Editors’ and contributors’ profiles

Editors

Costas Gabrielatos is working on a PhD in linguistics, doing corpus research in English conditionals. He is also a senior research associate at the Department of Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster University. Before becoming involved in linguistics he worked as language teacher and teacher educator. His main interests are conditionals, the expression of modality and time, and the use of corpora in language teaching and discourse analysis.

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Richard Slessor has over thirty years’ experience in various aspects of educational publishing in the UK and in SE and East Asia, including editorial work, marketing and general management. More recently he has taught publishing and business communication in tertiary institutions in the UK and Singapore. He has an MA in applied linguistics from the University of Essex, and is currently studying for a PhD at Lancaster University. He is investigating the experience and possible problems of SE and East Asian students with an EFL background when they join tertiary institutions with English as the medium of study - with a special focus on their participation in informal student study groups (e.g. project groups).

J. W. Unger is a PhD student in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University, and a lecturer in the Department of English Language and Linguistics at Vienna University. He is currently researching minority language policies, and attitudes towards minority languages, with a specific focus on the Scots language in Scotland. He is also interested in gender and language and, broadly speaking, in the relationship between language and society. At Vienna University he teaches language competence courses and advanced-level academic writing.

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**Ian Cheffy** is continuing his PhD research into the conceptions of literacy of people in a minority language community in Cameroon. Having completed his field research, he expects to submit his thesis in 2008. He is interested in literacy as a social practice, and particularly in the meaning of literacy for communities which do not have a tradition of communication through writing. He is committed to the development of appropriate adult literacy teaching programmes which respond fully to the realities of the lives of the potential participants. His research interests extend to wider aspects of literacy in development, including multilingual education for children in formal settings. When not engaged in research, he works as a trainer of literacy personnel for SIL, an international NGO working in language development with the speakers of languages without writing systems.

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**Szu-Yu Ruby Chen** is an English lecturer at the National Sun Yat-Sen University (NSYSU) in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. She is also a part-time student in the PhD programme in Applied Linguistics by Thesis and Coursework at Lancaster University. Her research interests include gender and language, and bilingualism, especially code-switching. She has conducted researched in code-switching in written texts, such as letters or postcards, and is currently researching code-switching in electronic texts in computer-mediated communication (CMC), such as BBS postings or blogs.

**Sofia Lampropoulou** is currently a research student at the department of Linguistics and English Language. I have just submitted my PhD thesis which lies in the area of Discourse Analysis. The thesis examines the use of direct speech representation in Greek youth storytelling. More specifically, I view direct speech as an element that contributes to the construction of the narrators’ social identities. My broad research interests lie in the areas of Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis and Interactional Sociolinguistics.

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**Sean Murphy** is a PhD student at Lancaster University, currently carrying out corpus stylistic research into Shakespearean soliloquies. His general interests include stylistics, corpus linguistics and English language teaching. He works as a teacher of English at Barcelona University and writes materials for the teaching of English. He holds a BA in English and French, and an MSC in Teaching English.

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Editors’ and contributors’ profiles

**Katerina Vassilopoulou** holds a BA in Greek Philology from the University of Athens, and an MA in Language Studies and a PhD from Lancaster. The title of her thesis is “Towards a Cognitive Stylistic Approach to Absurdity in Drama with a Particular Focus on Ionesco’s *The Bald Prima Donna*”. Her current research interests are pragmatics, stylistics, conversation analysis and cognitive linguistics.

**Dimitra Vladimirou** is currently employed as a researcher in the Centre for Language and Communication, Open University, UK, working for the ESRC funded project *Trajectories of knowledge production: English medium academic writing for national, transnational and international journals*. She is also completing her PhD in the Department of Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster University. In her PhD research, she has investigated academic writing in English-speaking and Greek-speaking communities, focusing on interpersonal aspects of linguistics journal articles. Her research interests include cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary variation in academic writing, writer stance, and the role of English as a lingua franca.