Gender and Language BAAL Special Interest Group

Annual General Meeting, Sept. 20 2011
Aston University, UK (Room MB504)

Minutes

Present: Judith Baxter (Chair), Lia Litosseliti, Linda McLoughlin, Lee Oakley, Sylvia Shaw (Treasurer), Jane Sunderland (Secretary)

1. Apologies:
Received from Paul Baker (Webweaver)

2. Minutes of last meeting (Tuesday March 30, 2010)
The Minutes were approved. It was suggested that the Minutes should be posted on the SiG website. Jane to check this with Paul Baker.

Action: Jane Sunderland

3. Matters arising
Judith reported that SiG events were expected to be run at a (small) profit, but that profits were to be retained by the SiG and not sent to BAAL.

There was some discussion of the funding of SiG events. Universities sometimes support these financially, and this is to be encouraged, for example by not asking for a payment for the rooms. It was agreed that while it was appropriate to pay invited speakers’ travel, the SiG could not be normally expected to fund accommodation.

4. Membership update
Judith reported that membership of the SiG was now 45 (up from 21).

5. Annual report (JB) and Treasurer’s report (SS)
Sylvia reported that there has been a loss of £26.00 from the previous event (Language, gender and corpus linguistics, run jointly with the Corpus Linguistics SiG). This had been written off.

Sylvia was thanked for setting up the GaL SiG account which now contains the £200.00 allocated by BAAL to all SiGs.

6. Future events
Possible future events identified were:

- Gender and multimodality
- Gender, language and sexuality
- Gender, language and literature
A vote by members showed that ‘Gender, language and sexuality’ was of most interest. It was decided that this should be explored for our next annual event, possibly in April 2012 or September 2012. Jane agreed to ask Helen Sauntson (Birmingham University) and Lia to ask Liz Morrish (Nottingham University) if they would consider running it. (perhaps together).

Action: Jane Sunderland and Lia Litosseliti

[Another possibility, not discussed, is ‘Language, gender and the body’, e.g. for 2013.]

7. Relationship of BAAL GaL SiG with the International Gender and Language Association (IGALA) (LL/JS)

IGALA is encouraging the development of both local (national) IGALA branches and events. Jane suggested that given the existence of the Gal SiG, there was no need to consider a UK branch of IGALA (IGALA is encouraging the development of national IGALA branches); indeed, this could be counter-productive in that there would be a risk of dividing UK people working in the area. She proposed however the possibility of a joint GaL SiG/IGALA event, for example in 2013 (this would be between the biennial IGALA conferences of 2012 and 2014). This would further the prominence of both organisations and might increase the membership of both. It would also be helpful to IGALA members who could not get to the IGALA conference. The meeting agreed that this would be possible and useful.

8. BAAL annual event: SiG track and colloquia

It was agreed that we should make an effort to increase the profile of the GaL SiG at the BAAL annual event in 2012, by making sure there was a substantial number of abstract submissions (for a GaL track), and perhaps a GaL SiG colloquium or panel. Judith suggested that she put out a message on the GaL email List to this effect.

Action: Judith Baxter

9. AOB

Judith was thanked for her hard work organising the ‘Gender and Language in the Public Space’ event at Aston.

10. Date of next meeting

TBA, but will either be at the BAAL annual event (Sept. 2012) or the next annual GaL SiG event, whichever is sooner.

Jane Sunderland
Sept. 23 2011