

ILS1

SCHEDULE

ILLINOIS LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS SOCIETY 1:
LANGUAGE ONLINE

MAY 29-31, 2009
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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Welcome!

I join the Conference Committee, the Linguistics Student Organization, and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in welcoming you to the inaugural meeting of Illinois Language and Linguistics Society 1: Language Online. You are participating in the first student-run and student-oriented conference in linguistics at the University of Illinois—a milestone for our department which, we hope, will become a yearly celebration of scholarship in the language sciences. In addition to this distinction, we have worked with the Department of Linguistics and ATLAS Digital Media to provide recording and webcasting services, making it a possibility for scholars in linguistics and computer-mediated communication around the world to watch and participate in this conference.

We would like to give special thanks to the members and leadership of the Linguistics Student Organization and the Department of Linguistics, as this conference showcases the student-faculty-department rapport here at Illinois, as well as the excellent support the department has maintained for student initiatives.

We would also like to give special thanks to ATLAS and ATLAS Digital Media, who have agreed to a waiver of fees for the online broadcast and recording of this conference and the provision of logistical and technical assistance in planning the event, investing generously in this student initiative with their time and resources.

In addition, we present our sincere thanks to additional financial sponsors of the conference who have made this a reality: the Cognitive Science/Artificial Intelligence Working Group, the European Union Center and the US Department of Education Title VI grant, the Department of Psychology, the Dynamics of Language and Contact Reading Group, the Department of French, the Illini Union Bookstore, and the Program in Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois.

Finally, our thanks to the invited speakers, presenters, and conference participants, whose efforts will make this conference a reflection on excellence in the field of linguistics and the field of computer-mediated communication.

Matt Garley and Benjamin Slade, co-organizers

ILLS 1 Conference Committee:

Randall Sadler (faculty advisor)

Amanda Huensch

Erin Rusaw

Zak Hulstrom

Adriana Molina Muñoz

Karen Lichtman

Liam Moran

Lisa Pierce

Eunah Kim

Soondo Baek

Jill Hallett

Nikos Vergis

**ILLINOIS LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS SOCIETY 1: LANGUAGE ONLINE
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (all times CDT)**

Friday, May 29

9:00 – 10:00 AM Registration

10:00 – 11:00 AM Session 1: Identity and Action

Using pronouns to construct a European identity: The case of politicians at Davos 2008
Jennifer Cramer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Actions that embody virtual space
Marla Bomersbach, University of Pittsburgh

11:00 – 11:15 AM Break

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM Invited Lecture (remote presentation)

Small stories as a paradigm for narrative analysis in online discourse
Dr. Alexandra Georgakopoulou, King's College London

12:15 – 1:45 PM Lunch

1:45 – 3:15 PM Session 2: CA On- and Off-line

The 'How are you?' sequence in telephone openings in Arabic
Eman Saadah, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Instant messenger conversations in Spanish
Yolanda Pangtay-Chang, University of Western Ontario

Instant messaging: A new method for collecting and analyzing errors in language production
Stefanie Kuchinsky, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

3:15 – 3:30 PM Break

3:30 – 4:30 PM Invited Lecture

From Lithuanian identity construction to English-Chamorro written codeswitching: Linguistic issues in tourism websites
Dr. Richard Hallett, Northeastern Illinois University

5:30 – 8:30 PM Pizza Reception at Rosati's (see map)

Saturday, May 30

9:00 – 10:00 AM Registration

10:00 – 11:00 AM Session 3: National and Social Discourses

Constructing remorse: The preparation of social discourses for public consumption
Jill Hallett, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

What a vacation to Somalia could tell us: A discourse analysis of a Somali tourism website
Kevin Scruggs, Northeastern Illinois University

11:00 – 11:15 AM Break

11:15 - 12:15 PM Invited Lecture

Genre theory meets folk pragmatics: tracking a genre label through the ages
Dr. Theresa Heyd, University of Texas at Dallas

12:15 – 1:45 PM Lunch

1:45 – 2:45 PM Session 4: South Asian Agreement and Politeness

Interaction of number-sensitive items with agreement: A case from Hindi
Archna Bhatia, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The grand strategy of politeness among Bengalis on Orkut
Anupam Das, Indiana University Bloomington

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:00 Session 5: Designing Virtual Utterances

Epistemic modality in computer-mediated discourse: The case of AoIR-L
Muhammad Abdul-Mageed, Indiana University Bloomington

Effects of audience on orthographic variation
Josh Iorio, University of Texas at Austin

4:00 – 4:15 Break

4:15– 5:15 PM Invited Lecture

New directions in CMC research: CMCMC
Dr. Susan Herring, Indiana University Bloomington

Sunday, May 31

9:30 – 10:30 Registration (FLB Atrium)

10:30 – 11:30 Session 6: Syntax On- and Offline

Influence of English on Hindi embedded relative clauses
Vandana Puri, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

A comparison of CMC POS Trigrams
Craig Howard, Indiana University Bloomington

11:30 – 11:45 Break

11:45 – 12:45 Invited Lecture

Strange new worlds: Opportunities and cautions in virtual world research
Dr. Randall Sadler, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

12:45 – 1:45 Lunch

1:45 – 3:15 Session 7: CMC and Second Language Speakers

‘*Dicke probs*’: Borrowed English in a German hip hop forum
Matt Garley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Triflin: Females in hip hop
Marjorie Perry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CMC acts of NSs of English and NNSs of English in different world contexts
Eray Sevingil and Yasemin Bayyurt, Boğaziçi University

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS
(in alphabetical order)

Alexandra Georgakopoulou
King's College London

Small stories as a paradigm for narrative analysis in online discourse

Computer mediated discourse analysis and sociolinguistic research has to date mostly concentrated on the study of *genres* (often referred to as text-types or discourse types) on CMC and increasingly moved to exploring them as heterogeneous entities with considerable textual and contextual variability. Notwithstanding the fact that this line of inquiry has often been critiqued for, among others, the conceptual issues surrounding the very definition of genre, it has also paid insufficient attention to narratives on CMC, not least to the different types of stories that occur and the ways in which they are 'told' in online discourse environments. As a result, language-focused narrative analysis, even though a particularly well-researched area in face-to-face contexts, largely remains a desideratum in CMC.

My aim with this presentation is to redress the balance and to do so I will draw upon latest tendencies within narrative analysis of social interaction in general and show how these can be connected with work on CMC. I will specifically propose that these connections be made on the basis of the *small stories paradigm* that I have recently developed. Small stories research has been instrumental in opening up textualist definitions of narrative to include stories that depart in varying degrees from the narrative canon (i.e. life story or personal experience past events story) as well as in arguing for the significance of such 'neglected' data for narrative and identity analysis. As I will argue, these epistemological goals should be placed high on the agenda of computer-mediated narrative analysis.

Alexandra Georgakopoulou is Reader in Modern Greek Language & Linguistics at King's College London and on the Management Committee of the College's Centre for Language, Discourse & Communication (www.kcl.ac.uk/ldc). Her research interests mainly lie in narrative analysis, language and identity analysis (with emphasis on youth) and communication in the new media and her work primarily draws on discourse analysis, interactional sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology and aims at cross-fertilizations with sociology, cultural studies and media studies. She has published over 40 articles in International Journals, and seven books, the most recent of which is *Small stories, interaction and identities* (2007, Amsterdam). Her next forthcoming book, co-authored with Anna De Fina, is entitled *Narrative and discourse: Socio-cultural linguistic approaches* (2010, CUP).

Richard Hallett

Northeastern Illinois University

**From Lithuanian Identity Construction to English-Chamorro Written Codeswitching:
Linguistic Issues in Tourism Websites**

Focusing on websites, this presentation heeds the call for new directions in exploring the links between tourism and identity construction by employing critical discourse analysis, multimodal discourse analysis, and visual semiotic analysis. Data for this presentation come from a variety of official tourism websites on nations (even fictitious ones), states, territories, cities, and halls of fame. Analyses of these sites indicate that through linguistic and visual semiotic codes, tourism websites foster social action that contributes to the (re)construction of places by variably fostering (re)imagination, rebirth, renaissance, promotion, caution, and patriotism. The Internet, with its capacity to incorporate a virtual world of information about tourist destinations, plays a seminal role as mediator in this process of construction and call for social action.

Richard W. Hallett is an associate professor of linguistics at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. He and his colleague, Judith Kaplan-Weinger (Northeastern Illinois University), have co-authored a book, Official Tourism Websites: A Discourse Analytic Perspective, that is currently under review at Channel View Publications. He has been awarded a Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship to research the construction of Indian tourism during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Susan Herring
Indiana University Bloomington

New Directions in CMC Research: CMCMC

The latest trend in computer-mediated communication (CMC) is text-based CMC that takes place in convergent media formats in which it is typically secondary, by design, to other information or entertainment-related activities. Examples of this phenomenon, which I term convergent media computer-mediated communication (CMCMC), include text comments on media-sharing sites such as Flickr and YouTube, text chat during online multiplayer game play (Herring et al., 2009), text messages sent from mobile phones to interactive television programs (Zelenkauskaitė & Herring, 2008), and the cooptation of primarily monologic textual modes, such as blogs and microblogs, for dyadic conversation (Honeycutt & Herring, 2009).

This talk brings together theory and empirical research on CMCMC, with a focus on the textual “conversations” that take place among users of CMCMC systems when they are ostensibly engaged in some other activity on the same platform, such as viewing visual media or playing an online game. It describes the frequency and nature of, and visualizes, the conversations that take place in several different convergent media platforms and considers the implications of the findings for broader questions such as: Can CMCMC meaningfully be considered a single phenomenon? What issues does CMCMC raise that go beyond those for traditional forms of CMC? How does study of CMCMC contribute to an understanding of media convergence, and of CMC, more generally? What insights does CMCMC provide into likely future developments in online communication?

Susan C. Herring is Professor of Information Science and Linguistics at Indiana University Bloomington. Trained in linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley, she was one of the first scholars to apply linguistic methods of analysis to computer-mediated communication, initially with a focus on gender issues. Subsequently, she consolidated those methods into an approach known as Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis, which she has applied to analyze politeness, interactional coherence, and change over time in Internet communication. Her recent interests include multilingual and multimodal (especially, convergent media) communication. She has published extensively on CMC, including numerous scholarly articles and three edited volumes: Computer-Mediated Communication: Linguistic, Social and Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Benjamins, 1996), The Multilingual Internet: Language, Culture, and Communication Online (Oxford University Press, 2007, with B. Danet), and Computer-Mediated Conversation (Hampton, in press). She edited the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* from 2004 to 2007 and currently edits the online journal *Language@Internet*.

Theresa Heyd
University of Texas at Dallas

Genre theory meets folk pragmatics: tracking a genre label through the ages

Genre theory has become one of the pillars of CMC studies. However, most digital genre studies are grounded in a normative or top-down perspective that takes little heed of the fuzziness inherent to genre labels – fluctuations in the metapragmatic scope that actual language users attribute to such lexical items. This paper attempts to align traditional genre theory with such a ‘folk pragmatic’ (Niedzielski and Preston 2007) approach by tracking the genre label “hoax” and its usage through the ages. Based on corpus material from the late 18th to the early 21st century, it is shown how the semantic scope of “hoaxing” has shifted over time; in particular, recent appropriations and attributions of the word in online environments will be highlighted. In a methodological sense, this paper attempts to show ways of linking CMC studies with historical linguistics, and to broaden the scope of current digital genre theory.

Theresa Heyd received a degree in Literary Translation as well as a Ph.D. in English Linguistics from Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf, Germany, where she has worked as a lecturer and editorial assistant for *language@internet*. Her research interests cover the broad field of discourse linguistics, including computer-mediated communication, sociolinguistics, and corpus studies. She is the author of a monograph on email hoaxes (Benjamins, 2008), a journal article on unreliable narration, and has contributed to handbooks and edited volumes on language and the media. She currently holds a position as lecturer and visiting scholar at the University of Texas at Dallas and is working on a project on linguistic innovation and change in online vs. offline genres.

Randall Sadler
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Strange New Worlds: Opportunities and Cautions in Virtual World Research

As Virtual World (VW) environments like Second Life, There, and Active Worlds (and also Massively Multiplayer Online Games (MMOGs) like Worlds of Warcraft) have exploded in popularity, the number of participants using these as tools for language learning has also increased exponentially. Although a VWs infrastructure (i.e. their servers and corporate offices) may be based in a single country, the users typically come from around the world. While Second Life's corporate headquarters facility is near San Francisco, recent research has shown that the majority of its users are not from that country (Gronstedt, 2007). This situation provides ample opportunities for meaningful communication in a number of languages in that VW, both in the informal social situations which are a common source of interaction in VWs, and also in the many virtual language schools (e.g., English Village in Second Life) being created. In short, VWs provide a platform for linguistic, sociolinguistic, and educational research in a scope that was not available even 10 years ago.

This presentation will discuss why research should take place in VWs and also introduce some of the tools that will allow us to accomplish such studies. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, the presenter will discuss the ethical challenges of VW research. There has been an unfortunate trend that we, as researchers, wait until an ethical disaster occurs before we create policies to better protect our participants (e.g., Humphrey's (1970) Tea Room Trade study, the Rimm Cybersex study (1995), and Finn and Lavitt's (1994) research on computer-based support groups for survivors of sexual abuse). Each of these studies started out with good intentions, but ended up harming both the participants and also the opportunities for future researchers. The history of CMC research shows us that it only takes one of these disasters to effectively ban future research on a site. Accordingly, an outline of new ethical standards for performing research in VWs will be provided for discussion.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

(in alphabetical order by author's surname)

Epistemic Modality in Computer-Mediated Discourse: the case of AoIR-L

Muhammad Abdul-Mageed, Indiana University Bloomington

This study focuses on communication among members of the Association of Internet Researchers mailing list, AoIR-L. The association's discussions over the mailing list are a popular example of what Wasko and Faraj (2005) term electronic networks of practice (ENPs), where the sharing of practice-related knowledge occurs primarily through computer-based communication technologies. Since epistemic modality markers are frequent in offline academic discourses, they were expected to be of importance in academic ENPs such as AoIR-L as well. We employ a corpus-based approach and Monte Carlo statistical methods (e.g., Robert & Casella, 2004) to investigate the use of hedges and boosters in a corpus of four million words collected from August 2001 to September 2008 from the association's publicly available mailing list exchanges. We then compare our results to earlier similar work on both online and offline academic discourses.

Number Sensitive Items and Agreement: A Case from Hindi

Archna Bhatia, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Since Close Conjunct Agreement (CCA) is not possible in presence of Number Sensitive Items (NSIs), ABS (1994), Aoun & Benmamoun (1999) suggest that CCA is the result of clausal coordination with gapping where each clause has a singular argument. However clausal coordination with CCA in head-final Hindi is problematic on independent grounds. Additionally, Munn (1999) argues that absence of CCA with NSIs may be due to NSI's requirement of a morphologically plural licenser. We add to this requirement, presenting additional data from Hindi, that NSI's also require a semantically plural licenser. Thus absence of CCA with NSIs is not due to clausal coordination but licensing requirements of NSIs.

Actions that Embody Virtual Space

Marla Bomersbach, University of Pittsburgh

Many participants in computer-mediated discourse use textually described actions as tools for interaction and the creation and display of identities. I demonstrate the typical structure of textually described actions, using discourse data from three online fan communities and responses to an anonymous survey. I then show how these fans use textually described actions to embody virtual space as mimicking the physical world but lacking key barriers and restraints to interaction. These fans utilize textually described actions to index emotional stances. These stances and the embodied virtual space are combined to construct a shared identity of a close community in which members interact with great emotional and physical intimacy.

Using Pronouns to Construct a European Identity: The Case of Politicians at Davos 2008

Jennifer Cramer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This study examines how EU politicians index a European identity through the use of pronouns. I analyzed a 15-minute segment from a session on ‘Europe’s Purpose’ at the 2008 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland. I use the deictic mapping techniques developed by Wortham (1996) as a framework for analysis, which reveals that three identities are constructed by panel members through their pronoun use: neutral, non-European, and European. While the politicians from current member states emphasize their Europeanness through their pronoun use, the Turkish member portrays an identity in opposition to this European identity.

The Grand Strategy of Politeness among Bengalis on Orkut

Anupam Das, Indiana University Bloomington

This study investigates how a small group of Bengalis whose relationships originally began face-to-face observes politeness in naturally-occurring text-based dyadic interactions on the social network site *Orkut*. The members of the group are graduate students or their romantic partners who came from different parts of Bengal, India, to a small college town in the Midwestern U.S. where they eventually came to know one another. This study addresses the following research questions: (1) What types of politeness behaviors do the members of the group observe? (2) Do technological and/or situational factors influence the politeness behaviors, and if so, how?

‘Dicke Probs’: Borrowed English in a German Hip-Hop Forum

Matt Garley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In this analysis, I investigate the German hip-hop community through the Internet forums at MZEE.de, concentrating on the forum users' use of English borrowings in discussions of German vs. American rap artists. Drawing upon sociolinguistic and CMC theory, I further examine the complex language relationship between German hip-hop fans, German hip-hop artists, and American hip-hop artists, yielding broader insights into the global spread of hip-hop culture and its relation to language in the online realm.

Constructing Remorse: The preparation of social discourses for public consumption

Jill Hallett, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This paper analyzes heteroglossic mass-mediated discourse in an NPR segment in which two teenagers covered the story of a child pushed to his death from a window. Analysis focuses on the teenagers’ post-incident interviews. Research questions include: How are social worlds packaged for audiences? How do these teenagers “do” the journalist role? How are voicings (Bakhtin 1981) and footings (Goffman 1981 [1979]) created, and how do they interact? How do indexical processes become suitable for dispersion? Schegloff’s conversation analysis guides transcription for analysis of identity construction, alongside Wortham’s (2001) narrative construction, Giles and Coupland’s (1991) accommodation and Silverstein’s (1976) indexicality.

Part of Speech tagged asynchronous CMC: Native versus non-native trigrams

Craig Howard, Indiana University Bloomington

Atwell et al. (2000) argues the greatest demands in the field of CALL are not for collocations of lexis, but for computers to provide automatic native speaking interlocutors and error correction for students. Thus the greatest potential corpora hold for teachers and learners is not a database, but descriptions which lead to pedagogical actions, especially automated interventions. This presentation looks at a Part of Speech analyzer produced after comparing part of speech trigrams among three corpora. This presentation argues that asynchronous CMC is a different genre, as trigram maps show difference between traditionally written texts, native speaker CMC, and non-native speaker CMC. The presentation concludes with a discussion of the uniqueness of asynchronous CMC in comparison to the newspaper sample of written text, the formulaic nature of the inter-language, and a description of the different uses of emoticons between the native and non-native groups' CMC which resulted in a high number of trigram repetitions in the non-native sample. Juxtaposed examples of native and non-native CMC strategies are presented as well as an explanation of the calculation process.

Effects of Audience on Orthographic Variation

Josh Iorio, University of Texas at Austin

Research has demonstrated that speakers make linguistic choices in order to narrow or widen the social distance between them and their audience. These choices are often based on a speaker's awareness of an audience's demographic profile, e.g. age, gender, or ethnicity. The present study investigates the role that audience plays in influencing orthographic choices in a "demographically lean" community, i.e. an online role-playing game community where demographic information about the audience is obscured. Results indicate that audience continues to affect style-shifting in these types of communities, but does so in different ways. Implications for audience-focused theories of variation are discussed.

Instant messaging: A new method for collecting and analyzing errors in language production

Stefanie E. Kuchinsky, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The demand for quick, online communication has increased substantially over the past decade. However, the extent to which instant messaging (IMing) is processed like traditional speaking and writing is not well understood. A corpus of over 1000 IM errors was collected for three interlocutors to evaluate the hypothesis that IMing falls along a speaking-writing continuum. Errors were classified by type (e.g., exchanges, anticipations), distance between and consonant-vowel status of interacting units, and lexical and phonotactic status. The results suggest that interlocutor interactivity and speed of communication are key determinants of how word structure is built up in discourse.

Instant Messenger conversations in Spanish

Yolanda Pangtay-Chang, University of Western Ontario

This study focuses on the use of connectors such as *porque* 'because', *es por eso* 'therefore', *así* 'so', *y* 'and', etc., as well as other discourse markers such as punctuation, intonation, gestures and/or representations of expressions such as laughter. Discourse markers help senders and receivers of a conversation to perceive the meaning or intention of the communication. Results show how participants in an IM conversation follow oral strategies to understand their messages. The time of replication is done in seconds from one message to another. Certain words and expressions in the acts of speech seem to function as replacement of intonation and even facial expressions. In addition, whenever a message was not understood, users would ask for clarification or repair the misunderstanding.

Triflin: Females in Hip Hop

Marjorie Perry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Based on a theoretical framework synthesizing Goffman's social frames, Hall and Bucholtz's markedness and Silverstein's indexicality I analyze hip hop lyrics and videos and expose the influence that gender bias and has on current, commercially successful hip hop songs. Based on the analysis of artists' lyrics and music videos, it is shown that gender bias is formative in the lyrics of the genre's most popular artists. It is also shown that the sexist lyrics and terminology originating in hip hop reach a much wider audience, spreading these ideas and terms to other realms of life. Fans' own online discussions of the songs and their videos support the hypothesis that, for listeners, drawing a clear line between entertainment and reality is difficult and sometimes totally absent. My analysis shows that gender bias is highly influential in current, popular hip hop and that the genre has a wide scope of influence.

Influence of English on Hindi Embedded Relative Clauses

Vandana Puri, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The influence of Hindi on English has been well documented; however, little has been said about the influence of English on the structure of Hindi. In this paper I provide evidence that Hindi "embedded" (i.e. post-nominal) relative clauses result from English influence. Hindi originally had Relative-Correlative (RC-CC) constructions that could adjoin to the left or the right of the main clause. Since evidence from early Hindi is limited, I draw on Awadhi and Braj Bhakha to provide greater time depth for the earlier history of Hindi. In addition I examine early 19th century grammars and texts. None of these provide unambiguous evidence for embedded relative clauses. By contrast, late 19th century and early 20th century Hindi texts translated from English exhibit many instances of central embedded relative clauses (besides the old adjoined relative-correlatives), thus supporting the argument that Hindi embedded relative clauses result from the influence of English. I argue that what may have helped in this developed is the occasional occurrence of potentially ambiguous structures in earlier Hindi which could be reinterpreted as involving embedding, rather than a relative-correlative construction with deleted correlative pronoun.

The ‘How are you?’ sequence in telephone openings in Arabic

Eman Saadah, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Using Conversation Analysis as methodology, this study reports on the ‘how are you?’ sequence in telephone openings among family members in Arabic. It is shown that the typical/normal response to a ritualized ‘How are you?’ is simply a ‘How are you?’ from the coparticipant.

Hence, this requires Arabic speakers to do extra interactional work to get a true answer to the “How are you?” question. This research has implications for comparative cultural analysis by investigating telephone behavior in a different speech community. It is also considered a valuable resource for language teachers concerned with cultural telephone etiquette.

What a Vacation to Somalia Could Tell Us: A Discourse Analysis of a Somali Tourism Website

Kevin Scruggs, Northeastern Illinois University

Somalia provides an interesting case study in the study of the language of tourism for many reasons. The first and most glaring is the perceived lack of interest in tourism of a country as war-torn as Somalia. The second is the way in which the current Somali government has approached the idea of tourism in their language usage. As a mostly Somali-speaking population, it is quite strange that there is absolutely no Somali on the website. It does make sense that there is a small amount of Arabic in the headings of the website, but the vast majority of the site is in English (cf. Kachru 1992, Phillipson 1992, among others). This choice of language says something about the nation and where it is focusing its proposals of hope. The English-speaking world is the desired reader of the website, and yet the ideal reader and the actual writer are diametrically opposed governmentally as well as socially. This paper demonstrates a direct correlation between the language usage of the tourism website of Somalia and the understood Somali government perceptions of reality around the world.

CMC Acts of NSs of English and NNSs of English in Different World Contexts

Eray Sevingil and Yasemin Bayyurt, Boğaziçi University

After Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) has become a popular area of investigation in education teachers, researchers, educational administrators and learners have shown great interest in doing and participating in research projects using synchronous and asynchronous media of communication. The aim of the present study is to find out and analyze “speech acts” in asynchronous CMC discourse of native and non-native speakers of English. The participants of the study are 19 Turkish non-native speakers (NNSs) of English, 3 native speakers (NSs) of English (American participants) and 2 NNSs of English in different world contexts (Greek and Spanish participants). The interactions take place in asynchronous e-mail exchanges in English on preset topics over four months. The results of the study reveal that Turks and other NNSs of English make use of several CMC acts although Turkish participants’ e-mails include more variety of CMC acts as opposed to the other NNSs. The CMC acts used by Turkish participants are limited compared to NSs of English as opposed to NNSs, which may be due to the limited proficiency of Turkish participants in English.