originally published in 1986, in which the protagonist, whose grandmother was a Matriarch in a Maori village, reports the dramatic moment of the Western World colonization. Through her analysis, based on corpus linguistics and word count, Nati was able to determine the most reoccurring words in the novel, such as Maori and land. The functions of these words in conjunction with other words contribute to the terms that

define the linguistic and cultural identity of this ethnic group.

Francesca Milaneschi (University of Rome Tre) also based her contribution on a literary work: “From *Surfiction* to *Chut*: Raymond Federman or The Silence of Fiction”. Milaneschi analyzed the works of bilingual (French–English) writer Raymond Federman and explored the central issue of the relationship between one’s origin and identity. Federman is one of the fathers of American post-modernism as evident in his auto fictional works, in which he employs typical post-modern techniques such as play and contamination, which illustrate the constant dialectic relationship between one’s identity and one’s language and culture, and concludes that it is impossible to erase one’s origin.

Then, Alessandro Longo (Engineer – Telematic University “G. Marconi”) presented the paper, “Media and Otherness”, which examines the dramatic impact technology has on all aspects of our daily lives from economical to political to cultural facets. Today even wars and revolutions utilize Facebook and Twitter and books and newspapers are available to read on tablets. As new generations are exposed to computers, they are constantly stimulated with images that enable them to develop multitasking capabilities totally unknown to older generations. Due to these developments, there will likely

be the advent of the “Homo Digitalis” and lead to end of the age of printing.

In her paper entitled “National Identity and Gender Identity in Neverland” Carla De Petris (University of Rome Tre) discussed national and gender identity in Ireland. She described the role of Irish women in the Nineteen-Eighties during the transition of independence from the United Kingdom. The focus was on a group of artists named the ‘Troubles’, which were very active for at least thirty years. Traditionally, Ireland has metaphorically been represented by a woman who was a victim of the colonizers and was freed by her heroes. Many literary works have divulged the topic of Ireland as an oppressed land. Today, Ireland’s national identity is ‘multiple’ thanks to globalization; it is not monolithic anymore even in terms of gender.

The afternoon session continued with the topic “Food and Identity”, presented by Giorgio Calabrese (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart – Nutrition Specialist) and Clara Abatecola (Secretary of Literature from the Frontline Association). Giorgio Calabrese in particular spoke about “The Mediterranean Diet as a link between health and culture” explaining in detail the crucial benefits of this well-known diet.

The conference concluded with a round table discussion



coordinated by Arnaldo Colasanti on the topic of “Fiction and Reality in the New Media”, with the following participants: Marinella Rocca Longo, Florian Mussnug, Simona Corso, Gaetano G. Castorina, Giampiero Gamaleri, Carla de Petris, Simona Nati, Michaela L. Squicciarro, Stefano Teatini, and Elina Messina.

(*Laura Ferrarotti*)

## **2. The Božava Conference (Dugi Otok), Croatia, 20-22, May, 2011**

### **2.1. Organisation of the Symposium**

The international two-day-symposium on “Legal and Linguistic Aspects of Multilingualism“ was held in Božava on the Croatian island of Dugi Otok from 20 to 21 May 2011. The symposium was organized by Prof. Dr. Lelija Sočanac as Project Director of the Research Project “Legal and Linguistic Aspects of Multilingualism”. The project comprised interdisciplinary theoretical and applied studies of legal and linguistic aspects of multilingualism in general, focusing on the EU and Croatia. The theoretical research included issues such as: language policies and planning in the EU, the status of Croatian and its relations with other European languages, with an emphasis on the relationship between lan-

guage and identity, linguistic rights as a category of human rights, the actual status of minority and regional languages in the EU and Croatia in a comparative perspective, the status of immigrant languages, intercultural communication, especially in the context of the four freedoms in the EU law.

The symposium was attended by German, Swedish, Italian and Croatian participants. During the sessions nine papers were presented, covering topics on contact linguistics, linguistic diversity and minority languages, language policies of the EU as well as issues concerning legal linguistics and teaching LSP in the field of law.

### **2.2. Overview of the lectures**

Under the title «Linguistic diversity and language learning: language policies of the EU» Prof. Dr. Lelija Sočanac, from the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb (Croatia) presented the main directions in the language policies of the EU whose focus is on official languages, language learning, minority or regional languages and migrant languages. Prof. Sočanac reminded that, historically, the relationship between language and state could be seen in terms of diglossia involving always an official language as the language of state and power, and numerous vernaculars used for informal communication. She pointed out that with the emergence of

nationstates, language became an important instrument of national unification, whereas what we witness today is a movement away from nation states as a consequence of globalization on the one hand, and large regional associations, on the other. Fortunately, she also concluded, the European Union strongly supports linguistic diversity and multilingualism which is reflected among other things in the well-known motto «unity in diversity».

In his presentation entitled “From contact linguistics to EuroLinguistics in European minority research – a survey”, Prof. Dr. Sture Ureland, from the University of Mannheim, sketched the historio-graphic trends by mentioning the major linguists and works relevant for the break-through of EuroLinguistics as a branch of linguistics in its own right. He mentioned that the three major pillars for the emergence of EuroLinguistics as a self-contained focus of language research and European minorities are a combination of tripartite series of factors such as language contact+conflict studies within a socio-ethnic and geographic-historical framework. Such a combined socio-ethnic and geographic-historical approach is the very presumption for success in EuroLinguistics research, whereby the map of Europe has turned out to be an indispensable means of description for sketching the physical and cultural Europe-wide iso-



Fig. 10: View of the Božava harbour with conference participants

glosses criss-crossing the European continent. He pointed out, in addition, the developmental steps in the form of a charter-flow which indicates the early contact studies succeeded by further contact-dependent studies of the rise of colonial Pidgin/Creole overseas and Balkan studies in South East Europe, Euro-Asian research, and, in the west, Euro-African studies on the Atlantic rim from Ireland down to North Africa initiated as early as the 1700s and 1800s. It is consequently from these contacts + conflict investigations between European major and minority languages on the outskirts of Europe that the impetus to the rise of EuroLinguistics has come.

Furthermore, by taking Low-German and Nedersaksisch as an example, Prof. Dr. Ludger Kremer, from the University of Antwerp (Belgium), provided an interesting lecture on the question whether legal protection saves regional lan-

guages. In fact, as Prof. Kremer pointed out, Low German (in northern Germany) and Nedersaksisch (in the north-eastern Netherlands) belong to those languages in Europe that are in imminent danger of being given up by their native speakers. He reported on the similar situation of these two regional languages on both sides of the Dutch-German

Emsland, regions generally known as conservative with respect to language maintenance and language change. In those areas the long coexistence of High and Low German resp. Dutch and Nedersaksisch could be described as a stable diglossia until the out-break of World War II. Since then a decline of active Low German resp. Nedersaksisch speakers has taken place amounting to some 30% per generation and although they have been placed under protection of the Charter of Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe, this impressive cultural expansion and improvement of status is threatened to collapse in the near future because of the rapid decline in the number of their speakers which we are witnessing at present.



Fig. 11: View of Božava Conference Hotel

border paying special attention to Western Westfalia and



In the course of the first day the results of two research studies concerning minority languages (Serbian, Italian and Roma) in Croatia were presented. The results of the research carried out in the Croatian region of Slavonia on *Serbian as a minority language* were presented by Dr. Ljubica Kordić from the Faculty of Law, University of Osijek. The aim of her research was to explore the legal position and the intensity of usage of minority languages in Croatian schools and in everyday life of their speakers. The research is based on a survey conducted on the sample of respondents living in the suburb area of Osijek, Slavonia. The explored minority languages are Serbian and Roma. The respondents were both children included in the programme of minority language education in the village of Tenja near Osijek and their parents. The research did not only indicate the position and the status of minority languages in the Croatian education system, but it also showed attitudes of children and adults from the minority population about the position and the importance of minority languages in their private lives and in Croatian society in general.



Fig. 12: Maritime view of Božava Bay

The results of the survey on

the use of the Italian language in Croatia were illustrated by Antonia Blasina Miseri, from the Società Dante Alighieri, Comitato di Gorizia (Italy). This survey was conducted at the Italian secondary school in Rovinj which addressed 1<sup>st</sup> class pupils and their parents and was structured to check their linguistic competence, the language used in different domains, including home and family, neighbourhood, friends, workplace, school, church, religion and the media. The final questions were about language attitudes and the future of the Italian language as a minority language in Croatia.

Dr Dragica Bukovčan, from the Police Academy in Zagreb (Croatia) provided a multiperspective approach to phraseological and/or metaphorical units (SPU) in the field of law. She pointed out that teaching metaphorical and

phraseological

of specialized languages “designed” to cover various functions in different professional fields is constantly growing. Another important issue in this area stressed by Dragica Bukovčan is the fact that professionals and experts in any discipline as native speakers hardly notice the figurative nature of a multi-word term contrary to their non-native counterparts whose interpretation of figurative notion often lacks the conceptual background knowledge in the source language. The presentation of the paper by Assistant Professor Magdalena Nigoević, University of Split, and Senior Assistant Helena Pavletić, University of Pula, focused on some aspects of determinologization in the Croatian and Italian legal terminology. As they pointed out, nowadays more and more domain-specific terms enter the general language usage that results in the so-called

multiword units is generally considered problematic and deficient. The teacher’s problem solving activities are far from being systematic and productive taking into consideration that the number



Fig. 13: Excursion participants: A. Milovan-Solter, L. Sočanac and L. Kremer

process of determinologization. In such a process a linguistic item can undergo two types of semantic changes: in the process of "migration" from specialized domain to general language usage, the original terminological sense can be maintained (though with some minor changes) or the meaning of the original term becomes significantly different. The latter category, i.e. "significant dilution of originating domain sense" is particularly interesting because it comprises a wide range of lexical items that have acquired a new general language sense which differs (though related to) from its specialized sense.

The aim of their presentation was to show some aspects of the process of determinologization in the Croatian and Italian legal terminology.

A very interesting and lively presentation concerning politeness strategies in the written communication of Croatian lawyers was delivered by

Assistant Ivana Lukica, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. Based on a recent study on the foreign language and content needs analysis of Croatian law students and practising lawyers, business correspondence was identified as the most needed skill in English for Legal Purposes courses. In fact, Croatian law students and

lawyers require a high degree of communicative competence in English in order to successfully apply for jobs, draft letters before action etc. Communicative competence does not only involve linguistic knowledge of a foreign language, but also social and pragmatic knowledge which is harder to acquire and is not given enough attention to in ELP courses. If the ELP student does not possess a sufficient degree of either type of knowledge, communication breakdown will occur. If one lacks linguistic knowledge, one will be perceived as a less proficient speaker of a language, but if one lacks social or pragmatic knowledge he will be perceived as impolite, bad tempered and ineffective which can reflect negatively on one's reputation as a lawyer and their business prospects. The purpose of her study was to investigate which types of errors occur in written production of Croatian ELP students with regard to

politeness as well as identifying the strategies they use when communicating with native English speakers in writing and the level of their awareness of both politeness strategies and pragmatic errors.

Agnes Milovan-Solter, a court interpreter for the English and German languages, the Croatian Bar Association, talked about the legal and linguistic aspects of the ICC and UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules as applied in Croatia. The purpose of her research was to provide a comparative analysis of the language of arbitration as found in the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (1998, as revised in 2009), the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules (1994) and the Rules of the Permanent Arbitration Court at the Croatian Chamber of Economy (2002). The given rules were analyzed from a linguistic viewpoint, with regard to the degree of clarity and specificity achieved by means of lexical variation and syntactic discontinuity. By particularly focusing on three sets of clauses, including the standard arbitration clause, the demand for arbitration and the appointment of arbitrators, the study illustrated the extent to which the international rules have served as a reference framework in the drafting of the Zagreb Arbitration Rules by the Croatian Permanent Arbitration Court.



### 2.3. Conclusion

The Božava Symposium offered an interesting combination of lectures providing insights into the situation of minority languages in Europe and this by focusing on the research carried out in border areas in Croatia and Germany. In addition, overviews of language policies of the EU were offered as well as the illustration of the development of Eurolinguistics. Alongside these language issues related to the European past and present, a set of presentations focused on legal linguistic terminology, phraseology as well as the needs of students of English for Legal Purposes, which made the symposium quite comprehensive and a successful event to conclude the project.

*(Agnes Milovan-Solter)*

## 3. The Transeurasian Symposium in Leuven, Belgium, September 21-23, 2011

### 3.1 Theoretical background and development

From the very beginning, the title of the Leuven Symposium, “Shared Grammaticalization in the Transeurasian Languages”, in September 2011 was a great challenge to anyone trained in linguistic typology and Indo-European historical/comparative linguistics. This concept of a Transeurasian geographic and ethnic dimension was utterly

novel. The impact of this term on potential participants who were inexperienced in things Eurasian was considerable, because the discovery of a huge linguistic and cultural unity (*Sprachbund*) between eastern Europe and the adjacent territories of Asia, from



Fig. 14: Brian Joseph lecturing at the Univ. of Leuven in 2012

the Baltic Sea to the Sea of Japan, was something completely new. Furthermore, the title of the symposium “Shared Grammaticalization” was also something which could not be understood at first glance. In the opening paper, Prof. Martine Robbeets, the speaker, mentioned briefly the main causes of language change which might have been responsible for the formation of the morphological similarities across such a huge territory, whether they might have been caused by genetic factors, areal-typological contacts, universal factors or even mere chance. A clear answer was never given.

However, most of the 30 participants invited to the symposium held at the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, east of Brussels, arrived eager and full of expectations to learn about new progress in classifying and comparing the languages of Transeurasia spoken between the Japanese Islands and the shores of the Baltic. These languages were claimed to be structurally similar and related to each other. This was big news indeed! If this claim of structural-phonological, morphological, lexical or even syntactic similarities between languages of such an enormous

linguistic area was correct, it would mean a break-through of linguistic research in describing such diverse language families like Japonic, Koreanic, Tungusic, Mongolic and Turkic. In other words, the discovery would be overwhelming for our imagination and have deep linguistic and ethnic consequences for future research on the relations between Europe and Asia. This was what had challenged us before entering the lecture room of the Erasmus Building of the university.

In her welcome speech, the speaker and the main organizer of the symposium, Prof. Martine Robbeets, thanked the University of Leuven and a number of colleagues for



making the symposium possible, which was also supported by the Belgian Science Foundation (Belspa). The symposium was dedicated to the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prof. Lars Johansson whose research at the University of Mainz had contributed to the building up of a research programme focused on Turkic linguistics. Through common research and close-knit teamwork, in cooperation with other colleagues in Mainz and outside, this research team had contributed substantially to the new discovery of the similarities and parallelisms between linguistic and cultural structures of the Transeurasian languages.

In her paper, Robbeets mentioned features occurring in Transeurasian languages and such widespread constructions as causative, passive and reflexive markers which could be shown to be of similar structure. She also showed that in Europe, besides the three different major language families (Indo-European, Uralic and Basque), there are also a number of North-West Caucasian languages as a fourth group which are spoken in eastern Europe, but also 13 other languages of Transeurasian origin which must also be counted as a fifth language family (Turkic) in Europe like Karaim, Gagauz, Turkish, Crimean Tatar, Urum, Karachay-Balkar, Noghay, Kumyk, Yurt Tatar, Tatar Noghay, Chuvash and Tatar. The latter belong to a huge group of circa. forty

closely related Turkic languages spread all over Eurasia which are part of a larger linguistic continuum. Important in this context was her choice of the term “Transeurasian” instead of the classical designation “Altaic” (cf. Johansson & Robbeets 2010).<sup>1</sup>



Fig. 15: Bernd Heine and Motoki Nomachi in front of The University Library of Leuven

Furthermore, in her exposition of the Transeurasian languages and the structural similarities between them, Prof. Robbeets posits a pre-historic Proto-Eurasian (pTEA) language underlying historical forms of the grammatical morphemes, and on the basis of these correspondences and other observed similarities she launches a most disputed hypothesis in contemporary historical linguistics, i.e. that of a common origin for numerous Eurasian languages, which she arrives at through the study of

<sup>1</sup> See the list of references which indicate the broad spectrum of innovative research on grammaticalization, language contact and language change between the Transeurasian languages.

a) sound correspondences, b) the existence of a common copula and c) common morphological structures for a number of suffixes of the participles in Old Japanese (-uru), Middle Korean (u/o)l, Tungusic/Manchu ra/-re/ro; Mongol-

ic -r and Turkic -r. Thus, these three-fold parallel features of consonantism, of common copula stems for Eurasia and, last but not least, the similarities of morphological structures in the participles which are shared between the Eurasian languages, motivates her in claiming the existence of a common Proto-Eurasian language (pTEA).

### 3.2 Conclusion

The systematic correspondence between the consonants in related lexemes, the existence of common vowel and consonant stems in the copulas and the wide correspondence in the large number of Asia-wide subordinators (“shared grammaticalization”) were the basis of similar reconstructions which the early



Fig. 16: Martine Robbeets talking to a Chinese student

Indo-Europeanists carried out in claiming a common Proto-Indo-European origin (PIE) for the Indo-European languages in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which is now referred to as a motivation for reconstructing a Eurasian protolanguage (pTEA) for the major languages of Eurasia on the basis of phonological, lexical and morphophonological parallels discovered in the past few years.<sup>2</sup>

#### 4. References

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<sup>2</sup> For more details see her article in Ureland (ed.): *From Contact Linguistics to EuroLinguistics* under Robbeets forthc. .

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#### 5. Appendix of the main papers given at the University of Leuven in Sept. 2011

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Brian Joseph  
Demystifying “Drift” – A Variationist Account

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Alexandra Aikhenvald  
Area diffusion and parallelism in drift:  
Shared grammaticalization patterns

Lars Johansson  
Isomorphic processes:  
Grammaticalization and copying of grammatical elements

Bernd Heine & Motoki Nomachi  
On contact-induced grammaticalization:



Internally or externally induced?

Heko Narrog & Seonga Rhee  
Comparative grammaticalization in Japanese and Korean

Anton Antonov  
Grammaticalization of allocutivity markers in Japanese and Korean in a cross-linguistic perspective

Jim Unger  
A possible grammaticalization in Old Japanese and its implications for the comparison of Korean and Japanese

Friday, September 23, 2011

Martine Robbeets  
Globally shared grammaticalization in the Transeurasian family

Andrej Malchukov  
Verbalization and insubordination in Siberian languages

Brigitte Pakendorf  
Grammaticalization patterns in an Even dialect: Contact or independent developments?

Juha Janhunen  
Personal Pronouns in “Core Altaic”

Hans Nugteren  
The indefinite article in Qing-Gansu *Sprachbund*

Julian Rentzsch  
The grammaticalization of modality in Altaic: Contact, heritage or universal?

Irina Nevskaya  
Biverbal constructions in Altaic

Hendrik Boeschoten  
Temporalization of Turkic aspectual systems

Chairs: Liesbet Heyvaert, Hubert Cuyckens, Bert Cornillie, Kristin Davidse

(PSU)

### On ELA Membership

Membership in a local Euro-linguistics branch (*A.E.S.*, *ELAMA*, and *ENSE*) will automatically imply membership in *ELA*, provided the membership fee has been paid to the local organization. Such membership can easily be obtained through the purchase of a volume published in the series *EuroLinguistics Studies*, if it is ordered via *ELAMA*. As a bonus an annual issue of *EuroLinguistics Newsletter* plus a lower price for volumes of *Studies in EuroLinguistics* is offered.

(For further information on the structure and function of EuroLinguistic Association (ELA) see *EuroLinguistics Newsletter 4 (2008)*, Homepage: [www.elama.de](http://www.elama.de)).

### I. UP-COMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS IN 2012

Symposium on “*Dialects, minority languages and standard languages in Europe and beyond*” organized

by the EuroLinguistics Association (ELA), planned for Nov. 2012 at the University of Heidelberg (Seminar für Übersetzen und Dolmetschen (IÜD) in cooperation with ELAMA, University of Mannheim, Philosophische Fakultät.

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### II. PUBLICATIONS ON EURO-LINGUISTICS

1. Kusmenko, Jurij (2008): *Der samische Einfluss auf die skandinavischen Sprachen. Ein Beitrag zur skandinavischen Sprachgeschichte*. In: *Berliner Beiträge zur Skandinavistik. Band 10*. Berlin: Nord Europa Institut.
2. Ureland, P. Sture & Iain Clarkson (eds.) (1984): *Scandinavian Language Contacts*. Cambridge: Univ Press. (Reprint 2009).
3. Kristin Otto (2009): *Eurodeutsch – Untersuchungen zu Europäismen und Internationalismen im deutschen Wortschatz*. In: *Studies in EuroLinguistics, Vol. 6: (2009)*: Berlin: Logos Verlag.
4. Hinrichs, Uwe, Nobert Reiter and Siegfried Tornow (eds.)(2009): *EuroLinguistik. Entwicklungen und Perspektiven*. In: *Euro-*



linguistische Arbeiten.  
Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

5. Hinrichs, Uwe (2010): *Handbuch der Euro-linguistik*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
6. *Studies in Eurolinguistics Vol. 7* (2010): *From the Russian Rivers to the North Atlantic - Migration, Contact and Linguistic Areas* ed. by P. Sture Ureland, Berlin: Logos Verlag.

In the presence of 26 members of three different branches of EuroLinguistics convening at the Université Charles de Gaulle, in Lille<sup>3</sup>, a new umbrella association was

## II. Comments on ELA statutes

It was suggested that ELA be a non-profit organization under the direction of a Board of

Directors, the present seat of which would be Mannheim, Germany. However, ELA will not be registered, but may become

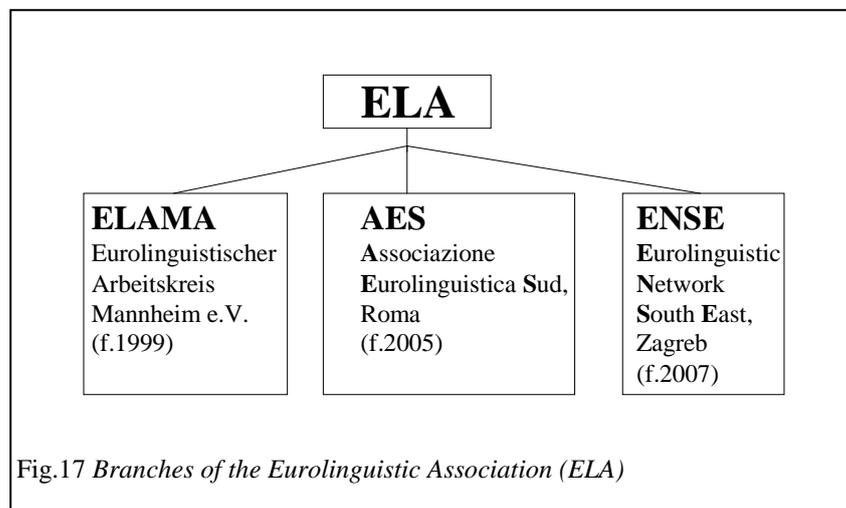


Fig.17 Branches of the EuroLinguistic Association (ELA)

## III. Impressum

### Publisher ELAMA e.V.

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## 6. APPENDIX

### I. An outline of ELA: branches and structure of Oct. 2007 in Lille 2010

founded whose primary aim is the cooperation between European branches to further EuroLinguistic studies and research.<sup>4</sup> This initiative to create an international and interdisciplinary Europe-wide association was supported and welcomed by members of the following three organizations already in existence: ELAMA e.V. (*EuroLinguistischer Arbeitskreis Mannheim*), A.E.S. (*Associazione EuroLinguistica Sud*) and ENSE (*EuroLinguistic Network South East*).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> This is an abbreviated version of my paper presented to the ELAMA workshop "Migrating words and concepts between languages in and outside Europe" held at the International Conference on "Sémantique et lexicologie des langues d'Europe: des aspects théoriques aux applications", Université Charles-de-Gaulle-Lille 3, Oct. 22-23, 2007.

<sup>4</sup> For a complete wording of ELA Articles 1-11 and the Pushkin Theses see the ELAMA homepage [www.elama.de](http://www.elama.de).

<sup>5</sup> Until such a Board of Directors has been appointed, ELAMA e.V. will act on behalf of ELA (see Figs 1 and 2).

so, if the Board of Directors decide it necessary (see Articles 1-2).

It is "a network of regional organizations" for promoting EuroLinguistics, e.g. *ELAMA e.V.* (Mannheim, Germany); *EuroLinguistica Sud (A.E.S.)* (Rome, Italy) and *ENSE* (Zagreb, Croatia) (Article 3:1); it is open for membership of other regional EuroLinguistic associations and may have the loose structure of a network and be founded upon initiative of the ELA Board of Directors (for more details see Article 2:1). Furthermore, adherence to the *Pushkin Theses*<sup>6</sup> was suggested, which is primarily to promote specific aims of multilingual research: "contacts between languages and linguistic properties common to European lan-

<sup>6</sup> Cf. the homepage of ELAMA for a survey of the 20 theses formulated in connection with the 2<sup>nd</sup> EuroLinguistic Symposium in Pushkin, Russia, in Sept. 11-16, 1999 ([www.elama.de](http://www.elama.de)).



guages which reflect such contacts”: language typology (both historically and diachronically), lesser-used languages in contact or conflict with major European or non-European languages; the study of European languages in a global context; and multilingual programmes for language learning and teaching (Article 3.3).

### III. The financing of the ELA activities

The financing of the different subsections is not proposed here to be covered by the ordinary budget of the *EuroLinguistic Association* but rather be regionally supported by respective areas involved (Article 5). ELA “will not collect individual membership fees. The costs of the network’s activities that cannot be covered by conference fees, subscriptions to publications or sponsoring will be divided among the constituting organizations according to their number of personal and institutional members” (Article 5).

### IV. The election of the Board of Directors

For the election of such a Board of Directors outlined in Fig. 2, a special commission must be convoked: “They should represent as far as possible the regional Ethnolinguistic fields of studies” to be presented for approval (Article 7:1). A first step in this

direction has already been taken with the constitution of *EuroLinguistica Sud* of April 2005 in Rome and which now has the expertise required for things concerning EuroLinguistics South (see [www.euroLinguistica.sud.org](http://www.euroLinguistica.sud.org)). However, in Lille the questions of electing and appointing a Board of Directors and an Executive Committee consisting of President and two Vice Presidents plus a Secretary on the one hand, and a Main Editor of the Editorial Board on the other, could not be resolved there but were postponed to a later ELA meeting.

### V. ELA Membership

Furthermore, notice that “Personal membership is indirect and possible only via membership in a regional member organization; membership of the network shall COMPRISE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE TO A REGIONAL MEMBER ORGANIZATION” (Article 4). The easiest way of acquiring ELA- membership is thus to buy a volume published in the series *Studies in EuroLinguistics via a local branch* (*A.E.S.*, *ENSE* or *ELAMA*) which automatically entitles the buyer to a 20% lower price, to membership plus an annual issue of *EuroLinguistics Newsletter*. The ordering address is the following kontakt@elama.de or

kexbo@gmx.de. This condition of indirect membership in ELA via a local organisation will be necessary, because until we have a deep and functioning European identity, the regional thinking will prevail over the European scope. As a good example one could mention the successful founding of The Baltic Sea Programme at the University of Uppsala, the main financing of which is through national sources although the scope and cooperation is transnational. I hope this offer will be attractive and increase the interest in our publication series so that not only conferences and symposia are organized without succeeding documentation, which is often the case. **(For the exact wording of the ELA Statutes see [www.elama.de/Home-page](http://www.elama.de/Home-page)).**

### VI. The Pushkin Manifesto

a) in English:

—<http://www.elama.de/manifesto.htm>

b) in Russian:

—<http://www.elama.de/manifesto.htm>

c) in Italian

—<http://www.elama.de/manifesto.htm>



## 7. CALL FOR PAPERS

to be presented at the 2012 ELA Symposium in November

### Dialects, minority languages and standard languages in Europe and beyond

The symposium will take place in Heidelberg and Mannheim, Germany in November 2012, organized in cooperation between Heidelberg University's School of Translation and Interpreting (SÜD) and the EuroLinguistischer Arbeitskreis Mannheim (ELAMA), as well as the Associazione EuroLinguistica Sud (A.E.S. Roma) and the EuroLinguistic Network South-East (ENSE, Zagreb). Researchers in linguistics and related fields are invited to submit abstracts for papers, preferably dealing with dialects, linguistic minorities and standard languages spoken north, south, east and west of the Alps, as well as Eurasian languages spoken east of the Ural Mountains.

The symposium will focus on the socio-ethnic and political variables within each language group and the role which dialects and minority languages may have played in the genesis of standard languages in Europe and adjacent Eurasian areas. What can we learn from comparing the European and Eurasian perspectives of glottogenesis? How have tendencies of convergence shaped the linguistic map? The symposium also aims to lay the groundwork for a comparative descriptive and explanatory survey of the main historical, geographical and cultural parameters for the coalescence of specific European and Eurasian standard languages, with particular attention to the role of linguistic interrelations and language contact. An additional focus will lie on the prospects for maintaining linguistic diversity in a global era. Will globalization inevitably lead to language shift and the loss of linguistic diversity? Or have new possibilities for language maintenance emerged with the advent of transnational political constellations such as the EU? Papers presenting both synchronic and diachronic perspectives are welcome, as well as topics in language policy, language planning, and language maintenance.

**Send abstracts of up to 200 words to:**

john.stewart@iued.uni-heidelberg.de

Abstract deadline: July 15, 2012

Notification of acceptance by: August 1, 2012

Seminar für Übersetzen und Dolmetschen, Plöck 57A, D- 69117 Heidelberg, c/o Dr. John Stewart or EuroLinguistischer Arbeitskreis (ELAMA), c/o Prof. Sture Ureland

Philosophische Fakultät, Universität Mannheim, Schloss, D-68133 Mannheim,

GERMANY

e-mail: kexbo@gmx.de

mobile phone no.: 0049-179 147 0621

I would be interested in contributing to the ELA-Symposium planned for Heidelberg/Manheim with a paper (30 minutes) on the following topic:

Name:

.....  
.....

Address:

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.....

e-mail address:.....and mobile phone:.....



## 8. The Structure of ELA

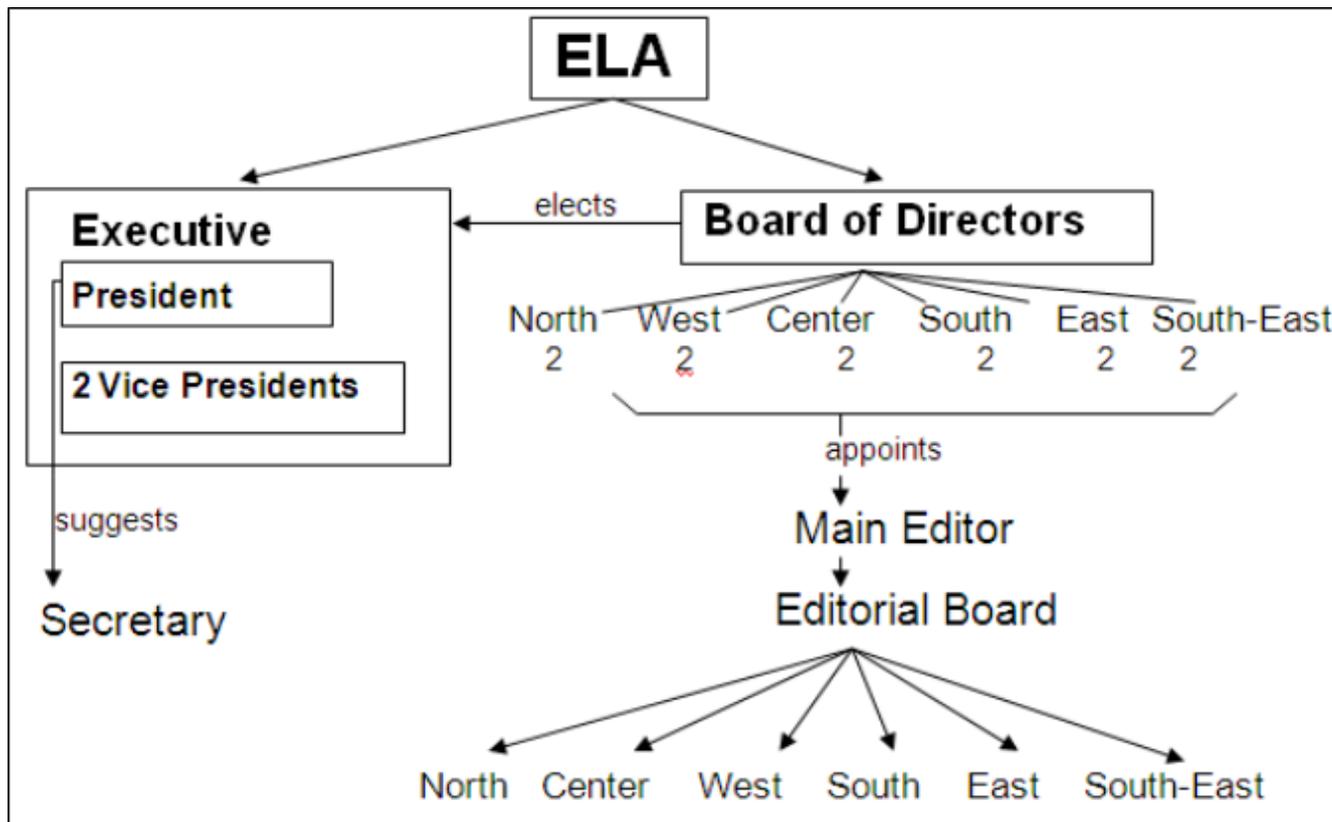


Fig. 18: The Structure of ELA

## Contents

1. The Roma Covegno (April 18-20, 2011)
2. The Božava Conference (Dugi Otok), Croatia, May 20-22, 2011
3. The Transeurasian Symposium in Leuven, Belgium, September 21-23, 2011
4. References
5. Appendix of the main papers given at the University of Leuven in Sept. 2011
6. APPENDIX
7. Call for papers Mannheim/Heidelberg (November, 2012)
8. Structure of ELA