BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

LinGhentian Doctorials

20-21 December 2023

GHENT
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ARTS
AND PHILOSOPHY

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SESSION 1 – DIVERSITY IN LANGUAGE

Wednesday 20 December 2023, 9.15-10.30

Linguistics and diversity: LinGhentians and beyond (keynote)

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In this keynote, I aim to (1) briefly explore the topic of diversity in relation to the field of linguistics, and (2) use the topic of diversity as a critical lens to review the linguistic research that is being conducted at Ghent University. Depending on the perspective, linguistic research that interacts with the topic of diversity takes different forms. We can distinguish diversity with regard to linguistic typology (i.e. studying typologically diverse languages (a.o. Stoll & Bickel 2013; Bickel 2015; Kidd & Garcia 2022; Slobin 2022; Blasi et al. 2022), the populations studied (a.o. McManus 2022; Wei & Garcia 2022; Leivada et al. 2023; Holliday & Squires 2021), linguistic modality (a.o. Patel Grosz 2023; Meier et al. 2002; James et al. 2022), methodology (McManus 2022; Rolland et al. 2023; van Hest & Jacobs 2022), covering a wide range of subfields such as language acquisition research, corpus linguistics, ethnography, and so forth.

Taking my own research on Hindi, a minority language in Europe, and my positionality as a white, cisgender female researcher as a starting point, I aim to advocate for reflections on positionality, failure , academic honesty and diversity as an important step in opening up the field of linguistics towards a more inclusive research practice. I specifically focus on research that has been presented at the previous editions of the *LinGhentian Doctorials*. The *LinGhentian Doctorials* has aimed to bring together linguistic research that is being conducted at different departments of our university, and therefore presents an interesting sample of the wide range of topics that are being investigated at our university. The result of this review is a map of the linguistic research by young researchers at our university on the one hand, and an attempt to position the focus of our research against directions that researchers focusing on diversity on the global stage are advocating for, on the other.

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The mental gender representation of gender-neutral pronouns

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In recent years, renewed activism for gender-inclusive language has included the introduction and promotion of gender-neutral pronouns in several languages, e.g. *hen* in Swedish, singular *they* in English, *die* or *hen* in Dutch, *iel* in French (Vergoossen et al., 2020, Bjorkman, 2017, Decock et al., 2023, Swamy & Mackenzie, 2022). These pronouns may be used for specific non-binary reference to a person who does not identify with the binary genders man or woman (example 1). Additionally, they may be useful for generic reference, in contexts where the referent's gender is irrelevant or unknown (example 2).

(1) Sasha went out yesterday. *They* had a great time with *their* friends.

(2) If a reader likes this book, *they* may want to read other books by this author too.

Gender-inclusive language reforms started as a reaction to the criticism that many languages with natural or grammatical gender use the masculine form as a default, which generates an androcentric perspective (Braun et al., 2005). Empirical studies have confirmed that the use of masculine linguistic forms leads to a mental overrepresentation of men (i.e. male bias) and that gender-inclusive language invokes more balanced representations of *men and women* (Braun et al., 2005; Gygax et al., 2012; Hekanaho, 2020). However, research on non-binary or gender-inclusive mental representation is more recent and still fairly limited (Bradley et al., 2019; Zacharski & Ferstl, 2023).

The present study investigates the mental gender representations that gender-neutral pronouns evoke in French and Dutch. We formulate the following research questions: (1) Do gender-neutral pronouns used for specific non-binary reference trigger a non-binary mental representation, and what does this entail? (2) Do gender-neutral pronouns used for generic reference succeed in eliminating male bias and in evoking balanced mental gender representations?

At the LinGhentian Doctorials, we will present the theoretical and methodological considerations that complicate the measurement of non-binary or gender-inclusive mental representations. This includes insights from the preliminary results of two methods that were tested as part of two pilot studies on gender-neutral pronouns used for generic reference: a Likert scale asking whether participants agreed the text they read could refer to men, women or nonbinary people, and an open description question. Finally, we will present our new experimental design to measure mental representations of gender-neutral pronouns used for specific non-binary reference.

We choose to tackle the question of non-binary mental representation by approaching it from personality descriptors. We define the mental representation as the sum of various descriptors (e.g. young, old, feminine, masculine, non-binary, outgoing, introverted). We will present the labels in a within-subjects experiment in which participants read short, authentic texts (e.g. excerpts from newspaper articles, social media captions, employee bios…) in which different referential strategies are used (e.g. gender-neutral pronouns, masculine forms, pronoun avoidance).

The experiments will allow us to better understand how gender-neutral pronouns influence mental representations of (non-binary) gender, and whether gender-neutral pronouns are a way of achieving a more inclusive representation. Bringing together insights from different experimental methods is meant to validate novel ways of measuring mental gender representation outside of the traditional gender binary, including non-binary and gender-inclusive representations.

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SESSION 2 – CROSSLINGUISTIC CONTEXTS

Wednesday 20 December 2023, 11.00-12.00

English-Spanish(-Kriol) codeswitching in the US and Belize:

lexical-analytic versus morphological-synthetic strategies

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In linguistics, codeswitching refers to the seamless transition by speakers between multiple languages while speaking (Muysken, 2000). These transitions can happen repeatedly, at various points within and between sentences and between various combinations of two or more languages at a time (Parafita Couto, Bellamy, & Ameka, 2023), as illustrated in (1a-b) below. Although stigmatized in certain con-texts, extensive research over the past decades shows that codeswitching is a valid form of language use in its own right, operating through underlying cognitive and sociolinguistic factors (Poplack, 1980; Deuchar, 2012; López, 2020).

(1) a. *Tunisian Arabic*-French
    Je lui ai   dit *baš yi-xarraž   il   karhba* ce   matin.
    I   him have told that he-takes.out the car   this morning
    'I told him to take out the car this morning.'

  b. *Spanish*-English
    This morning *mi hermano y   yo fuimos a   comprar* some milk.
    This morning my   brother and I   went   to   buy   some milk
    'This morning my brother and I went to buy some milk.' (Belazi, Rubin, & Toribio, 1994)

Still, the combination of multiple grammars into one structure prompts questions as to how this process comes about, especially in case of a mismatch between these 'monolingual' grammars (Poplack & Meechan, 1998). Seemingly, certain switches or resolutions of conflict points are preferred over others and some switches are even ungrammatical. Additionally, the preference for certain swit-ches can depend on the sociolinguistic characteristics of the speaker or of the bilingual community as a whole (Balam, Parafita Couto, & Stadthagen-González, 2020).

In my PhD project, I investigate codeswitching in three communities, namely Miami (Florida), El Paso (Texas) and Orange Walk Town (Belize). All three communities feature high degrees of English-Spanish bilingualism, with the additional presence in Belize of Belizean Kriol, a creole language with influences from English and Spanish, as well as Mayan, Caribbean and African languages. The project investigates potential morphosyntactic conflict points in codeswitching, where the languages under consideration differ in that they use either synthetic (i.e. morphological) or analytic (i.e. lexical) strategies to express certain grammatical features, specifically intensification. While English mostly uses analytic strategies to express intensification, such as the lexical items 'big', 'very' and 'a lot', Spanish additionally has various nominal and adjectival affixes for this purpose, including the nominal augmentative suffixes *-ón*, *-azo* and *-ote* and the adjectival superlative suffix *-ísimo*, which are very productive and widely used in many varieties of Spanish. On top of lexical intensifiers, Kriol also has intensifying reduplication. Some examples of possible codeswitched intensifying constructions are shown in (2-3) below.

(2) a. I see a   big *casa*.
         I see a   big house
         'I see a big house.'

     b. *Veo*   *un* house*-ón*.
         see.1SG a   house-AUG
         'I see a big house.'

(3) a. *Esa película es*   good*-ísima*.
         that movie   be.3SG   good-SUP
         'That movie is very good.'

     b. *Esa película es*   *requete*-good.
         that movie   be.3SG   INTS-good
         'That movie is very good.'

     c. That movie is **oanli**[KRIOL] *bueno*.
         that movie is very   good
         'That movie is very good.'

The project investigates this phenomenon from three perspectives, namely a structural linguistic, a psycholinguistic and a sociolinguistic perspective. The structural component mostly makes use of existing linguistic corpora of codeswitching data from the three communities and investigates which types of potentially expected codeswitched intensifying constructions are found in the three commu-nities. Next, the psycholinguistic component entails various director-matcher experiments, in which pairs of participants, some of whom are confederates trying to elicit codeswitching through priming, describe objects to each other. Finally, the sociolinguistic component aims to establish connections, in both the corpus study and the experiments, between the observed switches and various sociolinguistic characteristics of the speakers, both on the personal

and the community level. In all, the project hopes to contribute, on the one hand, to a better academic understanding of codeswitching and the social and cognitive mechanisms underlying it and, on the other hand, to a more favorable societal percep-tion of codeswitching as a valid form of language use.

Glossing abbreviations

1 = first person; 3 = third person, AUG = augmentative; INTS = intensifier; SG = singular; SUP = superlative

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Cross-cultural dialogue in the China-US trade war:

a corpus-assisted rhetorical analysis of the FOX vs. CGTN host debate

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This paper centres on the ongoing China-US trade dispute with a case study of a debate between two hosts, Trish Regan from FOX Business Network and Liu Xin from CGTN (China Global Television Network). It employs a methodology combining corpus analysis techniques (semantic tagging, keyness and n-grams analysis in particular) with qualitative examination of the debate transcript and relevant news articles. Drawing upon the classic rhetorical theories by Aristotle and Confucius, the core finding suggests that rhetorical strategies effective in one cultural context may not translate well into another. The research findings attempted to locate the reasons and to shed light on further research in cross-cultural communication.

This debate garnered significant attention against the backdrop of the China-US trade dispute. Regan accused China of 'stealing' 600 billion US dollars annually, a claim disputed by Liu for lacking evidence. Liu criticized Regan's approach as emotional rather than fact-based. Subsequently, Regan publicly invited Liu to a televised debate, which Liu accepted. The debate dynamics between the hosts revealed intriguing power imbalances affecting the discussion. Regan, appearing to be 'the primary definer' (Hall et al., 1978), held inherent advantages that influenced the dialogue's dynamics, putting Liu on a relatively more defensive side with the need to provide more justification (*logos*, Aristotle, 1335b). Liu's responses appeared to normalise certain events, defending the 'Correctness of Name' rooted in the Confucian virtues (Gong, 1998). Liu's portrayal in non-Chinese media depicts her seemingly lack of 'authenticity'(*ethos*), contrasting Regan's directness in speech, which was mainly perceived negatively in Chinese media. Despite these credibility shifts, both hosts and most news coverage recognised the debate's positive implications for future multilateral dialogue on trade negotiations.

The study highlights the challenges in intercultural communication: imbalanced speakers' roles in public discourse, different uses and perceptions of rhetorical strategies. This paper also provides an innovative methodology for comparative rhetorical analysis. While some rhetorical traditions are not strictly tied to a single culture, understanding culturally specific rhetorical traditions and adopting a holistic view are equally imperative.

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SESSION 3 – BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

Wednesday 20 December 2023, 13.00-14.30

How do luxury fashion brands integrate sustainability in their social media communication?
An exploration of tweet data analysis

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Researchers, such as Fletcher (2013) and Chow and Li (2017), have highlighted the significant detrimental impacts of the fashion industry, the second largest polluter worldwide (EcoWatch, 2015), on our environment and society. For instance, to match fashion trends, the fashion industry adopts rapid production causing higher consumption of natural resources like water, and elevated levels of greenhouse gas emissions (Remy et al., 2016). Labor rights are violated to cut production costs (Thorisdottir and Johannsdottir, 2020). This industry faces considerable challenges regarding environmental and social issues and must embrace more sustainable practices that address present needs without compromising the well-being of future generations (Sustainable Development Summit, 2023).

As luxury consumption is generally seen as superfluous (Campos Franco et al., 2020), the luxury fashion industry is often subject to public scrutiny and faces intensified criticism for its resource consumption and waste. Luxury fashion brands have been accused of their slow reactions to sustainability (Jain, 2019; Di Benedetto, 2017), reliance on non-renewable materials and exploitation of labor force. Furthermore, with growing concerns about environmental and social issues, consumers increasingly incorporate these concerns into their purchasing decisions for sustainable products (Arrigo, 2018; Hashmi, 2017). Therefore, luxury fashion brands are compelled to adopt sustainable practices to mitigate their negative impacts generated by its supply chain (Bundgaard and Huulgaard, 2019; Arrigo, 2018).

However, sustainability and luxury fashion are often perceived as two contradictory concepts (Kong et al., 2016). For instance, sustainable products are believed to be more expensive and of inferior quality than their non-sustainable counterparts (Newman et al., 2014; Griskevicius et al., 2010), yet luxury fashion items are renowned for high-quality (Campos Franco et al., 2020). Sustainable fashion advocates durable items and is impeded by a

limited variety of often basic fashion styles (Ritch and Brownlie, 2016), whereas abundant iterations of exclusive styles are the key in luxury fashion (McGouran and Prothero, 2016).

Additionally, Torelli et al. (2012) found that sustainability messages decrease the evaluation of luxury brands when connected with self-enhancement that motivates one to positively view oneself and seek social superiority (Cannon and Rucker, 2022). Evidently, the luxury fashion industry faces a significant challenge in communicating their sustainable practices without compromising brand values. Yet, it is imperative to understand how to achieve this effectively.

In this study, we seek to explore how luxury fashion brands convey their sustainability initiatives on social media and to identify which sustainability message framing strategy used by luxury fashion brands maximizes user interactions (likes/reply/retweet). We investigate the progression of the volume of sustainability-related tweets, distinguishing between messages focusing on pro-environmental and pro-social aspects. Furthermore, we examine the framing of these tweets, focusing on several dimensions encompassing sentiment scores, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals formulated by the United Nations, and market offerings (product/service/strategy). To label the messages, we adopt an automated content analysis method using large language models (i.e., GPT 4).

The results provide luxury fashion brands with valuable insights into sustainability message framing strategies to preserve brand values when communicating their sustainable practices on social media.

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Public relations practitioners' role in organizational crisis decision-making

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Crises are unpredictable, major events which can negatively impact both the organization and its stakeholders (Coombs, 2023). In order to face complex crisis situations, organizations often turn to multi-disciplinary crisis management teams (Frandsen & Johansen, 2017). A crisis management team (CMT) can be defined as the decision-making unit charged with determining the organizational crisis response (Coombs, 2010; 2023). It is composed of highly experienced professionals with diverse skills and expertise (Penrose, 2000; Uitdewilligen & Waller, 2018), who are responsible for crisis management in general, and crisis communication in particular (Coombs, 2023). While some sources claim that public relations practitioners play a leading role in the CMT (e.g., Lee et al., 2007), others suggest a more executive or supporting role (e.g., Claeys & Opgenhaffen, 2021). It thus remains unclear what the specific role is of PR-practitioners during decision-making regarding organizational crisis communication.

Several factors influence an organization's ultimate choice of crisis response (Huang & Su, 2009). Apart from the tangible aspects that impact an organization's crisis management efforts (e.g., crisis management plan), various intangible aspects also play a role in the outcome of a crisis (Penrose, 2000). For instance, the organizational structure will determine the extent to which the public relations department is granted autonomy, is sensitive to encroachment (i.e., interference from a different department), and is part of the dominant coalition (Bowen, 2006; Lee et al., 2007; Marra, 1998b). Furthermore, the predominant communication culture in the organization (defensive, one-way vs. open, two-way) can either reinforce or undermine public relations efforts (Marra, 1998a). Through qualitative research among Belgian communication professionals, we therefore wanted to explore the degree to which PR-professionals succeed in affecting crisis communication decisions (e.g., message content, message wording).

Between January and April of 2021, we conducted 17 semi-structured in-depth interviews with senior public relations consultants from Belgian communication agencies or the Belgian branch of international communication agencies. Due to covid-19 restrictions, all interviews were conducted online through Microsoft Teams. The average interview lasted 59 minutes, ranging from 37 minutes to 1 hour 43 minutes. The interviews were audio-recorded, before being manually transcribed. During the interviews, the PR-practitioners were asked about the nature and duration of their involvement in organizational crises. In addition, they were questioned

about the extent to which their crisis advice is actually adopted. In the following months, the interview transcripts will be subjected to an inductive data coding process.

With this study, we want to (1) shed light on public relations practitioners' role in organizational crisis decision-making, (2) gain insight into the collaboration dynamics of multi-disciplinary CMTs, and (3) discover the tangible and intangible factors that determine whether or not public relations advice is followed during a crisis. The preliminary findings indicate that PR-practitioners can assume both an advisory and executive role. While the decision-making process is often a tug-of-war between the different disciplines involved, public relations advice is generally adopted. Still, there are several factors which are perceived by communication consultants as facilitators (e.g., trusted client-agency relationship) or inhibitors (e.g., legal and financial consequences).

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Determining the effectiveness of communication training based on aikido

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There has long been a need for experience-based culture-general approaches in intercultural business communication courses. Scholars have described the potential of the Japanese martial art of aikido, which offers a framework for understanding arguments as harmonization rather than confrontation (Kroll, 2008, p. 451). However, there are no studies that have investigated the efficiency and effectiveness of communication training based on aikido. This quantitative empirical study evaluates an aikido-based training day for intercultural business communication. The aim was to teach professionals (n = 73) an aikido model of interaction. On four training days, two groups were taught embodying aikido exercises (the embodied groups), while the other two groups received theoretical explanations without doing aikido (the comparison groups). Pre- and posttests used the Multicultural Personality Questionnaire (MPQ-SF40) to evaluate the development of interaction skills (1), measured the fingertip skin temperature to gauge the effects of tranquillity training (2), and assessed memory performance (3). Qualitative analyses of the responses and the observations of the training days triangulated the quantitative data. First, participants in the embodied groups demonstrated a lower degree of flexibility in their multicultural personality scores. Van der Zee et al. (2013) explained that flexibility in the MPQ refers to interpreting novel situations as a positive challenge and adapting to these situations accordingly. A drop in flexibility may seem negative. However, the flexibility statements in the MPQ-SF40 suggest that lower flexibility means that one finds it comfortable to follow a plan or a scheme. The aikido interaction model is such a supportive scheme that participants were taught and, therefore, lower flexibility is positive when using the MPQ-SF40 as an index. Second, the fingertip skin temperature measurements were unreliable due to low ambient temperatures caused by the energy crisis in 2022. Third, participants of the embodied groups remembered their take-home messages better than the comparison groups. Learning an aikido interaction model by performing aikido movements resulted in intercultural communication support and deep retention. Incorporating embodied learning techniques such as aikido exercises can enhance learning effectiveness.

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SESSION 4 – LANGUAGE LEARNING

Wednesday 20 December 2023, 15.00-16.30

The use of non-standard Dutch by adult L2 speakers: an empirical study in Flanders

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As non-standard Dutch gets less attention in the mainstream education system, language teachers seek solutions to bridge the gap between the standard language taught in school and the non-standard language used in daily life. A great example of this is the project Goesting in Taal by language teacher Sofie Begine, in which she offers an online course with self-study tools where she teaches "informal spoken language". In this course she focuses on non-standard Dutch, the omnipresent variant in Flanders, where the linguistic landscape is characterized by the coexistence of Standard Dutch, local dialects, and a strong presence of "Tussentaal," an umbrella term referring to the continuum of non-standard Dutch situated between Standard Dutch and the dialects. Tussentaal is highly prevalent in the daily discourse among native speakers in Flanders, thus defining Flanders' spoken linguistic landscape. However, as Begine points out, this variant receives limited attention in mainstream education. In the educational objectives of Dutch as a second language (NT2) (*Servicedocument opleidingsprofielen NT2*, s.d.), the emphasis is almost entirely on the standard language, especially at the lower levels. Only at higher CEFR-levels[1], starting at B1, there is mention of, for example, pronunciation in an "acceptable variant." Therefore, Tussentaal often poses a challenge for second language learners, as it is the omnipresent variant in daily discourse but commonly diverges from the language taught in school, especially in the lower levels of the curriculum (Lybaert, 2016).

Sociolinguists have long focused on language variation and, later on, the related educational constraints, with Labov's 20th-century research serving as an inaugural exploration. Sociolinguistic research acknowledges that language variation is intrinsic and inseparable from the language itself (De Vogelaer et al., 2017). That this escalating interest on language variation among native speakers elaborated to variation among second

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[1] This levels are established by the Council of Europe and organise language proficiency in six levels with A1 being the lowest starting level and C2 being the highest level equivalent to the native language level.

language speakers is unsurprising; regional characteristics are intricately linked to social attributes and attitudes towards non-native speakers and attitudes among those speakers (Schoonmakers-Gates, 2020). Although there is a growing body of research on language variation among second language speakers in languages such as German (see, for example, Ender, 2017), further investigation is imperative to comprehend the situation in Flanders. Studies on Dutch variation among adult second language learners are relatively limited, primarily focusing on the experiences and perceptions of teachers and second language learners (see, for example, Lybaert, Van Hest, & Van Cleemputte, 2019), rather than the language use among those speakers. Direct comparisons with results from other languages are not feasible. Flanders' distinctive linguistic landscape, characterized by the presence of Tussentaal, is particularly intriguing and necessitates thorough research on the acquisition of sociolinguistic variation among second language speakers.

In this study, we will investigate the use of Tussentaal by non-native speakers. The first research objective is to assess the extent to which advanced non-native speakers incorporate non-standard variants into their linguistic system and if they employ them similarly to native speakers. The second research objective will study the factors (exposure, mother tongue, attitude, etc.) influencing such non-standard variance. During the presentation, we will discuss the choices made regarding data collection, elaborating on the corpus we will compile and the profiles of the respondents we will include in the corpus.

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The effect of L1-L2 similarity in L2 prediction: evidence from visual-world eye-tracking study

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Prediction is the pre-activation of different linguistic information. As for L2 prediction, there is debate whether predictive processing in the second language of bilinguals is similar as in the first language. On the one hand, there are some empirical studies supporting that there are no fundamental differences between L1 and L2 prediction. On the other hand, some researchers regarded it as a reduced ability in L2 compared to native speakers. Here we ask whether any such differences in predictive processes depend on the similarity of the L1 and L2.

In a visual-world eye-tracking study, we compared both L1 and L2 prediction of Chinese-English (N=32) and Dutch-English (N=32) bilinguals. Dutch and English are typologically close (both belong to Western Germanic languages) whereas Chinese and English are typologically distant (Chinese is a Sino-Tibetan language). Each participant listened to highly constraining sentences like "Mary will read the book" or neutral sentences like "Mary will share the book" both in their L1 (Chinese or Dutch) and L2 (English) across blocks. In each trial, participants first had a preview of 4 pictures (e.g., target = "book"; distractors = "dress", "pineapple" and "sandwich") displayed on the screen (for 2200 ms) and then heard either a highly constraining sentence (the verb could only apply to the target object, e.g., "read" and "book") or a neutral sentence (the verb could apply to all the objects on the screen, e.g., "share" and four objects), while their eye movements were being recorded. There were 18 sets of sentences with the critical item, with 18 fillers sets (the verb could apply to 0, 2 or 3 objects) in this study. Chinese and Dutch sentences were translation equivalents of English stimuli.

Linear mixed-effects models were used in data analysis. Both the overall and time course analysis showed that L1 and L2 prediction did occur in both Dutch-English and Chinese-English bilinguals, and more crucially, both groups of bilinguals showed similar patterns of predictive processing in their L2 English. Hence, similarity with L1 seems to play a minimal role in L2 predictive processing (at least at the lexico-semantic level). We replicated the result of the previous study about Dutch-English bilinguals (equally strong L1 and L2 prediction). The novel finding is that earlier and stronger L1 prediction occurred than L2 among Chinese-English bilinguals and L1 prediction of Chinese-English bilinguals was earlier and stronger than of Dutch-English bilinguals.

Becoming institutionalised: the complexity of ethical research when conducting live-in ethnography with minors abroad in a total institution

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In September 2021, I embarked on my ethnographic journey to learn more about the booming trend of Spanish middle-class (pre)adolescent mobility to Northern Irish (NI) boarding schools for English immersion purposes. Like my participants (aged 11–18), I was uprooting for an academic year to reside abroad in a local boarding school setting; for them, the purpose was to be socialized into the English language by 'living' and 'doing' among natives (Schieffelin & Ochs, 1986), while for myself, the aim was to explore what it meant, from a critical sociolinguistic perspective, for them to 'do' immersion abroad, and what this looked and sounded like 'in the making'. It became apparent within our first weeks that boarding schools are not simply sites to 'dip in and out of' but are complex, highly regulated hierarchical spaces that demand the full delivery of oneself onto the institution (Khan, 2011). As we became institutionalised ourselves, we had to quickly learn how to navigate these sites, and, in my case, how to continue to conduct ethical research within and through the framework of a "total institution", where students (and staff) live an "enclosed, formally administered round of life" "cut off from wider society" for extensive periods of time (Goffman, 1961: xi).

This paper explores some of the main challenges I faced during my live-in ethnography of Spanish minors in two state-funded boarding schools in NI. I will draw on the particular ethical and methodological questions that arose while being a participant-observer in these very specific environments, and will unpack the ways in which I had to pivot (more, or less successfully) during my fieldwork; at times to (re)build alliances, shift my positionality, and/or (re)negotiate access in pursuit of a more reflexive, ethical and sustainable way of conducting research within this panopticon-esque (Foucault, 1977) field.

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SESSION 5 – INTERPRETING

Thursday 21 December 2023, 09.30-10.30

Carriers/Barriers: interpreter roles and expectations in the interaction between guardians and unaccompanied minors

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The increasing linguistic diversity in society has turned interpreters into key figures in public service settings. Especially in migration and refugee contexts, which are inherently multilingual in nature, interpreters are crucial in giving voice and enabling access to essential care and services (Blommaert, 2006; Maryns, 2006). So far, interpreting research has already shed some light on how linguistic diversity is dealt with in primary care, mental health care and social work (Angelelli, 2004; Bot, 2015; Hsieh, 2006; Pollock, 2023; Schwei et al., 2019; Westlake & Jones, 2018), but the interactional context of guardians and unaccompanied minors (UAM) remains unexplored. Language, however, is an especially critical dimension in the interaction between UAM and guardians. Communication in these encounters is key, and the usually delicate and complex topics discussed require optimal language support. In this way, interpreters are not only essential, but also practically inherent to the guardian-UAM relationship. Additionally, the time span over which these encounters take place allow relationships to develop, which may influence the interactional dynamics of the communication. Previous research, however, has mainly focused on settings where interpreting is used more infrequently, or over shorter stretches of time. The current study therefore aims to provide insight into the multilingual needs and challenges in UAM-guardian encounters, focussing particularly on the roles interpreters play in this setting and how they are perceived to affect interaction. To this end, the study draws on ethnographic data collected as part of a 4-year research project examining the impact of multilingual strategies on the communication and relationship between guardians and minors. Through thematic analysis of 12 semi-structured interviews, the study explores guardians' insecurities, revealing confusion about the professional status of interpreters, as well as insecurity about interpretation quality, and conflicting expectations of what interpreters should (not) do. The study provides recommendations with a view to improving both the confidence of guardians and the efficiency of guardian-UAM interactions.

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Investigating the investigators: an analysis of procedural differences in Flemish municipal investigative practices into possible sham marriages

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In Belgium, when marriage applications are filed involving a non-European partner, they are typically subjected to a municipal investigation and, should it prove necessary, a police investigation. A couple can be suspected of a sham marriage when one partner resides in the country illegally and could gain a permanent residential permit through the marriage. As at least one party is not native to the country, they will generally require the assistance of an interpreter during the investigations. However, Belgian-Flemish law does not provide a set of rules and regulations on how municipalities should best conduct the sham marriage investigations. They are free to organise them as they deem most suitable and thus are at liberty to choose what kind of interpreter they recruit (professional (sworn or social) or ad hoc) (Vandenbroucke & Defrancq, 2021), and who is responsible for the cost of the interpreter (the municipality itself or the couple).

Additionally, the civil servants must draft a written report of the interview whilst it is taking place. This written report is the sole document which underlies the decision regarding the future of the couple (Vandenbroucke, 2020; 2022). The document is thus of utmost importance. Nonetheless, the municipalities can also choose who has access to the report, either as it is being drafted or when it is finished.

During police investigations, however, a professional (sworn) interpreter must be summoned and is paid by the judiciary. The police inspector is the only party with access to the written report during the drafting process, but both the interpreter and the couple get the time to read the written report to make changes and both need to sign it before it is finalised and submitted as evidence to the public prosecutor's office.

This PhD project examines the influence of the interpreter on entextualisation – the process of turning spoken discourse into a written text so it can be extracted from its original context (Bauman & Briggs, 1990) – during the interviews, at both a municipal and police level. The data is currently being collected in three different municipalities and police zones (A, B & C). Currently we have obtained 20 audio and 13 video recordings of 18 couples (A: 1, B: 7, C: 10), of which 3 recordings were made at the police station of zones B (1) & C (2). We have been able to observe three different types of interpreters: ad hoc, sworn and social interpreters, of which only

the latter ones took notes during the interpretation process. Additionally, we have obtained 10 written records of C's municipality and 2 written records of the corresponding police zone.

In this paper, we will present an overview of the diversified practices by municipalities across Flanders regarding how they conduct investigations into possible sham relations. This covers not only the choice of interpreter (professional (sworn/social) or non-professional) and interview practices, but also the specific practice of committing the spoken interpreter-mediated encounter to words on paper in the report. In doing so, particular attention will be paid to the possible procedural consequences of the municipalities' choices in investigative practice.

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SESSION 6 – PHONOLOGY

Thursday 21 December 2023, 11.00-12.00

Acquiring nasal vowels in French:

an acoustic and perceptual study on Belgian Dutch learners' pronunciation

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Non-native (L2) speech is commonly known to contain acoustic-phonetic cues that deviate from average native (L1) speech as a result of cross-linguistic interaction between speakers' native and target language. In this light, the production of nasal vowels by L2 learners is a particularly interesting subject, because unlike nasalized vowels, nasal vowel phonemes are relatively uncommon in the world's languages. In fact, the phonemic contrast between oral and nasal vowels exists in only 22,6 % of them (Maddieson & Precoda, 1990). To our knowledge, little research has focused on the production of nasal vowels by L2 learners (but see e.g., Detey, 2012). This paper aims to contribute to our knowledge of the acquisition of nasal vowels by investigating how Belgian Dutch learners produce French nasal vowels. While Dutch has no nasal vowels in its inventory, present-day Hexagonal French has three, being /ɔ̃/, /ɛ̃/ and/ɑ̃/ (e.g., *Ce très bon* [bɔ̃] *vin* [vɛ̃] *blanc* [blɑ̃]). Several scholars have indeed reported that L1 Dutch learners of French have difficulties producing those vowels (e.g., Debrock & Mertens, 1993; Berns & Nouveau, 2016).

In order to capture production in a holistic way, we focus on both listener-based and acoustic measures. This study thus sheds light on two different dimensions of production accuracy, that is, vowel intelligibility and phonetic nativelikeness. Vowels were produced in high-frequency monosyllabic French words by 20 Belgian Dutch speakers. First, 71 French-speaking listeners performed an online identification task that assessed listeners' actual understanding of non-native accented nasal vowels (cf. vowel intelligibility). Listeners represented two French-speaking regions, namely the Île-de-France region, traditionally considered as the center of the French-speaking world, and Liège, a peripheral region often associated with a pronunciation that deviates from the hexagonal norm. We developed a mixed-effects model to examine the intelligibility of Dutch-

accented nasal vowels. Secondly, the learners' vowel productions were acoustically analyzed and compared to Carignan's (2014) data on native productions of French nasal vowels (cf. phonetic nativelikeness).

The results of the perceptual experiment first indicated that listeners' overall understanding of non-native accented nasal vowels was rather high, except for the /ɑ̃/-vowel. Further analysis revealed that (i) the Dutch-accented productions of this vowel showed much more acoustic variation compared to native French vowel productions (cf. Carignan, 2014) and that (ii) more closed and thus less canonical productions ([ɑ̃-ɔ̃]) were less often identified. This result is associated with an ongoing sound shift affecting nasal vowels in present-day hexagonal French, leading to the reduction of the phonological contrast /ɑ̃/-/ɔ̃/ (Hansen, 2001). Moreover, the two groups of listeners did not differ in their actual understanding of non-native accented nasal vowels, except for the /ɛ̃/-vowel, which was identified significantly more often by listeners representing the Liège region. Two likely causes for the observed difference are the impact of (i) L1 regional variation and (ii) Belgian listeners' familiarity with Dutch-accented speech on speech perception. Finally, the study has implications for pronunciation teaching, as it reveals the particularities of Dutch-accented nasal vowels both from an acoustic and perceptual perspective.

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Ghost segments in informal Belgian Dutch

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A well-known feature of informal Dutch variants of Flanders is the elision of final coronal plosives in words such as *wat*, *niet* and *met*, whereby they are realised without their final stop: [β²ɑ], [ni] and [mɛ]. Notably, these words participate in a sandhi[3] process that triggers the devoicing of any fricatives that follow, similar to how those fricatives would devoice if the elided sound were still present. Thus, phrases such as <wat vlees> and <met zand>, in which the second word normally starts with a voiced fricative, are realised as [βɑ fleːs] and [mɛ sɑnt]. The elision of this final coronal happens in some words (*met, gaat, wat*) and not in others (*wet, tot, uit*). Previous literature has acknowledged the existence of this ghost segment in dialects (such as Camerman, 2007; De Schutter, 1999) as well as in more near-standard variants (Rys, 2020). Prior to this study, however, there had been little to no synchronic or diachronic account for its distribution. The present study therefore set off to do the following: (1) document the presence of the feature, and (2) attempt to account for its distribution.

Data collection was performed using a Python web-scraping script and the corpus search engine OpenSonar (Oostdijk et al., 2018), a corpus navigation front-end for the Corpus Gesproken Nederlands (Eerten, 2007), a spoken corpus of Dutch. Up to (where possible) ten audio tokens were collected for each of the fifty most common Dutch words that contain final -t or -d, whose frequency statistics were based on A Frequency Dictionary of Dutch (Tiberius & Schoonheim, 2014). The scraped data pool was filtered to include only speakers of Belgian Dutch. The joint results of an algorithmic approach using Praat and a manual annotation approach reveal that (1) final coronals are phonetically elided post-vocalically in the present tense inflectional morpheme /-t/ and most function words, and (2) this deletion has a significant devoicing effect on following voiced fricatives. All exceptions found to t-elision were words that have undergone a historical process of word-final schwa deletion, suggesting that final coronal plosive deletion may be older. And indeed, evidence of final coronal plosive deletion was found in texts written in the 13th century, before word-final schwa deletion had taken place.

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[2] The symbol <β> here refers to a bilabial approximant and not a fricative. The symbol <w> is often also used to refer to this sound. My choice here is motivated by the transcription used in De Schutter (1999).

[3] Sandhi here refers to any phonological process that occurs across word or morpheme boundaries.

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SESSION 7 – HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

Thursday 21 December 2023, 13.00-15.00

From de to ke: functional transfer of a topic shift marker from Turkish to Cappadocian Greek

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This presentation discusses how the particle *ke* is used as a topic shift marker in Cappadocian Greek (CG), which I argue is the result of contact-induced language change (cf. Daveloose in prep.). CG is a cluster of closely related, critically endangered Greek dialects that were spoken in the Turkish region of Cappadocia until the Greek-Turkish Population Exchange of 1924 (Janse 2020). Due to intensive influence of the Turkish language, CG became a textbook example of a contact variety, cited by many scholars as a case of heavy borrowing (Thomason & Kaufman 1988: 215-22; Thomason 2001: 74; Winford 2005: 402-9; Matras 2020: 231-4).

A salient example of this strong Turkish influence is the extension of the functional range of the CG proclitic particle *ke*. In CG, *ke* functions as a coordinating ('and'), additive ('also') and scalar-additive ('even') particle, as was already the case in Ancient and Medieval Greek (Beekes & Van Beek 2010: 615). However, a new function appears in the following examples:

(1)　*k'*　　*ekíno*　　**ke**　　*lex:*　　　　*"írta na vró ta tría güzélja."*
　　　ADD　　DEM.NOM　　**ADD**　　say.PRS.3SG

　　　'And he says, "I came to find the three Fair Ones."'　　(Dawkins 1916: 306-7)

Alongside a first *k(e)*, which functions here as a coordinating particle, a second, seemingly redundant *ke* is introduced, usually positioned between the topic and the verb of the sentence. I argue that this specific use of *ke* marks a topic shift, which is the result of 'functional transfer' from the Turkish enclitic particle *dA*. Functional transfer is defined by Siegel (2012: 189) as "applying the grammatical functions of a morpheme from one language (the Source Language) to a morpheme in another language (the Recipient Language)". More specifically, the transfer from *dA* to *ke* is a case of 'type II' (*ibid.*: 194-8), meaning that "[t]he functional range of a grammatical item or construction is extended and/or reduced" (Jennings & Pfänder 2018: 91).

In this case, the functional range of the Greek (RL) proclitic particle *ke* is extended and incorporates the function

of topic shift marker associated with the Turkish (SL) enclitic particle *dA*, based on already existing similarities with Greek *ke*: both are used not only as a coordinating particle, but also as a (scalar-)additive particle (Göksel & Kerslake 2005: 110; Dawkins 1916: 605). Additionally, Turkish *dA* also functions as a topic shift marker, unlike Ancient and Medieval Greek *ke*. It is this function of topic shift marker that is included into the functional range of the CG particle *ke*. The analysis of this specific use of the particle was carried out in a corpus of 58 CG folktales (ca. 50,000 words, the largest CG text collection to date).

This paper contributes to the research on language contact by investigating the mechanisms by which the Greek dialect in Cappadocia – which was isolated from the rest of the Greek-speaking world from the 11th century onwards – underwent significant changes under the strong influence of the surrounding Turkish *superstratum*. Additionally, it contributes to the overall knowledge of this underdocumented Greek dialect at the brink of extinction.

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The language of biblical quotations and translations in Damaskenos Stoudites' Thesauros.

A study on 16th century Greek in light of biblical quotations and translations

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One of the most extensive and interesting collections of 16th-century Demotic Greek texts consists of the homiletic corpus of Damaskenos Stoudites, a Deacon from Thessaloniki who later became Bishop of Naupaktos and Arta (see Deledemou 1943).

Damaskenos' 36 homilies, collected in the work entitled 'Thesauros', have not yet received in-depth scholarly attention from a linguistic perspective, although they are an excellent example for analysing the transition from Medieval to Early Modern Greek. In the 'Thesauros' different varieties of Greek are employed alongside each other, and ample examples of this interaction are provided by the numerous quotations from the Bible and their transposition into Demotic Greek.

In my presentation I aim to study the interaction between these Greek varieties by taking Sermon 23 as a case study, given its remarkable amount of biblical quotations. Through the analysis of their translation into Demotic Greek, I focus on the adaptation of high-register linguistic features that are no longer active in Demotic, such as the synthetic forms of the future tense. Instead of synthetic forms, Demotic Greek employs different, coexisting future tense constructions, which are generally deemed to have been freely interchangeable. Nevertheless, these Demotic constructions in Sermon 23, while providing relevant evidence of both coexistence and interchangeability, also show a peculiar distribution throughout the text.

Alongside the focus on these traits of the language, the following three topics are discussed, in reference to Melikidou's studies on the literary Demotic Greek production in 16th cent. (see Melikidou 2005):

- Damaskenos' translation methods for biblical quotations, namely literal translation and 'interpretative' translation, in which the model is expanded upon and adapted;

- the tracing of recurrent grammatical pairings between the language of the biblical quotation and Demotic Greek.

- measuring the pull exerted by the language of the biblical quotations on the Demotic Greek used by Damaskenos, e.g. with regard to the word-order.

The current analysis is embedded in a broader linguistic study of Sermon 23, which belongs to a sub-group of nine homilies labelled as 'metaphrases' by Damaskenos himself, as they are translations into Demotic Greek of texts written either in an older or in a higher variety of Greek. As for Sermon 23, the source is the *De Consummatione mundi*, a Greek text attributed to Hippolytos Romanos (3rd AD). The parallel reading of the two texts, as far as the broad and likely multiform textual tradition of Hippolytos' sermon allows, offers further insights about how Damaskenos dealt with the language, the style and the contents of his model. The biblical quotations in Damaskenos, when compared with both those in Hippolytos and those in the Bible, show textual variations. Highlighting these variations explains how Damaskenos comprehended the core message of these quotations and subsequently transposed it in Demotic Greek.

The analysis of both Damaskenos' translation techniques and the resulting language provides direct and primary evidence of 16th century Demotic Greek and sheds light on how an author of that time approached authoritative models such as the Bible targeting his audience.

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Diachrony of {VERB, MEDIUM} colligations

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According to Halliday (1985, 1994), a medium is a nominal constituent that may co-occur with a verb, both as its subject in an intransitive or its direct object in a transitive clause. Thus, a verb and its medium can enter in an alternation consisting of a transitive causative clause and an intransitive anticausative/inchoative clause. Levin (1993) inventorizes 300+ English verbs that can function in this (anti)causative alternation. These verbs typically express some change of state, a feature already described by Jespersen (1933). Haspelmath (1993) shows that English, more than other languages, uses 'labile' verbs, *i.e., the same unmarked forms,* in such an alternation. Some examples:

- *{open, door} as in:*   *Johanna opens the door.*   *vs.*   *The door opens.*
- *{break, vase} as in:*   *The cat broke the vase.*   *vs.*   *The vase broke.*
- *{turn, water} as in:*   *He has turned water into wine.*   *vs.*   *Water has turned into wine.*

Davidse (1992) argues that this alternation pictures two perspectives of the same event:

- In the causative clause, the subject instigates (=triggers) the event without taking part in the act itself, while the medium undergoes the action as a patientlike object.

- In the anticausative clause, the medium is pictured acting as if self-instigated, within implicit or vague circumstances.

Both perspectives are used in discourse when we switch between picturing causal and factual perspectives. McMillion (2006) attests to more than 800 labile verbs and in our own corpus research, Godts & Taverniers (2022), we clustered more than 1000 verbs co-occurring with 3500+ mediums, unveiling {verb, medium} colligations as a medium-process system in which 'labile' verbs restrict the use of mediums and vice versa.

Meanwhile, Dixon (1979) and McGregor (2009) argue that languages can be classified on the basis of morpho-functional markers. According to this feature, most languages have nominative agents and mark accusative objects. Conversely, some languages mark ergative agents and align unmarked, absolutive mediums. This results in differences in subject vs. object prominence. However, in accusative languages such as English, ergative alignment may also be construed lexically, as is shown in Francis et al. (1996).

We wonder if this medium-process system can be traced and quantified in historical corpora. For this purpose, we analyze the CLMET 3.1 Literature Corpus of 333 Late Modern English works, written between 1710 and 1920.

This corpus is balanced in the number of works per author, per period, and per genre. After establishing a precise chronology, all relevant data are extracted and evaluated against our corpus of attested verb-medium colligations. Preliminary results indicate that the English medium-process system slowly expands through time, parallel with the expansion of the general lexicon of the English language. Conversely, the application of the medium-process system proves to be clearly more genre- and author-related than time-sensitive and productive. An additional investigation of 66 books of the King James Bible, published in 1611 and republished in contemporary English as 'New King James Version' in 1982, confirms our hypothesis. A follow-up study including a poetry set of 1189 docs extracted from Project Gutenberg reconfirms earlier results.

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Corpus Resources

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Anticausativization in Latin: semantics and form-frequency correspondence

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This paper presents a usage-based explanation for the diachrony of anticausativization in Latin. Anticausativization refers to how languages can transform an externally caused (causal) event (e.g., "John opens the door") into a spontaneously occurring (noncausal) event (e.g., "The door opens"). Throughout its history, Latin employed three anticausative strategies for originally causal verbs, as in (1a), viz., (i) the mediopassive strategy with the typical mediopassive -R morpheme, as in *corroboretur* (1b), (ii) the reflexive strategy with the reflexive pronoun and the active voice (1c), and (iii) the labile strategy with the intransitive use of the verb in the active voice (1d) (Cennamo 2022; Cennamo et al. 2015; Feltenius 1977; Gianollo 2014; Ongenae Forthc., Pinkster 2015).

(1)   (a)   *stomachum*   *(P)*   **corroborat**
                stomach: ACC.M.SG.   strengthen: IND.PRS.3SG.**ACT.**
                "It (sc. wormwood) makes the stomach strong."
                (PLIN. nat. 20, 263)

        (b)   *focaneus*   *palmes (…)*   (S)   *priusquam*
                throat-like: NOM.M.SG.   branch: NOM.M.SG.   before
                corroboretur
                strengthen: SBJ.PRS.3SG.**MPASS.**
                "The 'throat-shoot' (…) before it becomes strong."
                (COLVM. 4, 24, 10, first century AD)

        (c)   *dum*   **se**   *vinea*   (S)
                while   REFL.ACC.   vine: NOM.F.SG.
                corroboret
                strenghten: SBJ.PRS.3SG.**ACT.**
                "while the vine becomes strong."
                (COLVM. 4, 12, 2, first century AD)

        (d)   *radices* (…)   (S)   *Ubi*   *vero*   *iam*
                root: NOM.F.PL.   when   however   already
                corroboraverint
                strengthen: IND.FUT.PRF.3PL.**ACT.**
                "When, however, they (sc. the roots) will already have become strong."
                (COLVM. 5, 5, 6, first century AD)

Previous research has suggested that the labile strategy becomes a generalized anticausative strategy in Late Latin and has shown how actional parameters such as telicity, durativity and volitionality play a role in the choice between the three anticausative strategies (Cennamo et al. 2015, Feltenius 1977, Gianollo 2014, Ongenae Forthc.). Firstly, we are matching those parameters to a diachronic corpus of Latin ranging from its first attestations to 200 CE. Secondly, we discuss that the morphological encoding of anticausativization is related to the form-frequency correspondence. Languages display a tendency to use less coding material for more frequent expressions (Haspelmath et al. 2014, Heidinger 2015). Haspelmath et al. (2014) successfully applied this principle to crosslinguistic and synchronic perspectives on anticausativization. This paper discusses how this principle has relevance to the diachrony of Latin anticausativization. Verbs that appear more in their causal use (1a) tend to encode anticausativization by means of either the mediopassive or the reflexive strategy, while verbs that are more often used in their noncausal form tend to display lability in Latin. Over time, this constraint becomes less strong as lability evolves in the generalized anticausative strategy in Latin.

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POSTER SESSION

Thursday 21 December 2023, 15.00-17.00

On the articular infinitive and its adverbial use in Post-Classical Greek

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The articular infinitive (i.e. an infinitive with an article, see (1)) began functioning as a non-finite alternative to subordinate constructions in Post-Classical Greek (cf. Horrocks, 2010, p. 94-96, 157), with its distribution being limited to three clause types: (a) a subject clause, (b) a complement clause, and (c) an adverbial clause, typically governed by a preposition to specify the sense of the expression (i.e. goal, purpose, etc.). (cf. Mayser, 1926, p. 320-333) Whilst infinitival complementation has been the subject of much scholarly debate over the past few decades (cf. Bentein, 2018; Sevdali, 2013; Spyropoulos, 2005; among others), articulated complement and subject clauses have only been mentioned in passing. Adverbial constructions, however, have been left completely out of the picture; they are commonly allocated to nominalising constructions, but show some peculiar features which do not fall in line with this perspective, one of them being the licensing of an overt subject with an accusative case, despite the non-finite nature and purely aspectual value of the infinitive (cf. Tantalou, 2003; see *se* in (1)).

This presentation focuses on the function of the article in the adverbial, infinitival construction and aims to map out its structure in a preliminary fashion. I consider three analyses: the article functions (a) as a definiteness-marker, (b) as a nominaliser on the infinitive, and (c) as a subordinator within the left periphery of the subordinate clause. The first analysis (a) assumes that the morphological article is linked to the definite property of the construction (i.e. is placed in D). The second one (b) takes the article as a nominalising element on the infinitive, whether that be a D in the sense of Giannakidou and Stavrou (1999) or a Relator in the sense of den Dikken (2006). The third analysis (c) is based on the discussion of the article in Campos and Stavrou (2004). Taking a phase-based approach (cf. Chomsky, 2001, 2008), the article is argued to be part of the subordination on the infinitive (i.e. CP). Whilst standard grammars take the articular infinitive to be a nominalised construction

(b), I aim to provide preliminary evidence for an analysis of the article and preposition as subordinating elements within the left periphery (c).

(1)   ðia   to   ysterísɛ   se

because.of.PREP   ART   be.late.INF.AOR   you.ACC

'because you were late'

(P.Laur. 4.192, 21 (709 CE))
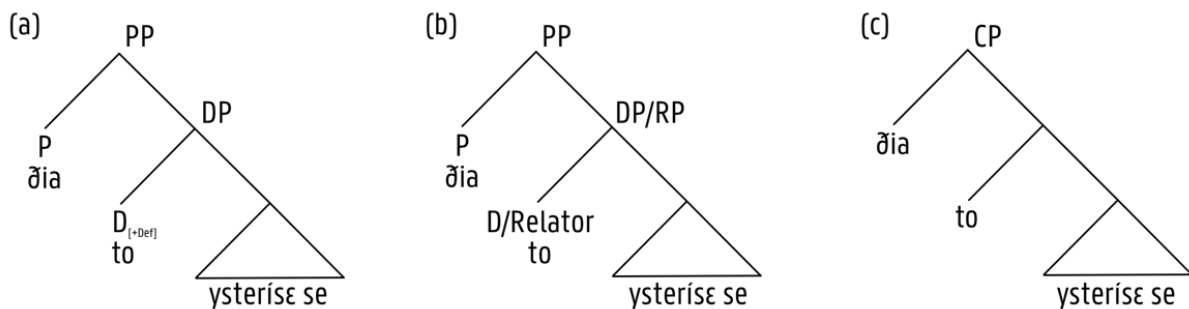
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Evolution of XVS Word Order in French: A Corpus-based Approach

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The transformation of word order configurations throughout the history of French reflects significant changes. Notably, specific word-order patterns, such as the XVS order (where the constituent X precedes the verb) have dwindled or become highly restricted in usage to standard written French (Lahousse 2022: 2). This structure is exemplified in (1).

1. Grande fut ma surprise quand …

   'My surprise was big when …'

   (adapted from Grevisse & Goosse 2008: 275, cited in Kaiser & Zimmermann 2011)

In the context of Old and Middle French (referred to as Medieval French), the fronting of elements like the subject complement, such as *grande* in (1), was less constrained. Medieval French syntax primarily adhered to a verb-second (V2) constraint. This configuration involved moving the finite verb to a higher syntactic position, often coupled with "fronting of one or more pragmatically-salient constituents to the left of the raised verb to target topic and focus positions situated in the left periphery" (Ledgeway 2021: 2). The historical V2 status of French was driven by discourse-pragmatic (information-structural) properties. An illustration in (2) shows the deictic constituent *ces* ('these').

2. De ces issirent li Troien

   'From these the Trojans are descended'

   (cited by Ledgeway 2021: 22) (*HA*.591.3)

Similar informational constraints appear to influence Modern French configurations of adjective fronting in copular clauses, often paired with inversion of the nominal subject. However, the dominant constructions vary over time. For instance, in the Old French example (3), a focus construction similar to *grande* in (1) is apparent, whereas in the Modern French instance (4), a discourse-old function can surface as well, realized by the adverb *autrement* anaphorically anchoring the adjective through comparison (see Lauwers & Tobback 2020).

3. Morz est cil ki nus mainteneit […]

   'Dead is the one who sustained us'

   (adapted from Lauwers & Vajnovszki 2021; my translation) (Wace, Le Roman de Brut, 1155)

4. Autrement graves sont les faits […]

    'Far more serious are the facts'

    (cited by Lauwers & Tobback 2020; my translation) (Brunot, Pensée et la Langue, cited by Grevisse & Goosse 2008: 274)

Furthermore, across the history of French, other constructions tied to specific discourse-pragmatic contexts, like cleft and dislocation structures (Larrivée 2019: 12ff.), have gained prominence. Further investigation is necessary to ascertain the emergence and evolution of fronted adjectives, as well as other informational-structural devices. Employing a corpus-based approach holds promise in illuminating these questions surrounding word order configurations in Medieval and Modern French.

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Saint Ignatius' *Letter to the Romans* in comparison: a cultural linguistic journey between Greek and Slavonic communities between the 4th and 14th century

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This poster will show some preliminary results emerging from my Master's Thesis, a research that I just started here at UGent. In this context, I will thus focus on the presentation of the sources and on the discussion of the methodology I am planning to adopt. My paper will also introduce some of the main research questions that will accompany me through this research journey. In particular, my poster will first introduce Saint-Ignatius' Letter to the Romans alongside its Greek and Slavonic manuscript tradition.

Among the corpus of 7 letters attributed to Ignatius of Antioch, a second-century bishop of Antioch, the Letter to the Romans (CPG 1025.4) is very interesting. It was addressed to the community in Rome after Ignatius, sentenced to death, had to travel to Rome. The Letter to the Romans differs from the others firstly since Ignatius had, at that point, never met his addressees (unlike the addressed communities of the other letters). Secondly, it is the only letter embedded in the Martyrdom of Ignatius = Passio (BHG 0813) – given its content related to Ignatius' visions on martyrdom. Furthermore, it is the sole Ignatius' letter to have been translated into Slavonic. Nine manuscripts transmit the Passio (BHG 0813) in Greek. Seventeen manuscripts, dated or datable between the fourteenth and the sixteenth century, preserve the Slavonic version of Ignatius' Passio and are known in South-Slavic and East-Slavic redactions. Next to the Greek and Slavonic versions, it has Syriac, Arabic, Latin, Armenian and Georgian translations too. The poster also gives an account of the complex tradition of the Slavonic version(s), among which it is important to distinguish between the Passio transmitted in the Pre-Metaphrastic (BHG 0813) and the Metaphrastic redaction (BHG 0815). My focus is on the Pre-Metaphrastic version, dated before the tenth-century revision of Symeon Metaphrastes.

Among the Greek manuscripts, my poster will primarily show the so-termed Taurinensis (Torino, BNU, C. I. 10–– Diktyon 63833) because, unlike other Greek manuscripts, it displays remarkable closeness with the Slavonic manuscripts, especially with the witnesses of the earliest South-Slavic version. These involve the Codex Athous Chilandaricus 644, an early fourteenth-century paper codex in Serbian orthography and the Manuscript of Vienna (Wien, ÖNB, Vindobonensis slav. 33), a late fourteenth-century reading also in Serbian orthography.

Furthermore, my poster will touch upon the methodologies I adopt to investigate my sources: palaeography, cultural linguistics, and translation theories. The palaeographic part entails comprehending the palaeographic and codicological characteristics of the manuscripts (deciphering, reading and dating of the manuscript). The

other methodologies deal with the aspects of intercultural communication and the implications on language and cultural conceptualisations. How could the translation bring cultural perception to light, and how translating from one language to another, focusing in another way on the same aspects of human life, could influence cultural cognition?

The concluding part of the poster will present a few open research questions with the aim of opening a productive Q&A session.

Code-switching in Latin technical texts: methodological problems (and solutions)

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The practice of code-switching (in this case, switching to another language in a single sentence by bilinguals) is well-studied in modern languages (see for a recent instance Gross, López-González et al. (2022), who studied English-Spanish code-switching). However, due to the written nature of its sources, this practice is less evident in Latin. Some studies have been made on Latin letters (Elder & Mullen, 2019b) and, to a limited extent, on Late Latin technical texts (Fedriani, Napoli & Rosso, 2019). Yet, despite Adam's (2003) overview on Latin bilingualism across several (literary and non-literary) genres, no systematic research has been done on code-switching to Greek in Latin technical texts ranging from 100 BC to 100 AD. However, language contact between Greek and Latin appears to be greater during this period than in Late Antiquity (Elder & Mullen, 2019a), rendering the linguistic context of these technical texts unique.

While presenting my research plans concerning my master's thesis, this session focuses on code-switching in a small corpus of Latin technical texts, more specifically the first two books of Vitruvius' *De architectura*, Cornelius Celsus' *De medicina* and Pomponius Mela's *De chorographia*. These three authors are to be situated in the same period (the first centuries BC and AD), which allows for a synchronic, historical sociolinguistic approach. Technical texts constitute a particular genre in Latin literature, given their dependence on Greek models and terminology (see Fögen, 2011), also reflected in code-switching. Moreover, the particular texts by Vitruvius, Celsus and Mela can reveal some methodological problems that arise while applying the term code-switching to Latin and 'corpus languages' in general (see Adams, Janse, & Swain, 2002), which could have implications for defining code-switching in general.

Most of this session will be devoted to these methodological problems, such as the scarcity of information concerning the authors of technical texts, the lack of oral data, the possibility of alterations made by scribes in manuscripts and the confusing distinction between code-switching and borrowing (the latter being, following Elder & Mullen (2019a: 7), 'forms incorporated into the receiving language and used by monolinguals'). To these difficulties, some solutions will be proposed, following the principle of 'making the best use of bad data' (Labov, 1994: 11). These solutions include comparing modern text editions of Latin texts with their counterparts offered in medieval manuscripts, intense close-reading and the use of extensive (Greek and Latin) dictionaries.

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Bridging differences between East and West in 14th-Century Byzantium:

Manuel Kalekas' translation of St. Anselm's *Cur Deus homo*

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During the cultural heyday of the Late Byzantine Period, the study of Latin literature too increased significantly. Driven by the debate about the Union of the Churches, a group of highly learned men, supporters of the Union, started studying and translating Latin theological treatises. Their translations circulated among the intellectual circles of that time and consequently played an important role in the ensuing religious controversies.

My poster will shed light on different aspects of one of the translations that originated in this context, the *Cur Deus homo* of Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) translated by the 14th-century prolific scholar Manuel Kalekas (d. 1410). The Vaticanus graecus 614 (Diktyon 67245) is the sole manuscript that transmits the translation. It is a copy, handwritten by Kalekas, which also bears traces of the different phases in which the author worked on his translation: corrections, second thoughts, deletions… This witness presents us with a unique window into the translator's mind that allows us to reconstruct the translation process and strategy.

My poster will first display the findings of my qualitative and quantitative analysis of all 293 corrections in the first book of this long treatise, focusing on the alterations in verbal syntax and word order. It will present statistic overviews of different categories of changes and highlight remarkable examples. Through a discussion of Kalekas' motivations for these changes and of the relation between the the first translation, the corrected version, and the Latin source text, I aim to elucidate Kalekas' translation strategy. For example, the following passage from the sixteenth chapter underwent changes in the (i) word order, (ii) verbal syntax, and (iii) choice of words. The second version is therefore easier to read, though also bears slight differences in meaning. Such cases, which demonstrate Kalekas' methods of simplifying, embellishing and nuancing his translation will be summarised in my poster.

Non enim pariter laudabiles sunt si stant in veritate: et qui nullam **novit** peccati poenam et qui eam semper **aspicit** aeternam.

For they are not praiseworthy in the same way if they stand in truth: both he who does not know any punishment for his sin and he wo is always beholding that eternal [punishment].

(I) οὐδὲ γὰρ ὁμοίως ἐπαινετοὶ ἂν ἦσαν εἴπερ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ **ἵσταντο**· οὔθ' ὁ μηδεμίαν τοῦ ἁμαρτήματος κόλασιν **ἐγνωκώς**· καὶ ὁ ταύτην ἀεὶ αἰωνίαν **ἀπιδών**·

For they would not be praiseworthy in the same way if they stand in truth: nor he who has not known no punishment for his sin, and he who was always looking at eternal [punishment].

(II) οὐδὲ γὰρ ὁ μηδεμίαν τοῦ ἁμαρτήματος κόλασιν **ὑποσχὼν** καὶ ὁ ταύτης αἰωνίας **ἐσομένης** πεῖραν **λαβών** <u>ὁμοίως ἐπαινετοὶ ἂν ἦσαν ἐν τῇ ἀληθείᾳ</u> **ἱστάμενοι**·

For he who did not suffer any punishment for his sin and he who took the trial of that [punishment] which will be eternal, would not be praiseworthy when they are standing in truth.

The second section of my poster focuses on the editorial challenges pertaining to this manuscript. Ideally, the edition of this translation would present the Greek versions next to the Latin source text to give the reader the possibility of comparing the source text with the target text. The editor should furthermore take the manuscript tradition of the Latin text into careful consideration as well as the original punctuation and orthography of our Byzantine translator. Eventually, I will comment on some images taken from Kalekas' autograph, which will allow me to expand on the editing of these peculiar texts. In particular, I will advocate for a conservative approach that entails carefully considering the orthography of the exemplar – punctuation included – alongside the challenges it poses both to the editor and to the contemporary reader.

All in all, I intend to open a linguistic and methodological discussion on the intriguing topics of translation, intercultural communication, and the manuscript tradition of these texts.

Divergence and convergence in the history of the Shona languages:
contact, migration, and change in a subgroup of Southern African Bantu

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The Shona languages of Southern Africa form a large, closely-related and relatively well-studied group of Bantu languages. Despite a wealth of synchronic data on these language varieties, the history of Shona languages and their speakers is not well-understood. Additionally, archaeological evidence and linguistic evidence give us conflicting timelines, which could possibly be resolved by recognizing what has been referred to as a 'spread-over-spread' event (Gunnink, Chousou-Polydouri & Bostoen 2022). This new proposal would revolutionize our understanding of Shona's linguistic history and brings into question its position within Southern Bantu. Even though lexicon-based classifications strongly support a close relationship between Shona and Southern Bantu (Bastin, Coupez & Mann 1999; Grollemund et al. 2015; Gunnink, Chousou-Polydouri & Bostoen 2022), many common Southern Bantu phonological and morphological innovations are not shared with Shona (Gunnink, Chousou-Polydouri & Bostoen 2022). Earlier studies suggest that Shona might be more closely related to Bantu languages of Malawi (Werner 1919; Wills 2022). Furthermore, initial evidence suggests that successive layers of language contact in Shona correspond to large-scale contact events (Ngara; Grand & Mazuru 2013): the Great Zimbabwe empire, the Indian Ocean trade network, and European colonialism. In this study, I investigate this 'spread-over-spread' scenario in three ways: by initiating the reconstruction of Proto-Shona, by establishing the position of Shona languages within the Bantu family via lexicon-based phylogenetics, and by untangling successive phases of language contact in Shona. This research adds to the understanding of the genesis and evolution of Shona languages and their position in Bantu, as well as the early history of Zimbabwe and Southern Africa.

Connecting reading to statistical learning: measuring sensitivity to bigram frequency

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Our language environment is full of regularities. It is thus natural to make the connection that statistical learning, the ability to implicitly extract regularities from sensory input, could play a role when we process written texts and help us read more efficiently. Previous studies have shown significant but moderate correlations between statistical learning (SL) performance and reading ability (Ren et al., 2023). We hypothesize that this relation is mediated by individual's sensitivity to orthographic regularities. In particular, we predict that good statistical learners display higher sensitivity to regular patterns such as frequent bigrams in visual word processing. Recent studies showed mixed findings on the correlation between sensitivity to bigram frequency and reading or visual SL scores respectively (Chetail, 2017; Schmalz et al., 2019), but their sensitivity measures were confounded by bigram legality. This study, by contrast, will use an adaptation of the statistically induced chunking recall task from McCauley and Christiansen (2015) and a read aloud task with high vs. low-frequency bigrams to 1) measure individual's sensitivity to bigram frequency and 2) evaluate the impact of bigram frequency on processing both artificial and real word stimuli. Our findings will either provide empirical evidence for the relationship between the sensitivity to orthographic patterns and reading, or document the lack thereof.

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