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ABSTRACTS

PLANNED LANGUAGES AND LANGUAGE PLANNING

Ottar Grepstad

Director (1999–2018) at the Norwegian Centre for Language and Literature in Ørsta and founder of the International Network of Language Museums (2016).

Language Museums of the World: Change, Diversity and Opportunities

Hunting high and low for years, I have found 78 language museums throughout the world. I will give an outline of these museums and I present the International Network of Language Museums. In the era of written culture, I will challenge the conventional linguistic concept of language, and I discuss how the museums cope with the diversity of language when the political understanding of language is changing. No less than five museums deal with Esperanto, and I pay a special attention to those institutions. In the end, I think, language is all about social status and communities, with some implications for the language museums.

Mag. Bernhard Tuider

Team Leader in the Department of Planned Languages and in the Esperanto Museum of the Austrian National Library.

The Esperanto Museum and the Department of Planned Languages of the Austrian National Library

The Esperanto Museum at the Austrian National Library is one of the world's oldest language museums and one of the most important institutions of its kind. It collects and presents a range of different media and objects on the subjects of Esperanto and Interlinguistics. The museum is closely linked, in terms of its subject matter, administration and location, to the Department of Planned Languages in which a total of around 500 planned language projects are documented.

The presentation provides an overview on the history, the holdings and the services of the Esperanto Museum and the Department of Planned Languages of the Austrian National Library.

Prof. Dr. Sabine Fiedler

Associate Professor at the Department of British Studies at the University of Leipzig and since 2011 president of the Society for Interlinguistics (Gesellschaft für Interlinguistik e.V.).

Planned Languages – Conlangs

Invented (or constructed) languages can basically be subdivided into two groups. The first comprises language systems that were consciously created according to certain criteria for the purpose of easing communication between people of different mother tongues. Volapük (Schleyer 1880), Latino sine flexione (Peano 1903), Ido (1907) and Interlingua (Gode 1951) are examples of these so-called planned language systems. The most successful among them is Esperanto (Zamenhof 1887). It has developed

from a project to a fully-fledged language with an active speech community that guarantees its further development. These language systems are explored by the discipline of interlinguistics (and Esperanto Studies as its subdiscipline). The second group includes language systems that were mainly created for artistic reasons, in particular to lend liveliness and pseudo-authenticity to works of fantasy and science-fiction literature. The creation of languages for novels, films, computer games and other purposes, once called "A Secret Vice" by J.R.R. Tolkien, has meanwhile become a very productive and popular area. Tolkien's Elvish languages, A. Burgess' "Nadsat" (teenage slang in "A Clockwork Orange"), P. Frommer's "Na'vi", D.J. Peterson's "Dothraki" and M. Okrand's "Klingon" are well-known examples. Although the two types of language systems are very different in terms of their functions and properties, a number of connecting points can be found between them. This paper addresses those points of contact focusing on the three English-speaking writers J. Swift, G. Orwell and J.R.R. Tolkien and their interest in invented languages.

Dr. Anna-Maria Meyer

Postdoctoral Researcher of Slavic linguistics at the Department of Slavic Studies of the University of Cologne (Germany).

Slavic Planned Languages

Slavic constructed languages have been widely neglected by interlinguistics and Slavic linguistics in the past, although the number of projects for a common Slavic language has been growing since the 17th century – beginning with Juraj Križanić's Ruski jezik (1666) and continuing up to Arnošt Eman Žídek's Slovan (1940) and beyond. The construction of Slavic languages has experienced a revival through the spread of the internet since the 1990s. This has manifested itself mainly in three extensively elaborated projects with their own websites and user communities: Slovio (1999), Slovianski (2006, now called Interslavic) and Novoslovienski (2010). These three projects – one of them schematic, two of them naturalistic – are presented in the historical context of Slavic language construction from the 17th century up to the present and analyzed structurally in terms of their writing systems, their grammars and the composition of their lexicons. Although their chances of implementation in practice in the context of European language policy are currently rather marginal, they should be valued as a unique phenomenon in Slavic cultural history.

Dr. habil. Tomasz Kamusella

Reader (Professor Extraordinarius) in Modern History at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK.

Creating Languages in Central Europe in the 19th and 20th Century

Languages are not a product of nature, but of humans and their groups. Language (Sprache) is a biological (evolutionary) capacity for speech. But the concept of 'a language' (Einzelsprache) is a western (Judeo-Graeco-Roman) idea, whose rise is connected to the technology of writing. During the last two centuries the concept of Einzelsprache has been imposed on or accepted by the rest of the world, hastening the extinction of other indigenous concepts of how to manage the linguistic. Nowadays, each 'normal (standard) language' in Europe has been constructed in line with the rarely noticed or commented upon concept of Einzelsprache. From this perspective Esperanto is not different, just another European (western) constructed Einzelsprache. It is insufficient to think about languages (Einzelsprachen) as a given. More thought must be given to the (normalizing, normativizing) concept of Einzelsprache and other (non-western) concepts of construing about the linguistic.

Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Klaus Schubert

Professor of Applied Linguistics/International Specialized Communication at the University of Hildesheim.

Designed Languages for Communicative Needs within and between Language Communities

Planned languages are languages that have been purposefully designed. They are the result of deliberate controlling intervention, thus of a form of language planning. Normally, planned languages are defined as languages to be used in international or interethnic communication and it is understood that they will serve this purpose better than ordinary ethnic languages. But there are other purposes for which languages (and along with or beyond language, sign systems) are designed. In specialized communication, controlled languages are used. In accessible communication, simplified or plain or easy-to-read languages serve special needs. Often the designers of such languages are not aware of the long-standing experience in language design that is available in interlinguistics. I try to compare various types of designed language and to identify the underlying common principles of optimized communication.

Michael Gordin Ph.D.

Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Princeton University and Director of the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at Princeton University.

Max Talmey and Gloro

Max Talmey was one of the most persistent artificers of "model languages" in the early twentieth century, having adopted Ido with enthusiasm after the 1907 schism within the Esperanto movement. He later grew dissatisfied with Ido as well, fashioning his final creation, "Gloro", in part to enable better comprehension of Albert Einstein's physics. The linkages between Einstein and Talmey illuminate surprising aspects of the revolutions in physics and interlinguistics.

Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard Budin

Full Professor for terminology studies and translation technologies at the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna.

Mag. Dr. Vesna Lušicky

Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna.

Eugen Wüster and his "Key to International Terminology"

Eugen Wüster (1898–1977), an Austrian industrialist and polymath, is known as an active interlinguist and is widely considered as the founding father of modern terminology. Wüster's doctoral thesis "Internationale Sprachnormung in der Technik. Besonders in der Elektrotechnik" (1931) is regarded as the first theoretical work on terminology. Wüster established the necessity of a common code, i.e. an "international conceptual system", to be assigned to "international designations" (cf. Budin 2018). It was the starting point for international cooperation, in which participants from several countries unified the "Key to International Terminology" in ISA/ISO for more than 40 years. The Key was supposed to facilitate international communication by harmonization of terms and to support the development of national and subject-field terminologies. The basis of the Key is a set of international word elements (roots, affixes), which carry meaning and can be combined by using a limited set of rules (cf. Bühler 1998). Unfortunately, the efforts did not lead to a final version because of diverging opinions. The Key and Wüster's end-to-end documentation surrounding this endeavour remain unpublished.

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Bühler, H. (1998). The Scientific Legacy of Eugen Wüster Revisited: Three Major Unfinished Projects." In: E. Oeser & C. Galinski (Eds.), Eugen Wüster (1898–1977): Leben und Werk – ein österreichischer Pionier der Informationsgesellschaft; His life and work – an Austrian pioneer of the information society, 187-205. Wien: TermNet.

Prof. Dr. habil. Denis Eckert

Research Director at Géocités (CNRS, Paris) and Centre Marc Bloch (Humboldt University, Berlin).

Dr. Esperanto's "International Language": the Fifteen Languages of a Universalist Manifesto (1887–1890)

In 1887 the "First Book" for Esperanto was published in Warsaw: a manifesto, textbook and dictionary at the same time. The presentation focuses on a comparative study of the different versions of this book, which appeared in many languages between 1887 and 1890, i.e. Russian, Polish, French, German, Hebrew, Yiddish, English, Swedish, Lithuanian, Latvian. Several aspects of these versions are compared, including the 900-words "Vortaro". The focus is particularly on the lesser known versions (especially Yiddish) and what they say about Zamenhof's attempt to address different nationalities in Europe without losing sight of the universalist claim of the project. The biographies of the respective translators of the manifesto are compared. At the end, the perspectives of a geographical-cartographic research on the earlier worldwide dissemination of Esperanto will be discussed.

Roberto Garvía, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology at the Department of Social Sciences at Carlos III University of Madrid.

Esperanto and its Rivals. Esperanto – Volapük – Ido

With the first wave of globalization, from 1870 to 1913, many thought that an international, common language could contribute to the advancement of commerce and peace. International rivalries, though, made this dream impossible, since no nation seemed willing to gallantly accept the language of any other nation to become the international language. This explains the emergence of a variegated array of planned language projects. Most popular among them were Volapük, Esperanto, and Ido. In this presentation, I will elaborate on the extra-linguistic factors that explain both the triumph of Esperanto over its rivals, and its current popularity.

Javier Alcalde, Ph.D.

Associate Professor for Political Science and International Relations at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

Esperanto among the Pacifists before and during World War I

This contribution begins by introducing recent literature on the Esperanto movement, followed by a contextual presentation from a geopolitical perspective of the early days of Esperanto. At the turn of the 20th century debates surrounding the possibility of an 'auxiliary language' were a main topic of international discussion, including the support of various Nobel prizewinners. Afterwards, a diverse range of early international Esperanto associations and societies (e.g. Railway Workers, Doctors, Vegetarians, Freemasons, Catholics, Scouts, and Pacifists) are presented. Their dimension as pioneers is highlighted by the fact that in some cases they were created in absence of any means of international contact between these groups. As far as the roles played by Esperantists during the war are concerned, two of them are dealt with in detail: (a) humanitarian acts in collaboration with the Red Cross; and (b) an information service via Esperanto publications. The presentation discusses the consequences of the war for the evolution of the Esperanto movement, including the death of its creator, a radical pacifist. It concludes by presenting the interwar context, with its forays into the League of Nations and the workers' movement, most clearly evident during the Spanish Civil War.

Humphrey Tonkin, Ph.D.

President Emeritus and University Professor of Humanities Emeritus at the University of Hartford, USA.

Gyula Baghy, Kálmán Kalocsay and Tivadar Soros: Literatura Mondo and the Making of Esperanto Literature

While Esperanto has occasionally received official attention in international organizations, government bodies, or school curricula, for the most part it has found its practitioners among activists, particularly those whose entrepreneurial spirit has caused them to undertake new independent initiatives. Such an initiative was the founding of the journal Literatura Mondo in Budapest in the 1920s. Its goal was nothing less than the shaping of a literature in Esperanto. While Zamenhof himself made literature part of Esperanto from the very beginning, it fell to three young enthusiasts – Kalocsay, Soros and Baghy – in the years following Zamenhof's death, to redefine its history and give it generic and poetic shape. The three had different skills and priorities: Kalocsay intellectualized the literary tradition and defined its history; Baghy popularized it; Soros found the resources to start the journal and its publishing house. In the course of the 1920s and 1930s Esperanto literature was launched. It continues to this day.

Dr. Zorana Sokolovska

Postdoctoral Researcher in Sociolinguistics at the Institute of Multilingualism at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland.

Esperanto Discourse in Switzerland in the Beginning of the 20th Century

Languages and linguistic ideas in society have been studied for several decades, but artificial languages and their role in social organization are a quite recent object of investigation in the field of critical sociolinguistics to which my project aims to contribute. Using the Esperanto movement in Switzerland as a field of study, this project aims to interrogate and understand the role of language in the production of sociopolitical arrangements that transcend existing forms. This work builds on the assumption that transnational movements, linguistic and social, are an essential element of the processes of social cha(lle)nge and decision-making. In the context of the under-construction Swiss federal state at the turn of the 20th century, the Esperanto movement as a research field offers a unique insight into the way multilingualism is mobilized as a nation-state building, but also as a nation-state challenging argument.

Prof. Dr. habil. Pascal Dubourg Glatigny

CNRS Research Director at Centre Alexandre-Koyré, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (Paris).

Esperanto and World War II

The research "militrakonto" is a collective and collaborative project regarding transnational perceptions of World War II, examined through personal accounts and literature. It brings together ground-breaking research by an international group of scholars from various disciplines whose aim is to collect and study both contemporary testimonies and later literary treatments. On the one hand its aim is to deepen the knowledge of the history of the Esperanto community before, during and after the war and on the other hand to understand how this language community constructed its own narrative and vision of the events in the subsequent literature. While the discourse of the war is clearly marked by the distinctiveness of the national experience, the Esperanto corpus offers us an exceptional opportunity to investigate a peculiar perspective beyond national institutions and imperial visions.

Federico Gobbo, Ph.D.

Full Professor in Interlinguistics and Esperanto by special appointment at the University of Amsterdam.

Hollywood Languages: The Challenge of Interlinguistics in the New Millenium

Despite its more than one century-long history, Interlinguistics is still struggling for recognition outside the circles of aficionados of planned, constructed, invented and philosophical languages. To understand

why Interlinguistics front such difficulties, and how to overcome them, we need to see the various definitions that were given to it since its conception in 1911 by Meysmans. In fact, since the 1980s, the German School of Interlinguistics, and in particular Detlev Blanke and Klaus Schubert, tried to wrap up the different perspectives on the discipline. They aimed to define what should be the scope of Interlinguistics research; however, in the 1990s, Interlinguistics entered a crisis that seemed to be irreversible. In the early years of the new Millennium, Interlinguistics seemed to be part of the history of scientific thought, like cybernetics. However, the early years of the new Millennium saw a new phenomenon, relevant for Interlinguistics, outside academia. This phenomenon is the emergence of Hollywood languages, i.e., languages planned explicitly in support of fictional universes produced for TV-shows and films. Technically being planned as classical interlanguages for wider communication were, Hollywood languages brought typical topics belonging to Interlinguistics to the attention of the general public, in particular to young generations. However, there is still resistance by the few scholars who do research today into Interlinguistics to consider Hollywood languages part of Interlinguistics. In this talk, I will discuss the different definitions proposed as the focus and periphery of Interlinguistics, pledging for the inclusion of Hollywood languages as a full part of Interlinguistics, based on my experience in teaching the discipline at the Universities of Amsterdam, Turin and Milan in the last decade.

Dr. Seán Ó Riain

Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland to Austria, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Mission of Ireland to the International Organisations (Vienna) and President of the EEU/European Esperanto Union.

Esperanto and the European Union

EEU/European Esperanto Union, has been trying to persuade the EU to consider a modest role for Esperanto for many years. The task is difficult, not due to any linguistic weakness in Esperanto, but due to the enormous prejudice against it, due lack of knowledge of Esperanto, and indeed of linguistics in general. EU officials have sometimes called it an "artificial language, which gives access to no culture".

The eminent linguist Mario Pei once said that to call modern Esperanto "artificial" is like calling a car an "artificial horse". Those who describe it thus ignore the fact that it has been in intensive use for five generations by a worldwide community, including native speakers, and that it has developed its own poetry, theatre, songs, intellectual works, proverbs, etc. Things are slowly changing: Poland (2014) and Croatia (2019) have formally recognised Esperanto as "part of the intangible cultural heritage of Poland/Croatia and of Europe". This talk will consider the errors of common objections to a role for Esperanto.