

School of Language and Communication Studies

Spring 2012

Research Seminar Series



Monday 6 February: 5.30 to 7.00 pm – Room TPSC 1.1

Does humanitarian intervention work? The challenges of cross-cultural communication in a war zone

Jonathan Browning OBE

In the early 1990 a lot of my thoughts on what I wanted to do in the future were formed by the 1989 Revolutions in Central and East European countries and the war which had started across Yugoslavia as it began to disintegrate. As I watched the siege of Sarajevo and the civil wars between various communities I wondered how the world could respond to help prevent and resolve conflict. By 2000 I've travelled and worked across much of ex-Yugoslavia and then began working for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. I stayed for 3 1/2 years, then worked in various capacities in Afghanistan, Nepal, Jerusalem with the UN or UK, then recently two years in Helmand working for the Stabilisation Unit.

All of this work has been in order to help countries either in conflict or coming out of conflict, help them conduct elections, developing good governance, justice and rule of law, reconciliation and other areas which can help rebuild both the institutions of government as well as infrastructure. With all of this work one vital component is being able to work well with local people and officials, and for this language and culture can often be a barrier. Thus cultural awareness and sensitivity as well being able to work well with interpreters on our part is the key to success. If I can create a good rapport with people I work with and clearly understand with the help of my interpreter then I am much more likely to succeed in my role, wherever in the world I find myself. In this talk, I discuss a number of examples where language and cross-linguistic communication played a crucial role in my job in the different contexts of conflict resolution.

Jonathan Browning is a consultant on international development and a former UK Government Stabilisation Adviser in Helmand (UN/OSCE).

Invited Special Guest: Alex Dunlop, BBC TV East

Monday 20 February 5.30 to 7.00pm – Room Arts 0.30

Communication and culture in the built environment? An analysis of how the mind/brain understands architecture

Bill Downes, University of East Anglia and York University, Toronto

We ask if a building and the myriad other artefacts which make up the texture of everyday urban life can be analyzed as ‘representations’, which therefore convey meanings in cultural context, in a way which differs interestingly from verbal and other forms of communication. We propose that one such ‘meaning’ is how the particular artefact is to be used; it is part of a technology. But artefacts mean much more than that! They also have ‘style’, evoke aesthetic responses, and are saturated with familiar significance. This talk employs ‘the cognitive pragmatics of culture’ to propose how we can understand these communicative objects.

Bill Downes is a Senior Fellow in the School of Language and Communication Studies at UEA and Adjunct Professor of English and Linguistics at York University, Toronto. Educated in Canada and at University College London, he has taught at the London School of Economics, the University of East Anglia and Glendon College in Toronto. The author of *Language and Society* (1998 2nd ed.) and *Language and Religion* (2011), both published by Cambridge University Press, he now researches the relation of cognitive pragmatics and culture.

Invited Special Guest: Michael Innes, LSI Architects

Monday 12 March: 5.30 to 7.00pm – Room Arts 0.30

Translation, Sport, Globalisation and the migrant worker

Roger Baines, University of East Anglia

The wealth generation within many professional sports that the development of global media has facilitated is a facet of globalisation which has led to the extensive migration of elite athletes. This migration in turn creates high levels of linguistic hybridity in professional sporting contexts, and intensifies the need for interlinguistic mediation, especially for those elite migrant athletes who adopt a translation accommodation strategy with little acquisition of the host language. The high profile of elite migrant athletes in the media potentially renders issues of translation especially visible. Methodologically this provides some data but the high profile is also a consequence of the power (understood in terms of wealth, status and reputation) of such migrant workers. Power dynamics between dominant and minority languages in migrants’ host culture conventionally disempower migrants. However the use of translation to protect

power in two case studies of elite migrant professional footballers in England (Carlos Tévez and Luis Suárez) suggests that different power dynamics can operate in this specialised context.

Roger Baines is currently Head of the School of Language and Communication Studies at the University of East Anglia where he teaches and researches Translation Studies and French language. He has published on the deliberate misrepresentation through translation of migrant Premier league footballers and managers by their agents and the press, on the development of a methodology for a performance-based translation of rhythm in Koltès' play *Dans la solitude des champs de coton*, on the translation and adaptation of Adel Hakim's 1990 play *Exécuteur 14*, on personal insults and gender, and ritual insults, in contemporary French, and on the work of Pierre Mac Orlan. He is the co-editor of *Staging and Performing Translation: Text and Theatre Practice* (Palgrave Macmillan).

Invited Special Guests: George Scalan, former Premier League football interpreter and Joe Ferrari, Head of Media, Norwich City Football Club

Wednesday 21 March: 5.30 to 7.00pm – Room Arts 2.03

Audiovisual language as pre-fabricated orality: formulae in a corpus of original and dubbed film dialogue

Maria Pavesi, University of Pavia, Italy

Formulae are easily identifiable ready-made chunks conveying conventional pragmatic meanings. They have also been suggested to characterise film dialogue, as they can be used both for economy reasons and to simulate impromptu speech. Drawing on a parallel corpus of both original (English) and translated (Italian) film language compiled at the University of Pavia, a set of correlated formulae will be investigated from a cross-linguistic and translational perspective. Recurrent formulaic patterns will be shown to be key features of both original and dubbed pre-fabricated orality.

Maria Pavesi is Professor of English language and linguistics at the University of Pavia. Her research has addressed several topics in English applied linguistics and has focussed on second language acquisition, the English of science, corpus linguistics and audiovisual translation. In these fields she has published widely both nationally and internationally. For the past few years she has been working on features of spoken language in film dubbing. In this area, she has published a book, *La traduzione filmica. Aspetti del parlato doppiato dall'inglese all'italiano* [Film translation: Aspects of spoken language dubbed from English into Italian], Rome, 2005, and co-edited the volume *Analysing audiovisual dialogue. Linguistic and translational insights*, Bologna 2009. In

the field of audiovisual translation, she has also authored articles on subtitling and second language acquisition and address shifts in film dubbing. Maria Pavesi is currently the coordinator of the international project “English and Italian audiovisual language: translation and language learning” founded by the *Fondazione Alma Mater Ticinensis* and comprising the Universities of Pavia, Loughborough and Malta.

Invited Special Guest: Jack Thomson, Manager, Picturehouse Norwich

For more information: m.guillot@uea.ac.uk