

Editors

Steve Disney achieved a first class honours degree in Linguistics and the English Language from the University of Wales, Bangor, a distinction in the MA in Modern English Language at UCL and a PhD in Linguistics (pending) from Lancaster University. He has spent many years teaching English in Poland, Japan and Qatar but has now returned nearer his Cornish home and is a Lecturer in English Language and Linguistics at UCP Marjon in Plymouth.

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Bernhard Forchtner is a doctoral student at the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University, United Kingdom. His thesis research investigates public apologies of wrongdoing and their instrumentalisation in Austria, Denmark and Germany. Other research interests include the multimodal construction of collective identity in films, the notion of critique in critical discourse analysis and its justification through theories of argumentation.

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Wesam Ibrahim is a lecturer at Tanta University, Egypt and is currently working towards a PhD in Linguistics at Lancaster University. Her PhD thesis investigates the stylistic analysis of the text worlds of children's fantasy fiction. She is also researching the potential contribution of corpus linguistics to the study of focalisation, modality, and gender representation in fictional worlds. She has presented her research in a number of international conferences including PALA 2008, CL 2009, and PALA 2009. Her research interests include: Stylistics, Cognitive Linguistics (particularly Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Text World Theory and Blending), Language and Gender, and Corpus Linguistics.

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Neil Millar is carrying out doctoral research in psycholinguistics at Lancaster University. His thesis research investigates predictability in sentence processing and the role of distributional information. Other current research interests include innovation in corpus-linguistic methodologies, recent language change, and the language of biomedicine and the health sciences.

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Contributors

Mariam Aboelezz has recently completed an MA course in Language Studies at the Department of Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster University. Her dissertation was on the use of Latinised Arabic in printed, edited magazines in Egypt. She has now started reading for a PhD in linguistics on the recent reconfiguration of language roles and powers in Egypt. Her broad research interests include bilingualism, language and technology, reading research and translation studies.

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Fu-Tsai Hsieh was a PhD student at the Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York, UK. His research interests include second language acquisition and second language acquisition research methodology. He specialized in the acquisition of syntactic properties, particularly of English and Chinese. Most of the work he does focuses on quantitative analysis, with a view to understanding the development of grammatical knowledge by second language learners and its implications for syntactic and linguistic theory. He currently works as a researcher at the Graduate Institute of Linguistics, National Chengchi University.

Marvin Hulin Ren's research is interested in (both first and second) learners' individual differences in sentence processing, especially from the perspective of rule-based or/and experience-based approach(es). The interest developed from his dream to explore the nature of language processing in brain. He finished his PhD project in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University, UK. He has been in teaching English at higher educational level in China for more than ten years and is now working at North China Electric Power University, Beijing, China.

Filipa Ribeiro is a PhD student in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University. She is researching the discursive construction of Portuguese national identity in the media. She is a lecturer at the School of Management, Tourism and Hospitality (ESGHT), University of the Algarve (Portugal) where she teaches a variety of language courses and academic reading and writing courses. She was one of the founders of the University's Centre of Modern Languages and Translation, which she directed for several years. She has written several working papers on academic writing skills and in 2001 she joined the editorial board of the journal *Dos Algarves*. She was a team member of the research project "The event Faro National Capital of Culture 2005 and Tourism", conducted by the ESGHT Research Centre. f.ribeiro@lancaster.ac.uk.

Rong Rong obtained her BA in English Language and Culture at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (2002-2006), and her MA in English Language and Literary Studies at Lancaster University, UK (2006-7). Under the supervision of Professor Mick Short at Lancaster University, she is now doing her Ph.D. on flashbacks in films and prose fiction with special reference to John le Carré's *The Constant Gardener*.

Kate Torkington is a part-time PhD student at the Department of Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster University and full-time lecturer at the University of the Algarve (School of Management, Hospitality and Tourism). Her main research interest is in the discursive construction of identity, particularly place-identity.

Xu Zhang is a lecturer in Beijing Language and Culture University. She has recently completed her PhD study in Lancaster University, with a thesis titled *English Quasi-Numeral Classifiers: A Cognitive and Corpus-based Study*. She holds an MA in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics and a BA in English Literature (both from Beijing Language and Culture University). Her research interests are in cognitive linguistics and linguistic typology.