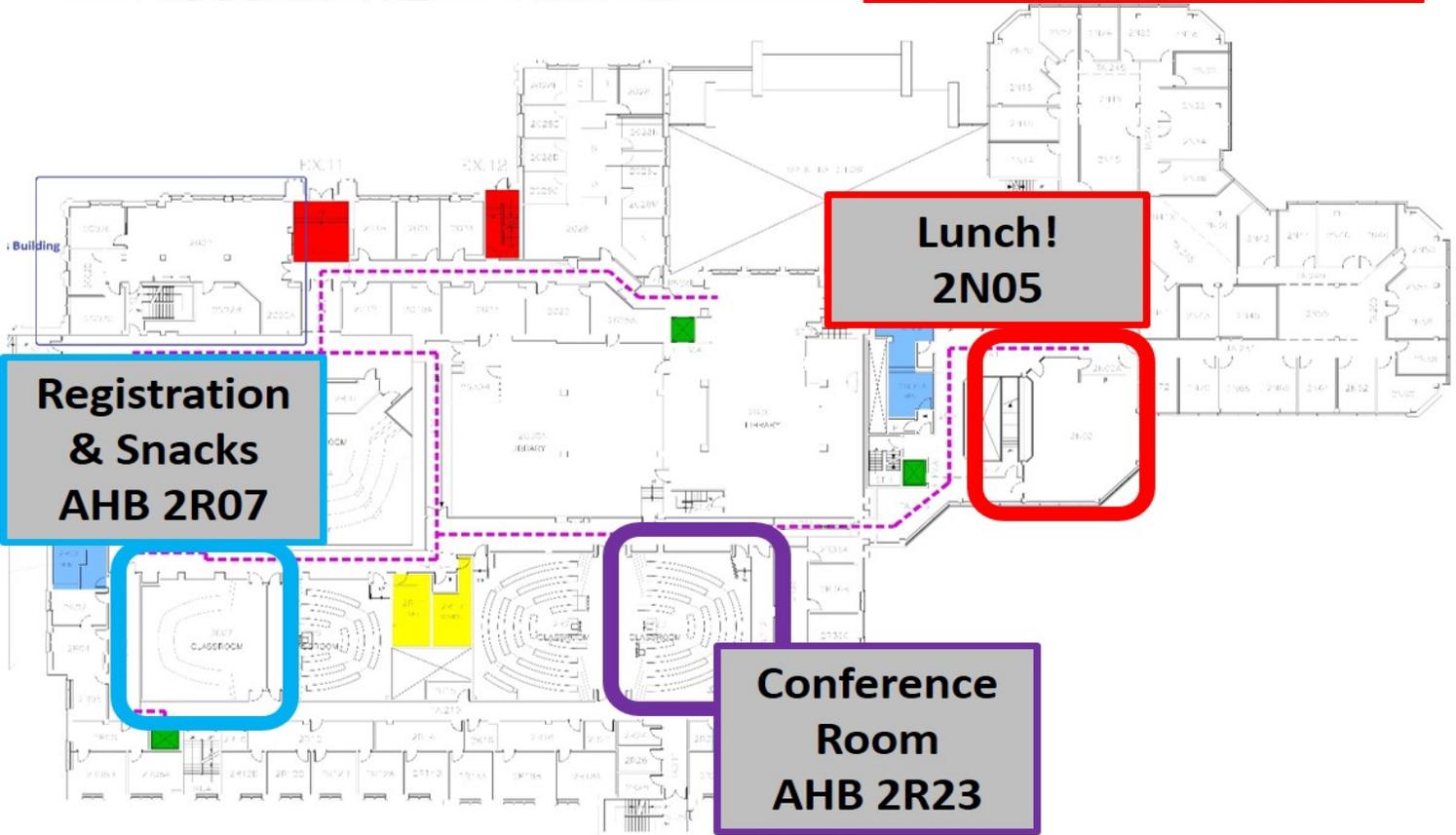
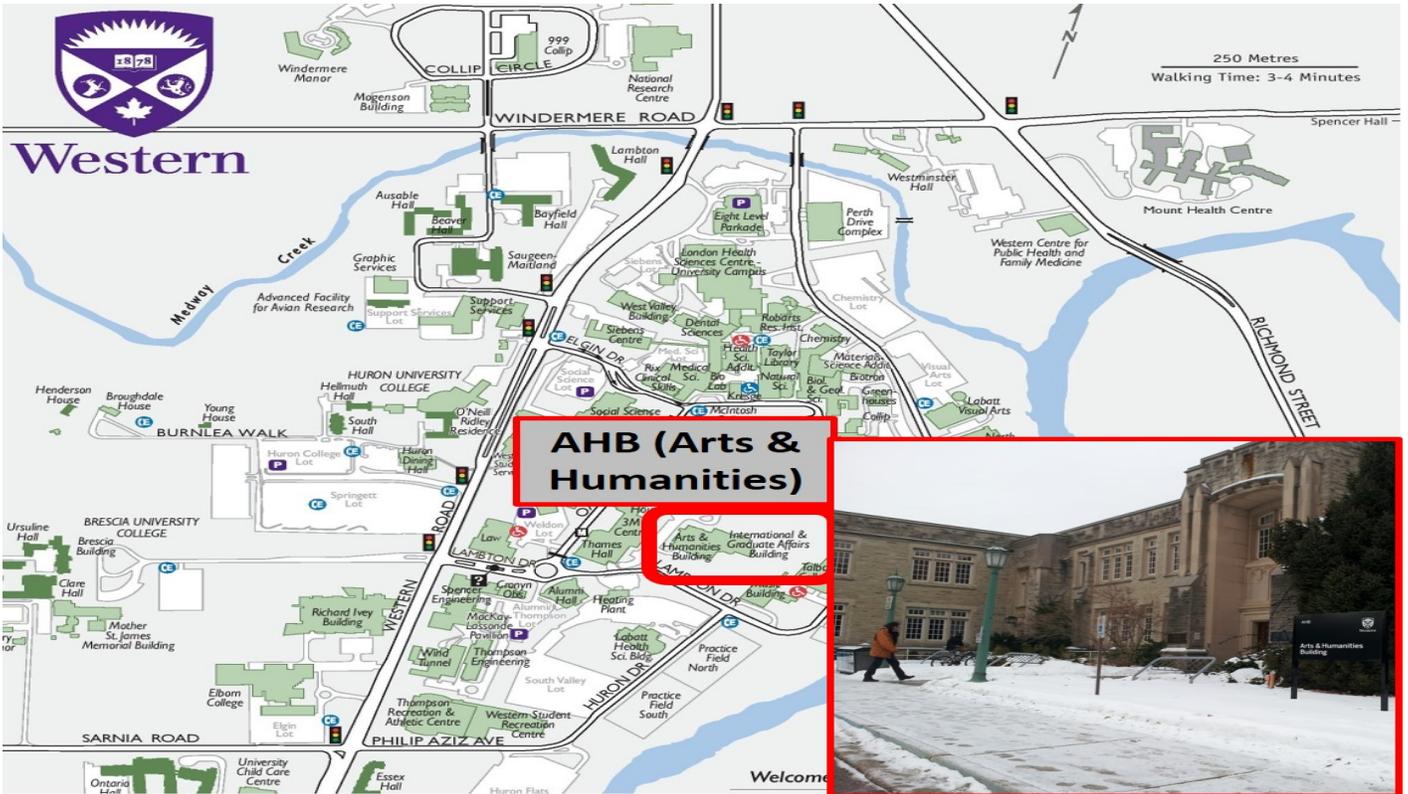


8TH ANNUAL

**Western Interdisciplinary
Student Symposium
on Language
Research**

**March
4 & 5
2016**



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Contents

2. Maps of Arts & Humanities (AHB) on campus,
and conference rooms
4. Overview of Conference
5. Contact information of presenters
6. Schedule
7. Schedule
8. Keynote abstract
9. Workshop Abstracts
10. Presentation Abstracts
11. Presentation Abstracts
12. Presentation Abstracts
13. Presentation Abstracts
14. Presentation Abstracts
15. Presentation Abstracts
16. Presentation Abstracts
17. Western papers in Linguistics
- 18. Thanks yous and Sponsors**
19. The WISSLR Team
20. Linguistics at Western

Overview of Conference

Friday

AHB 2R07 – Registration – 10:00 – 4:00

AHB 2R23 – Praat Workshop – 10:30 – 11:30

AHB 2R23 – Session 1 – 11:40 – 12:20

IGAB 2N05 – Lunch – 12:20 – 1:20

AHB 2R23 – Keynote Dr. Rubin – 1:20 – 2:20

AHB 2R23 – Session 2 – 2:50 – 4:10

Grad Club – Free Supper! – 7:30

Saturday

IGAB 2N05 – Breakfast – 10:00 - 10:30

AHB 2R23 – Rbrul Workshop – 10:30 – 11:30

AHB 2R23 – Session 3 - 11:50 – 1:10

IGAB 2N05 – Lunch – 1:10 – 2:10

AHB 2R23 – Session 4 - 2:10 – 3:10

AHB 2R23 – Session 5 - 3:20 – 4:40

Two Canadian Language Museum Exhibits, Inuit languages and Canadian English, will be in front of IGAB 2N05 throughout the conference

Contacts of Presenters

Presenter	Email
Victoria Rubin	vrubin@uwo.ca
Jeff Tennant	jtennant@uwo.ca
King George Acquah	KingAcquah@cmail.carleton.ca
Alma Bulut	almaqc@hotmail.com
Valérie Caza	vcaza@laurentian.ca
Tara Cress	tcress@uwo.ca
Daryn Cushnie-Sparrow	daryncsparrow@gmail.com
Philippe Gauthier	pgauthi3@uwo.ca
Levi C.R. Hord	lhord3@uwo.ca
Syahrir Idris	Syahrir.Idris@utsa.edu
Naciza Masikini	nmasikin@uwo.ca
Meredith McGregor	meredith.mcgregor@gmail.com
Elizabeth Parkin	eparkin4@uwo.ca
Andrew Peters	abpeters@yorku.ca
Lyndon Rey	lrey@uwo.ca
Matthew Schuurman	matthew.schuurman46@gmail.com
Edalat Shekari	shekare@mcmaster.ca
Alexander Theodorou	theodoa@mcmaster.ca
Alissa Varlamova	alissa.varlamova@mail.utoronto.ca
Maddie Walker	mwalke88@uwo.ca
Chelsea Whitwell	c.whitwell@live.ca

2015-2016 WISSLR PROGRAM

Location: Arts and Humanities Building (AHB) Room 2R23

FRIDAY MARCH 4th

10:00-10:30am	Registration – AHB 2R07
10:30-11:30am	Workshop Coding speech prosody in Praat Jeff Tennant University of Western Ontario
11:30-11:40am	Break
11:40-12:20pm	SESSION 1
11:40am	Effects of multitalker noise on the acoustics of voiceless-stop consonants in Parkinson's disease Daryn Cushnie-Sparrow University of Western Ontario
12:00pm	Identifying language computationally: Vowel-uable nuance in discrete features Lyndon Rey University of Western Ontario
12:20pm	Syntactic Interruption vs. Violation: L1 & L2 Sentence Processing Chelsea Whitwell McMaster University
12:40-1:20pm	Lunch CHU (IGAB 2N05)
1:20-2:20pm	Keynote Deception and lie spotting with text analysis Victoria Rubin University of Western Ontario
2:20-2:50pm	Break
2:50-4:10pm	SESSION 2
2:50pm	Le français met à la disposition de ses locuteurs deux procédés de création lexicale en ce qui concerne le domaine verbal Alma Bulut Concordia University
3:10pm	Can emotional words affect syntax? Eye-movement evidence from globally-ambiguous, relative-clause constructions Alexander Theodorou McMaster University
3:30pm	Argument omission in Portuguese as a second language Elizabeth Parkin & Madeline Walker University of Western Ontario
3:50pm	Deriving superiority effects in multiple Wh-fronting without determiners Matthew Schuurman Concordia University
7:30pm	Grad Club Dinner

SATURDAY MARCH 5th

10:00-10:30am	Breakfast CHU (IGAB 2N05)
10:30-11:30am	Workshop Data analysis in Rbrul Michael Iannozzi University of Western Ontario
11:35-11:50pm	Morning Break
11:50-1:10pm	SESSION 3
11:50am	Sometimes Ngo Zau start to Gong Chinese: The role of pragmatics and information structure in the syntax of codemixing Andrew Peters York University
12:10pm	Representation of spoken French in four Quebec drama books written between 1940 and 1990 King George Acquah Carlton University
12:30pm	Language policy and the construction of national and ethnic identities in Indonesia Syahrir Idris University of Texas at San Antonio
12:50pm	Vague predicates: Towards a rigorous definition of vagueness in semantics Phillipe Gauthier University of Western Ontario
1:10-2:10pm	Lunch CHU (IGAB 2N05)
2:10-3:10pm	SESSION 4
2:10pm	Room for difference: gender-neutral language use in English, French, German, and Swedish Levi C.R. Hord University of Western Ontario
2:30pm	Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?: A diachronic study of gendered adjectives in fairy tales Tara Cress University of Western Ontario
2:50pm	Constructing womanhood: an analysis of transwomen in the media Naciza Masikini University of Western Ontario
3:10-3:20pm	Afternoon Break
3:20-4:40pm	SESSION 5
3:20pm	Processing syntactically ambiguous sentences in skilled bilinguals, an on-line study Edalat Shekari McMaster University
3:40pm	Spontaneous language abilities in French-English bilingual children born prematurely Valerie Caza Laurentian University
4:00pm	A longitudinal study of the early-language development of non-identical triplets Alissa Varlamova University of Toronto
4:20pm	Lexical processing and cognate effect Meredith McGregor University of Western Ontario
End of Conference	

Keynote Abstract – Dr. Rubin

Deception and Lie Spotting with Text Analytics

Dr. Victoria Rubin will explore and explain the many types of deception, how deception is studied in various disciplines, and which linguistic patterns help predict the presence of deception in written texts. Recently, the media has shown a strong interest in the idea of computers discerning truth from deception. This interest is possible because of recent advances in the research and development of automated deception detection.

Rubin places the study of deception at the intersection of several disciplines – interpersonal psychology, information, media and communication studies, law enforcement and linguistically-aware text analytics. *Deception* is defined in computer-mediated communication as a message knowingly and intentionally transmitted by a sender to foster a false belief or conclusion by the perceiver. With the ever-increasing use of computer-mediated communication in all aspects of modern life, deception can be potentially disruptive in everyday communication, information seeking, and the retrieval and use of information for decision making.

Rubin argues that although largely condemned by society, deception is widespread and often undetected, especially in electronic environments where credibility is difficult to ascertain due to the absence of many traditional cues, such as verifiable credentials or face-to-face contact. The need arises for text analysis tools capable of alerting users to potentially deceptive content. Such tools can also be seen as a kind of decision-support software that suggests when any form of digital messages may be straying from the truth.

Rubin affirms that automated deception detection has recently become an attainable and practical contribution in human language technologies. The core of these capabilities is based on linguistic observations, and our understanding of the linguistic markedness in the language used by deceivers, by contrast with the linguistic characteristic of the language of truth-tellers. Deceptive cues are numerous, often unreliable, and not universally agreed upon in the detection research community. However, certain broad generalization about such cues as linguistic predictors of deception apply across varieties of deception types and circumstances. The most consistent linguistic characteristics associated with deception include increased word count, use of third-person pronouns, and markers of reduced cognitive complexity. Such patterns are usually invisible and unmeasurable to people without specialized tools.

With great optimism for the improved accuracy and effectiveness of the methods in deception detection research, Rubin discusses this relatively new area in applied computational linguistics. The envisioned potential outcomes of these cutting-edge computational abilities suggest that programs that succeed at spotting lies may someday have many practical uses in detecting business fraud and online misrepresentation, as well as in police and security work.

Praat Workshop – Dr. Tennant

Coding prosody in Praat

This workshop offers an introduction to coding prosodic features of language (intonation, stress, pauses, etc.) in speech corpora using Praat. Following a brief overview of TextGrid annotation functions intended for those participants who are not yet familiar with Praat speech analysis software, coding of prosody will be illustrated for native speaker and learner speech, using examples drawn from the PFC (Phonologie du Français Contemporain) and IPFC (InterPhonologie du Français Contemporain) corpora. Extraction of coded data from TextGrids for analysis in spreadsheet and statistical software will be demonstrated, and a brief overview of tools for automatic annotation of prosody will also be given.

Rbrul Workshop – Michael Iannozzi

Rbrul is being used by more-and-more subfields of linguistics to perform large data analysis. However, it can be intimidating to try to interpret the results, let alone use the software. This workshop will work to reduce that Rbrul intimidation.

We will walk through first what multi-variate analyses are, and why Rbrul is needed to do these “variable-rule” analyses. Then we will discuss, and I’ll show, why these analyses are powerful and useful for linguistic data analysis. Next, we will look at the results tables it produces, and cover how to read the significant variables, so you can properly interpret the results of research shown in presentations and papers. We will spend the second half of the workshop walking through how to use Rbrul to perform data analyses of your own.

Rbrul, or other types of multi-variate analysis software, are becoming staples in any subfield of linguistics that uses large amounts of data (e.g. corpus, language acquisition, sociolinguistics, etc.), and in this workshop you’ll learn how to use get started using it. Maybe you’ll never use Rbrul, but for those of us whose subfields of research use Rbrul, we must learn how to be at least literate in interpreting the results of others.

Abstracts

King George Acquah | Carleton University

Carleton University

This study seeks to analyze the representation of spoken French in four Quebecois dramas written between 1940 and 1990. The selected novels are : *Tit-Coq* by Gélinas Gratien; *L'homme gris* by Marie Laberge; *À toi, pour toujours, ta Marie-Lou* by Michel Tremblay; and *Le temps des lilas* by Marcel Dubé. Previous results show a trend in the use of certain morpho-syntactic variables in Quebec French. For the purpose of this study, we will consider four of such variables. Namely the future tense, the use of the auxiliaries être and avoir in the compound past tense, the use of si in hypothetical conditional sentences, and finally the use or omission of *ne* in negative sentences. This study examines the use of these variables in written language, taking into consideration the various linguistic factors that influence such use.

Alma Bulut | Concordia University

Le français met à la disposition de ses locuteurs deux procédés de création lexicale en ce qui concerne le domaine verbal

Le français met à la disposition de ses locuteurs deux procédés de création lexicale en ce qui concerne le domaine verbal : les verbes simples et les locutions verbales (LV) ou les constructions à verbe support (CAVS). C'est ce deuxième procédé qui fait l'objet de notre étude.

Les LV et les CAVS représentent, quant à elles, un ensemble que l'on traite souvent comme un tout qui est pourtant divisible en deux groupes.

Plusieurs auteurs qui se sont proposés à étudier ce domaine confondent les LV avec CAVS en les traitant de la même façon. Il est donc clair que le traitement de ce domaine est encore loin d'être unifié.

Afin de pouvoir étudier l'acquisition de ce domaine par les apprenants du français L2, nous avons développé une étude appliquée en nous appuyant sur les travaux faits dans le cadre du lexique-grammaire. Nous croyons qu'une telle approche pourrait contribuer à lever les ambiguïtés qui entravent la présentation de ce sujet d'une façon claire et compréhensible aux apprenants.

Valerie Caza | Laurentian University

Spontaneous language abilities in French-English bilingual children born prematurely

In 2011-2012, of the 377,897 children born in Canada, 8% were born prematurely (Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2013). Research has shown that all aspects of premature children's language are vulnerable to delays: pragmatics, syntax, phonological processing, auditory processing, comprehension and use of complex language. Foster-Cohen's research showed significant deficits in receptive, expressive and overall language abilities for premature children at 4 years of age.

The goal of this study would be to determine if premature children born in Northern Ontario, Canada have delays in their spontaneous language abilities in comparison to their peers born term. In Northern Ontario, Canada, we find communities of people living in a geographical region where their first language is a minority. Most often, they are French-speaking individuals living in an English majority context. The speech-language evaluation of Franco-Ontarian children is thus a complex task for speech-language pathologists due to the lack of tools and regional standards.

Tara Cress | University of Western Ontario

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?: A diachronic study of gendered adjectives in fairy tales

When did it become strange to describe boys as beautiful? What is, and has been, considered socially appropriate, and what is inappropriate, as a descriptive term for men and women has shifted. However, limited research has been done on this change-over-time as reflected in literature.

To examine these shifts in adjective use, I use my own corpus of English translations of Hans Christian Andersen's 1843 "Den grimme Ælling" ("The Ugly Duckling"), and Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's 1812 "Ashputtle" ("Cinderella"). The goal of this corpus is to measure the diachronic changes in descriptive words for the male and female genders.

My corpus includes 10 publications of "The Ugly Duckling" dating from 1920-2014, and 10 of "Cinderella" dating from 1844-2005.

Preliminary results suggest that the inventory of adjectives for the male gender has decreased over the past two centuries while the female gender continues to be used with most of the same adjectives from the time of first English translations. This study may allow generalizations to be made about the perception the community has about describing males as opposed to females.

Daryn Cushnie-Sparrow | University of Western Ontario

Effects of multitalker noise on the acoustics of voiceless stop consonants in Parkinson disease

Parkinson's disease (PD) is one of the most frequently occurring neurodegenerative movement disorders. Individuals with Parkinson's disease (IWPD) often develop a speech impairment that is characterized by low speech intensity, reduced stress and intonation patterns, abnormal voice quality and distorted consonantal sounds.

Some of the most common speech treatments for IWPD focus on increasing speech intensity. Increasing speech intensity in IWPD is suggested to improve intelligibility and consonant articulation. The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of increased speech intensity on stop consonant acoustics in PD. Ten individuals with Parkinson's disease (IWPD) and ten, age-matched, controls were audio recorded while they read aloud words from the Distinctive Features Differences Test (DFDT) during two conditions: no noise and 65 dB of multi-talker background noise. The results should have important implications for intensity-focused speech therapy programs for individuals with PD.

Phillipe Gauthier | University of Western Ontario

Vague predicates: towards a rigorous definition of vagueness in semantics

Vague predicates such as old, red, big, etc. have been an interesting subfield of study in semantics recently.

For instance, The Sorites Paradox: This paradox works by induction and contains the following premises (using the example old):

P1: A person who is 1 day old is not old.

P2: If a person who is n days old is not old, it follows that a person who is $n+1$ days old is also not old.

C: Therefore, a person who is 21915 days old (60 years) is not old.

Although each premise seems valid, the conclusion is certainly false. Of course, finding exactly which iteration produces the false reasoning (i.e. after how many days does a person start being old) is an impossible task and highlights the fuzzy boundaries of a vague predicate.

This paper is an effort to determine the fundamental properties of vague predicates.

Levi C.R. Hord | University of Western Ontario

Room for difference: gender neutral language use in English, French, German and Swedish

Recent social movements in Western cultures have defined the need for gender neutral language, including pronouns, forms of address, and titles. This research investigates whether the linguistic structures of English, French, German and Swedish make these languages more or less conducive to the development and practice of gender neutral language, particularly taking into account the relationship between grammatical gender and the expression of non-binary transgender identities. Examinations of existing writing on history, grammar and language reforms lay the groundwork for a preliminary research survey of gender neutral language usage by approximately 150 transgender people.

Just over half of English speakers report being satisfied with existing gender neutral language, while the majority of bilingual survey respondents report having much more difficulty expressing their identities in French or German than in English, due to constraints of grammatical gender, and far fewer options for gender neutral pronouns and titles. However, there is a general consensus amongst the majority of survey respondents that much can be done to improve the quality of gender neutral language in all languages, including naturalizing its use outside of specifically queer and allied speech communities.

Syahrir Idris | University of Texas at San Antonio

Language policy and the construction of national and ethnic identities in Indonesia

The international status of English has impacted on identity practices in many non-English-speaking countries. In multilingual and multicultural Indonesia we see this. The spread of Indonesian as a national language has produced bilingualism throughout the archipelago, while creating controversies over its harmful effects on the maintenance of local vernaculars. Likewise, despite English being necessary because of its role in global communication, policy makers are worried about the negative influence the language may have on national and ethnic identities. This paper explores how the need for English, the diffusion of Indonesian, and the maintenance of local language relate to one another. Ethnographic case studies of high school students, parents, and EFL teachers in Indonesia's region of Bima indicate the diversifying use of languages, marked with the expanding use of Indonesian and English but the decreasing use of Bimane as a local language. These findings provide insights into policy maker ideologies about the interplay between local, national, and international languages in the construction of national and ethnic identities of Indonesians.

Meredith McGregor | University of Western Ontario

Lexical processing and cognate effects

This study examines cognate effect in the speech production and acceptability judgment of 24 highly proficient English-Spanish and Spanish-English bilinguals within a single-language (English) context. The findings of two tasks are reported here, framed within non-selective, integrated models of lexical representation. The results suggest a significant cognate effect in both bilingual groups in both tasks compared to their monolingual counterparts with, surprisingly, greater significance demonstrated from L2 to L1 influence, particularly in production. These findings add to the growing support for semantic modulation at the conceptual level of lexical processing in highly proficient bilinguals, and the need for greater awareness of all types of cognate effect, not just false friends, as well as the influence of immersive environments in second language acquisition.

Elizabeth Parkin & Madeline Walker | University of Western Ontario

Argument omission in Portuguese as a second language

This paper will examine the acquisition of subject and object omission in Portuguese as a second language.

Unlike English, Portuguese is a null subject language. This is a property that is taught in the education system up to a certain point. What is not necessarily taught, however, is that the choice of when to drop or include a subject must follow information structure rules: if there is no topic shift or contrastive focus, subjects are omitted, if there is contrastive focus, the subject pronoun should be used. In both cases, we are dealing with complex grammar, in which syntax and pragmatics interact, constituting what is referred to as an interface (Sorace, 2011).

We will present an empirical study that examined proficiency of subject and object drop at two levels, beginner learners (n=15) and intermediate learners (n=10). Results are analyzed regarding accuracy at the different levels, and correlations between correct responses and the psychological tests. Factors such as transfer, complexity, and frequency of the input will be discussed.

Andrew Peters | York University

Sometimes Ngo Zau start to Gong Chinese: The role of pragmatics and information structure in the syntax of codemixing

Intra-sentential codemixing has been studied extensively in the linguistic literature, owing to the large potential import a detailed description of this phenomenon would have on any theory of language or linguistics.

The present study will examine interviews of bilingual English and heritage-Cantonese speakers in Toronto. The interviews chosen for investigation are from second and third generation speakers of heritage-Cantonese, who are natively-bilingual in English and Cantonese.

The English-Cantonese bilingual pair is of interest to a study of the interaction between pragmatics, information structure and syntax in bilingual speech due to the typological differences between the two languages. Cantonese is a relatively discourse-configurational language with capacity to re-structure word order for discursive effect, and with nearly no inflectional morphology.

I will forward an approach in which the pragmatically-related information-structure provides motivation for the selection of functional heads with appropriate featural projections prior to merge, avoiding post-hoc analysis. I will analyse mixing within the VP, auxiliaries and verbal subjects, and the DP to demonstrate that the source language of functional heads and the features they project is determined largely by pragmatic requirements.

Lyndon Rey | University of Western Ontario

Identifying language computationally: Vowel-uable nuance in discrete features

In the field of computational linguistics, spoken language recognition is a resource-intensive process. Spoken language recognition does not refer to the process of identifying the meaning of the input; rather, it is finding the language of which the speaker is speaking (not necessarily 'parsing' the input).

In my research, the question of whether a language can be positively and uniquely identified through small nuances found in the individual features of vowels is examined. Extending from Darcy et al.'s (2012) work, rather than limiting this mapping to a two-dimensional space, I will demonstrate how a vowel can be represented with an n-dimensional array of abstract features. Using abstract features – though in a scalar, discrete form, rather than binary – vowels can be represented as a feature matrix of size, with each feature possessing a value on an arbitrarily discrete scale. Through the analysis of field recordings of 8 different languages, recorded through the Heritage Language Variation and Change (HLVC) corpus at the University of Toronto, courtesy of Dr. N. Nagy, the question of whether a language can be positively identified based on vowel feature values will be discussed.

Matthew Schuurman | Concordia University

Deriving superiority effects in multiple wh-fronting without determiners

Based on cross-linguistic generalizations, Bošković 2008 states that languages without articles have a Noun Phrase (NP), not a Determiner Phrase (DP). One generalization states that article-less

languages with obligatory multiple wh-fronting (MWF) do not show superiority effects. However, evidence from Hamilton 2015 demonstrates that Mi'gmaq, an Algonquian language without articles, has MWF with strict superiority restrictions.

If Mi'gmaq lacks a DP, with superiority effects occurring with MWF, then it stands to reason that the D feature is not the cause of the superiority effects. I further propose that Mi'gmaq has wh-movement resulting from wh-features and a probe-goal agree relationship, with both wh-phrases moving up to spec-CP, as described in Hamilton 2015. The claim that article-less languages do not have wh-movement with MWF, does not apply to Mi'gmaq.

Since Mi'gmaq does not have articles, but shows evidence of wh-movement to spec-CP, this calls into question the claim that languages without articles do not have wh-movement or end up in spec-CP. Both of the proposals undermine the assumption that the presence of a D feature causes the lack of superiority/wh-movement shown in article-less languages.

Edalat Shekari | McMaster University

Processing syntactically ambiguous sentences in skilled bilinguals, an on-line study

The sentence “The police arrested the son of the lawyer who was leaving the country”, is syntactically ambiguous yielding two distinct interpretations regarding the antecedent of the relative clause (RC).

How do non-native speakers of a target language (L2) process such syntactically ambiguous structures in the L2, especially when the ambiguity resolution in the bilinguals' languages do not follow the same mechanisms?

30 Persian-English skilled bilinguals and 31 native speakers of English participated in a self-paced reading study.

There was a significant effect of participant group as indicated by the linear mixed-effects regression models analyses, $t(59) = -4.793$ $p < 0.0001$. Both groups processed the non-restrictive RCs faster than restrictive ones. There were also no significant effects of the bilinguals' language history on attachment preferences. However, there were interactions between bias towards low attachment and the participants' overall proficiency, exposure to the L2, and the age of L2 acquisition. Overall, the current data suggests that the skilled L2 learners can apply the same processing strategies as native English speakers to parse syntactically ambiguous sentences.

Alexander Theodorou | McMaster University

Can emotional words affect syntax? Eye movement evidence from globally ambiguous relative clause constructions

Previous research has shown disparate results regarding the role emotional valence (i.e. the intrinsic attractiveness or aversiveness of stimuli) and arousal (i.e. the physiological activation to a stimulus) contribute in single word processing. However, less is known about their independent effects in sentence processing, in particular in ambiguous constructions.

This paper presents a pilot study examining the contribution of emotion in syntactic global disambiguation. The first aim was to determine whether high or low arousal impacted reading, as denoted by gaze duration (GD) and first fixation duration (FFD).

Irrespective of their position among possible NP1 and NP2 candidates, high arousal words attracted longer FFD and GD in comparison to low arousal, overall.

The findings support the notion that arousal attracts eye movements during natural sentence reading as denoted by FFD and GD. Overall, high arousal was associated with longer time spent on words. The sample study offers a novel insight into the role of arousal as a promising factor in understanding emotional dimensions which impact syntactic parsing.

Alissa Varlamova | University of Toronto

A longitudinal study of the early language development of non-identical triplets

There has been various studies conducted on the development of language of twin and singleton children but there has been virtually no research conducted on the development of triplets. This study aims to amend that by presenting research on the language development of two sets of triplets between the ages of 24 months and 36 months. This study recorded the language of the triplets for 6 months after which their utterances were transcribed, coded and compared to normative data from twins and singletons. Based on initial results it was found that language was delayed by 6 months.

Along with the audio/ visual data a survey was sent out to the parents regarding the children's language patterns at home.

Chelsea Whitwell | McMaster University

Syntactic Interruption vs. Violation: L1 & L2 Sentence Processing

Reading involves the use of previously recently incorporated knowledge in order to make sense of the sentence processed in real time. The complex reading span task is used to test these components.

In reading comprehension, working memory capacity and sentence processing interact, and they do so differently in different types of readers. Reading involves the use of recently incorporated knowledge in order to make sense of the sentence processed in real time. This study used a complex span task involving ungrammatical sentences and manipulated the placement of unrelated memory words to be recalled by English native speakers and learners on sentences involving Binding Principle A violations, wh-movement errors, illegal syntactic categories, or Negative Polarity Item (NPI) licensing errors. We found that interruption affects native speakers while violation affects English learners.

Western papers in Linguistics / Cahiers linguistiques de Western

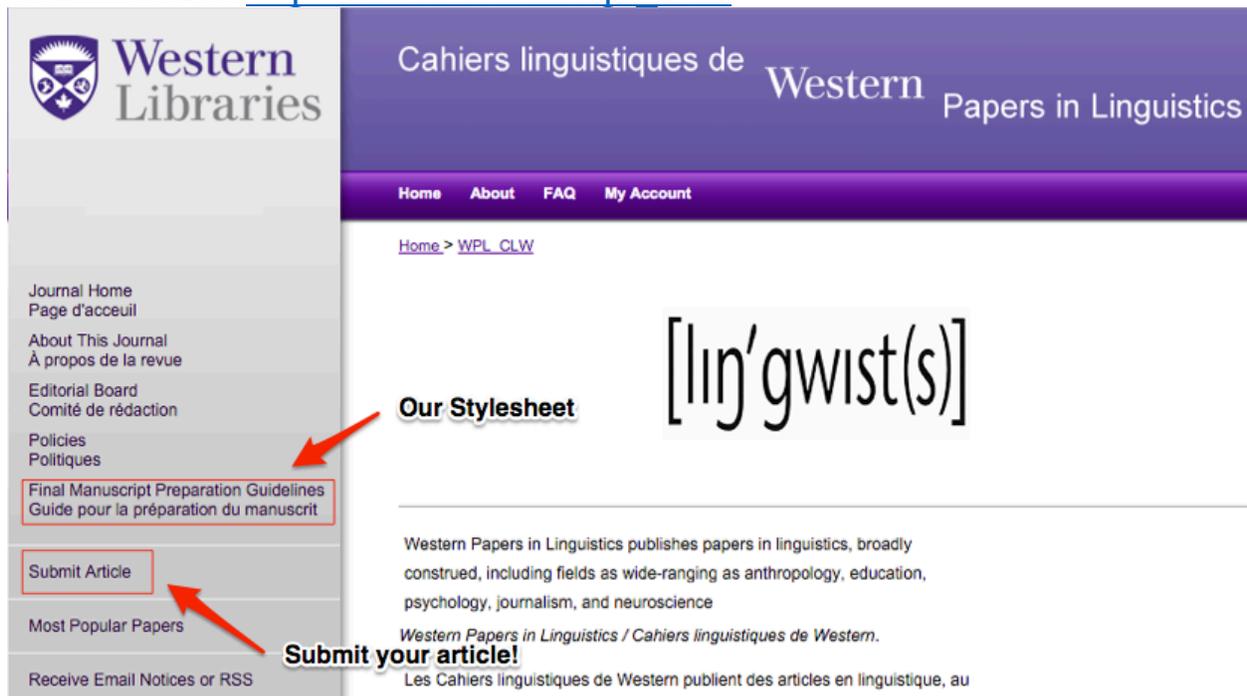
Deadline: April 30, 2016

WISSLR is partnered with the Graduate Linguistics Journal – Western Papers in Linguistics / Cahiers linguistiques de Western – to publish an annual WISSLR Conference Proceedings issue.

By speaking at WISSLR, you are automatically accepted for publication in this issue! So how can you take advantage?

- 1) Write a paper (in English or in French) on the topic you presented here at WISSLR (maybe you already have an applicable term paper or thesis chapter?)
- 2) Format it according to the WPL/CLW style guide – There’s no page limit!
- 3) Submit it to the WPL/CLW website before : **April 30, 2016**

Our Website: http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wpl_clw/



Your paper will have an editor assigned to it who may request minor formatting or stylistic changes.

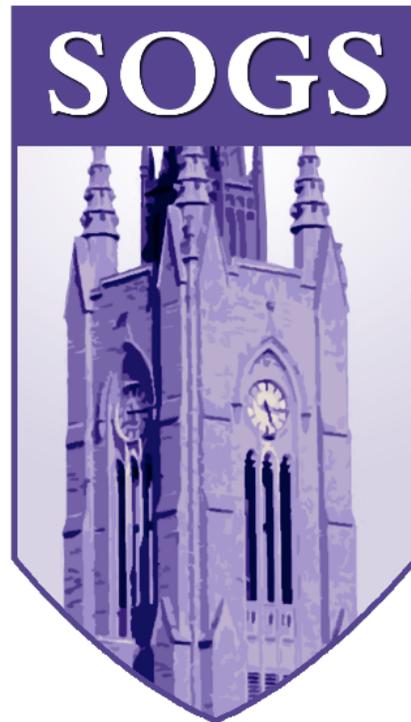
The issue is planned to be published by June 30, 2016 – we hope to “read” you there!

the english dept

modern languages
dean's office
french studies

Special thank you to the
Linguistics Society
@ UWO

for their support in WISSLR 2016!



Western  Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies



Western
Research

Your WISSLR Team 2016 !

Name	Email	Area of Study
Yahya Aljohani	yaljohan@uwo.ca	
Amal Alrashidi	alrash3@uwo.ca	
Adwoa Amampene	samampen@uwo.ca	
Alex Angsongna	aangsong@uwo.ca	
Allie Annibale	aanniba@uwo.ca	
Naomi Callan	ncallan@uwo.ca	
Sarah Cornwell	scornwel@uwo.ca	
Leila Habibi	ghabibi@uwo.ca	
Michael Iannozzi	miannozz@uwo.ca	Endangered languages and rural dialects
Lyal Islambouli	lislambo@uwo.ca	
Christopher Maligec	cmaligec@uwo.ca	
Lauren McIntosh	Hmcinto4@uwo.ca	
Kristy Townshend	ktownsh@uwo.ca	

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typology shift

heritage

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syntax semantics acquisition
morphology psycholinguistics L1/L2

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Human language isn't merely an abstract formal system. It isn't merely a body of stored information. It isn't merely conversational interaction. At Western, it is all of these to equal degree.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Academic Excellence:

- ▶ students work with world-class researchers in their field
- ▶ well-rounded, comprehensive education
- ▶ excellent preparation for graduate studies, professional programs or work force
- ▶ near 100% placement rate in professional and graduate programs

Diversity & Collaboration:

- ▶ students and faculty from varying experience and background
- ▶ various methods used including experimental, theoretical and clinical