

4TH ANNUAL EUCOR MA-CONFERENCE BASEL 2008

PANEL1 (CHAired BY MULHOUSE)
HISTORIES – CULTURE, ACADEMIA AND LITERATURE

Camden Town – Past and Present

Laetitia Schweitzer (Mulhouse)

In 1791, Camden Town was nothing more than fields lost in the vast rural area at the north of London; a century later, Camden Town was one of the key centres for commerce and transport in Central London. Today, Camden Town is one of the first touristic destinations of London, famous for its many markets selling everything from clothes to crafts goods, for its unconventional inhabitants, as well as for its important music scene and its role in British entertainment. The aim of my project is to understand how and why this small district of North London evolved in such a way, becoming something completely different from what it first was. My memoir will cover the historical and social aspects of this evolution, as well as the role of urban planning and post-war redevelopment of London. Useful sources of information are John Richardson and Jack Whitehead, the archives from the Local Studies and Archive Centre of Holborn, articles from the BBC and local newspapers, as well as films such as *This Year's Love*, 1999, or *Withnail and I*, 1986. However, at the EUCOR conference I will focus on the history of the area and will only briefly cover the other points.

The History of English at German Universities - With a Closer Look at Methodology and Freiburg University

Jens Rohrer (Freiburg)

The thesis starts describing the very first beginnings of English teaching at German universities, the further development throughout the centuries to the late 20th century and leads to a history concerned with methodological approaches to teaching modern languages in general, and English in particular. Due to the acknowledged importance of the so-called Reform Movement in the late 19th century and its implications to future didactic debates, this period is of special interest to the thesis. The dispute between a grammar and translation based methodology on the one hand and an oral and written based ideology can be regarded a foil for future debates. I will try to combine the methodological history with the history in Freiburg. The first associate professor for English in Freiburg, Arnold Schröer, started his work at the same time the Reform Movement gained momentum. Additionally, he can be considered a true advocate of the new ideas to teaching and tried to integrate the concepts as good as possible. He and one of his successors, Friedrich Brie, both had a lasting impact on our department and therefore will be the centre of interest when it comes to our university. The actual practical language classes, however, were usually given by lecturers without a *venia legendi*. Accordingly, the interest in language teaching methodology requires exploring their work, both with students and in cooperation with professors as well.

18th Century Highlands and Highlanders in Walter Scott and Diana Gabaldon

Elodie Werlen (Mulhouse)

The events that happened in Scotland in the eighteenth century have been of great importance in the history of that nation. The Jacobite insurrections, their repression and the many changes the Scottish nation underwent during that period make it an interesting subject for historians as well as for novelists. Hence Sir Walter Scott, both interested in history and in literature, wrote works of fiction on Scotland and

its Highlands, based on his knowledge of their history and their culture. The author met great success as Diana Gabaldon says in her introduction of Scott's novel *Ivanhoe* (2001): "Sir Walter [...] seems to have found that precarious balance-point between popularity and longevity". As time went by, Scotland and its Highlands have kept fascinating people and are still inspiring works of fiction nowadays. In my paper, I will try to compare Scott's novels *Rob Roy* (1819) and *Waverley* (1814) with the more recent *Outlander* (1991) and *Dragonfly in Amber* (1992) by Diana Gabaldon. Parts of each of these stories are set in the eighteenth-century Highlands. Since Gabaldon was born nearly 200 years after Scott and her narrative style is very different from his, I will focus on the genre, the narration and the appeal in their respective books. I will study how the stories have been structured, how the landscapes are described and how characters are presented—Scott's characters being more stereotypical and less lifelike than Gabaldon's. A contemporary author like her can bring something new to the historical romance and attract a new readership to this old genre.

PANEL 2 (CHAired BY BASEL)

GENDER TROUBLE – FEMALE ROLES, MALE VIOLENCE

Madness 'with a Method' in the Novels of Margaret Atwood: What Women's Sick Roles Tell Us about their Sex Roles

Sibylle Kaufmann (Basel)

Why are so many women in psychiatric or psychological treatment these days? Following the example set by Elaine Showalter in 1985 (*The Female Malady*), my paper explores the multiple interdependencies between women's social role(s) and identities, their ambiguous relationship towards power and their increased tendency to developing mental disorders as compared to men. Based on Michel Foucault's understanding of human subjectivity as a product of the discourses of power which constitute our every-day reality, I will argue that depressive psychosis in women results from complete internalisation of power discourses, to the

extent that a woman's relationship towards herself gets determined by the distorted perspective of the oppressive gaze or 'Over-Eye' (Crowley Jack) of essentially any socio-cultural master narrative one can think of. With the help of Margaret Atwood's novel *Cat's Eye* (1988), which illustrates this issue, I will start by tracing how a woman ends up with a psychotic, fragmented identity. In a second step, I will point out how, in line with Foucault's interpretation of power as a dynamic, multilateral set of strategic games, women use their 'madness' as a powerful psychological weapon or 'method' in order to resist oppression. Eventually, I will discuss how, in order to overcome their mental disorders and develop a new, healthy sense of identity, women must learn to reject oppressive 'male' power discourses, a process which I will argue must involve the acknowledgement of their own 'unwomanly' capacity to hold and exert power through the recognition of and internalisation of their repressed, aggressive feelings.

Into Women's Minds: From Virginia Woolf to Margaret Atwood

Virginie Dentzer (Mulhouse)

Virginia Woolf was born in 1882 and was from an English aristocratic family. Margaret Atwood was born in 1939, and spent her childhood in the wilderness of Northern Quebec. These two authors are worlds apart, but they both tried to explore women's minds, and managed to challenge conventional gendered roles without being feminists in the narrow sense. I will particularly focus on how Woolf and Atwood challenge conventional motherhood, exemplified by Mrs Ramsay in *To the Lighthouse* (1927), and several characters in *Wilderness Tips* (1991). I will analyze how these traditional mothers are opposed by emerging independent women, like Lily Briscoe in *To the Lighthouse*. I will deal with these new women's identity problems, and the difficulty they experience in finding a balance between conventionality and their urge for change. In other sections of my paper, I will discuss the importance of dress code and appearance, and how it can be an obstacle to construct one's identity, using Atwood's *Surfacing* (1972) and *The Robber Bride* (1993) and Woolf's *Orlando* (1928) and *The New Dress* (1927). Another section will be about women asserting themselves through art focusing on Woolf's and Atwood's characters as well as the authors in *A Room of One's Own* (1929) and *Negotiating with the Dead: a Writer on Writing* (2002).

Football Hooliganism in Contemporary Britain: The 1985 Heysel Disaster
Lionel Soret (Mulhouse)

Football Hooliganism originates in the second half of the 20th century in Great Britain. To explain this phenomenon, my study will first look for the roots of hooliganism and then concentrate on hooligans' behaviour inside and outside stadiums. Much of it is dedicated to the fight against hooliganism during the 1990s and the results of that policy twenty years later. For my presentation, I am going to focus on a pivotal event in the history of football, the 1985 Heysel disaster in which 36 people were killed. My aim is to analyse it, find the people responsible for it, and explain how it could happen at all. I will also discuss the repercussions of this disaster as a turning point in the fight against hooliganism in Great Britain.

PANEL 3 (CHAIRER BY FREIBURG)

BETWEEN HOME AND FOREIGN CULTURES – INTRA- AND INTERCULTURAL
 COMMUNICATIONS

Food Culture – Food as a Bridge between Cultures and as Identity Marker in Post-Colonial Literature
Sonja Nussbaumer (Basel)

In my licentiate paper with the title "Food Culture – Food as a Bridge between Cultures and as Identity Marker in Post-Colonial Literature" I search for the importance of food when it comes to culture clashes and how this is expressed in contemporary literary novels. I chose three novels by Indian authors who all deal with the problems that emerge within the third space of cultural fusion - Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*, and *The Mistress of Spices* written by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. It is important to understand the characters of these novels in terms of what they eat or what food they prefer because people define themselves through smells and tastes, and this again consti-

tutes an important part of their identity. In my paper, the mixing and mingling of different kinds of foods and cuisines between the West and India, where my focus lies, are only possible through the abstract concepts of hybridity and the Third Space. If the newly mixed dishes/foods can be seen as new 'authentic' forms of the old ones is another question. It can be said, though, that both nations (England-India or America-India) influence each other to about the same extent. Foods from both nations are imitated and with it an image of originality is established, resulting in the production of a new product.

Code-switching in Computer-Mediated Communication – A Socio-Pragmatic
 Analysis of Two Chicano Web Forums

Anastasia Cobet (Freiburg)

Technological, demographic, economic and political changes during the last 50 years have resulted in a world culture at the beginning of the 21st century that is both visibly and audibly multilingual. Unsurprisingly, this global increase in the prominence of multilingualism has stimulated an enormous rise in scientific investigations about language contact and bilingualism, which is why today the academic literature on these subject matters is extremely broad and diversified. There is one multilingual environment, however, that has only more recently begun to attract scholarly attention: the particularly 21st century phenomenon of the Internet. The paper presented here intends to make a contribution to this yet little investigated area, analyzing Spanish – English code-switching practices in Mexican-American, or Chicano, Internet forums. As for the structural organization of the presentation, I will first discuss various theoretical issues relevant for the empirical study to follow and report on some of the previous research on language choice and code-switching in online settings. It is against the backdrop of this brief introductory part that I will then offer a description of my own examination, which can be characterized as a qualitative, micro-level analysis of bilingual behavior in two particular Chicano web forums that primarily aims at an isolation of the socio-pragmatic functions of language alternation online.

Patriotism in British Football

David Lebourg (Mulhouse)

From a game practiced by Victorian public schoolboys to today's most popular sport in the world, football has arguably been the most successful British export. Due to the supremacy of the Empire, British soldiers, students or engineers were able to carry with them a cultural model of which the football was an important component. Britain was the first country to create football associations and codify the rules of the game. Within thirteen years, England, Scotland and Wales had all their own administrative bodies respectively named the FA (Football Association), the SFA (Scottish FA), and the FAW (FA of Wales). Thus at the turn of the twentieth century, not only did Britannia rule the waves all over the globe but she ruled the football world, too. Yet as the British Empire crumbled so did its influence on football, and the second half of the century would see other football superpowers like Brazil, Italy or Germany appear. My paper deals with the evolution of the British patriotism in football over the last 150 years. From the supposed British "fatherhood" of the sport to the situation nowadays, I will try and examine all the manifestations of this patriotism to figure out how it has been expressed and to highlight its modes of expression and the basis on which it rests.

PANEL 4 (CHAIRER BY STRASBOURG)

PERFORMATIVITY – JUGGLING GENRES AND ROLES

Theatricality and the Canterbury Tales

Christoph Ketterer (Freiburg)

This paper argues that Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* is a "theatrical" text. Its central thesis rests on two assumptions. Firstly, the work exhibits forms of "textual theatricality", in that it gradually abolishes the fixed perspective of a single narrative authority in favor of the pilgrims' multiple voices. In this way, the narrative principle of mediation is replaced by a performative one, which foregrounds

the tale-telling process as something starting with the individual pilgrim who performs himself in his tale using "theatrical strategies". These are subjected to close analysis, using a theoretical framework from theater studies developed by Erika Fischer-Lichte. Secondly, there is another dimension of theatricality. Medieval pilgrimage may be seen as theatrical since it "stages" society in its bringing together of individuals for an ultimate purpose. This purpose is the pilgrimage as a symbolic act, linking our world and the Heavenly Jerusalem. The *Canterbury Tales* describes this symbolic act, and, in the pilgrims' performances, makes the different conceptions of space and time on the pilgrimage a center of its attention.

The English Patient – Novel and Film

Christine Scheufele (Freiburg)

Analysing the example of Michael Ondaatje's novel *The English Patient* (1992) and Anthony Minghella's adaptation of the same name (1996), this thesis explores the topic of novel/film adaptation with its problems and possibilities that arise from the specific characteristics of the two media. Mainly two principles have been central to the study of adaptation, an emphasis on the 'fidelity' to the source novel gradually giving way to recognition of the 'specificity' of each medium. They are discussed in the theory section after an overview of film technique and stand in the centre of the analytic section, which compares the film and novel with regard to selected aspects. A central characteristic of the film's strategy is a clear focus on the theme of love which allows for its categorisation as melodrama. This choice of genre and the reduced time frame and more pressured mode of film reception make reductions and alterations necessary. This is reflected in Minghella's reducing the fragmentary, nonlinear structure and multiperspectivity of the novel to flashback sequences representing only one character's memories and rearranging them in chronological order. However, several cinematic techniques can be observed in the film that serve to include some of the novel's motifs and imagery, establish connections between the narrative levels, and produce aesthetic and emotional effects. The comparison of the two works thus serves to highlight not only the strengths and limitations of novel/film adaptation, but gives a deeper insight into the specific means of expression of each respective medium.

Story Telling and Story Playing in Two of John Fowles' Novels: *A Maggot* and *The Magus*

Denisa Butnaru (Strasbourg)

My research is dedicated to two of John Fowles' novels, namely *A Maggot* and *The Magus*. The main topic I would like to discuss in respect of these two works is that of story playing and story telling. Both of these novels are organized as if the characters play in a script. In the case of *A Maggot* we deal with four characters that "play" for another character, while in the case of *The Magus* there is only one (which is the narrator) who seems to be an actor for another character. My interest is basically concerned with the narrative aspect of these works, but I also intend to integrate my research to a philosophical approach, namely the phenomenological one.

Blackness as Performance

Pauline Archambault (Strasbourg)

I am working on *Banjo*, a novel by Claude McKay, a Jamaican writer who contributed a lot to the Harlem Renaissance literature. I am focusing on the representation of blackness in the novel, how it is conceived and expressed. In other words, I am aiming at finding out what vision of blackness is offered and what it means to be black, according to the characters of the novel. Key issues like that of the reclaiming of the primitive to debunk the stereotypes imposed by Western civilization are at the heart of my research. I would like, at this conference, to present a part of the first chapter of my thesis. I will strive to explain how Marseilles and its various neighborhoods become stages, settings, for the black boys to perform their daily life. I will also focus on the carnivalesque dimension of their activities and of the surroundings, using as a starting point the image of the circus, which is recurrent in the novel. And finally, I will pay attention to the drama-like dimension given to these rather common activities, namely story-telling, eating and fighting, among others. My goal is to put into light the articulation between the natural and the artificial as a way to debunk white stereotypes: By reclaiming the primitive that has been tied to them for centuries, the black boys turn these stereotypes into a very sensual and joyous way of life. In other words, it seems that a new paradigm is asserted: black life and features are no longer assessed according to white stan-

dards, which ultimately lead to a value judgment, but they are expressed in a specifically black way. It is precisely what the articulation between the natural and the artificial allows.

PANEL 5 (CHAired BY BASEL)

LANGUAGE TROUBLE – POLITICAL AND LINGUISTIC ARTICULATION

Defining a Crime – The Security Council of the United Nations during the Genocide in Rwanda 1994

Stefanie Meier (Basel)

According to the Genocide Convention from 1948, the United Nations are legally obliged to intervene in the case of genocide. However, the definition for "genocide" provided by the Convention is vague and therefore, subject to interpretation by the UN Security Council. The Council thus has to decide on what is considered genocide, and publishes its decisions on the future course of action in conflict areas in their resolutions. This paper explores the definitions of the crimes in Rwanda as provided by the UN Security Council in their resolutions during the genocide between April and July 1994. Even though defining a crime in the context of UN intervention is of such highly charged nature, no linguistic research has been carried out on the topic so far. Here, the definitions are analysed in the context of Critical Discourse Analysis with a focus on the encoding of language and power. The analysis of the overall structure, the vocabulary as well as the grammar is carried out on the basis of a toolkit provided by Norman Fairclough (2001) in *Language and Power*. The analysis revealed two main groups of characteristics. While some features seem to be part of a broader UN jargon and – in a greater context – could be subject of further linguistic research, other features of language use seem to be specific for the situation in Rwanda – with the main purpose of postponing the decision of calling the crimes genocide and therefore, being obliged to start an armed and cost-intensive intervention. I will exemplify this by looking at relations between words – in this case the two adjectives "mindless" and "systematic kill-

ings" and by examining the means of referring which has the effect of obfuscating the initiators of the crimes.

Speaking Peace – Nelson Mandela between resistance and peace, apartheid and the new South Africa

Isabel Bachmann (Basel)

Did Nelson Mandela contribute to the peace movement not only by means of armed resistance, but also by means of language? I will address this question by providing a linguistic analysis of the construction of peace.

Following Critical Discourse Analysis I regard language as discourse and discourse as social practice. In particular, I rely on Norman Fairclough's concepts of 'text', 'interaction' and 'context'. Unequal social structures as the ones found in apartheid South Africa inform discursive structures. However, they are also enacted, maintained and changed by means of language. Thus, Mandela's fight takes place in the medium of language and by linguistic means. I analyse three selected texts by Mandela. The first one is a written document published during the apartheid rule. The other two texts are post apartheid speeches held by Mandela as State President. In my presentation I will focus on the encoding of action processes and agencies to investigate how Mandela depicts the power relationships and assigns responsibility regarding the political and social structures. In the apartheid text there is a clear prevalence of action processes over events or attributions: simple declarative sentences of the subject – verb – object order type are dominant, thus an agent acts upon a patient. The active sentence type predominates and agency is encoded. However, the agents of apartheid violations are identified not as whites in general but as white institutions, thus, the target of resistance is established without channelling hate or revenge towards white individuals. In the post apartheid speeches the action processes prevail. There is a clear preference for passive sentence structures. Agency is often hidden or realized by abstract or inanimate constructions. I interpret the contrast in the encoding of agency as motivated by ideology: In the new political environment, Mandela chooses to obscure responsibility for injustice in order to work towards integration. This interpretation is supported by corresponding findings in the analyses of the pronoun system and expressive modality.

Perfect and Progressive in L2 Varieties of English: A study of major non-standard uses in Philippine English and Hong Kong English

Kerstin Lunkenheimer (Freiburg)

The thesis presented here is a corpus-based study of the use of Present Perfect and Progressive in two Southeast Asian L2 varieties of English and British English and American English as the two major L1 varieties. Quantitative and qualitative results of a comparative analysis of six corpora (three components of the International Corpus of English – ICE-Hong Kong, ICE-Philippines, ICE-GB – as well as Frown, the Santa Barbara Corpus of Spoken American English and the Corpus of Spoken Professional American English) will be used to show how the relevant varieties differ in the use of these verb forms. The focus is on non-standard uses that have been reported as being common to many L2 varieties: violations of the Standard English distinction between Present Perfect and Simple Past, and extension of the Progressive to stative verbs and habitual situations. As will be seen, the findings largely corroborate expectations, raised by previous research, of higher levels of non-standard uses in the L2 varieties. Qualitative differences between L1 and L2 boil down to the fact that while non-standard uses in the L1 varieties can be explained as the results of a speaker's wish to emphasize a particular meaning strongly associated with either Present Perfect or Progressive, this is not always the case in the L2 varieties. However, the comparison of two L2 varieties also reveals that different L2 varieties do not make use of what has been described as L2-characteristic features to equal extent.

Perception of Mistakes and their Gravity in L1 and L2

Natalia Ilin (Freiburg)

In a series of experiments, e-mail texts in English, German and Russian were evaluated by almost 300 speakers of these languages. Mistakes, just as other language features, give away some information about the writer – at least the readers are able to make assumptions about the age, gender, education or native language of the author. It turned out that native speakers are quite accurate at identifying non-native speakers. L2 learners, however, have a higher percentage of false answers and show more divergent reactions. The criteria of assessing a text for foreignness are basically the same for L1 and L2 readers, although foreign learners

tend to overestimate the value of correctness and syntactic complexity (having very different ideas of the latter). Generally, a considerable number of language errors in a text are taken as evidence that the writer is a foreigner. Minor language errors are explained through the writer's insufficient education or certain mental conditions. Small mistakes in a fluently written text are taken for typographical errors. There can be no single linguistic criterion to build a hierarchy of errors, because the final error gravity depends on the (assumed or known) properties of the writer, situation of communication, society's attitude, etc. However, error types could be ranked based on their 'raw gravity' – the degree of cognitive disturbance the reader experiences by reading, which can be observed in an eye-tracking experiment and measured based on the length of fixations and frequency of regressive movements.