English Historical Lexicography in the Digital Age: Focus on Social and Geographical Variation

Keynote Lectures

Wendy Anderson, Glasgow

Metaphor in the digital age: Opening the flood-gates

The digital age and developments in historical lexicography together bring exciting new possibilities for the study of metaphor, in relation to both the scale of analysis and the identification of linguistic and conceptual patterning that was previously hidden from view. This talk will focus on one such endeavour: drawing on the complete lexical data of the Historical Thesaurus of English, a high-water mark in historical lexicography, the 'Mapping Metaphor with the Historical Thesaurus' project maps out metaphor for the first time across semantic space and over time. In short, it explores the place of metaphorical word senses in the language system of English.

The project has two main outputs, the Metaphor Map of English (based on the Historical Thesaurus data drawn originally from the OED) and the Metaphor Map of Old English (based on a number of sources coming together as *A Thesaurus of Old English*). Considering metaphor across semantic space, these record respectively around 12,000 and 2,500 metaphorical connections between semantic categories. Viewing the data over time, around two-thirds of the metaphorical connections shown for Old English are maintained into the later period, and many new metaphorical connections emerge continuously over the centuries that follow.

In this talk, I will approach both of these axes – time and semantic space – through a study of the category 'Tides, waves and flooding'. This category, one of 415 in the Metaphor Maps, sits alongside other categories in the broader section 'The Earth', such as 'Wild and fertile land', 'Rivers and streams', and 'Minerals'. 'Tides, waves and flooding' enters into a metaphorical connection with 108 other categories, predominantly as the source of metaphor but also as the target. While several of these are very long standing, traceable back to Old English, new connections and new lexical evidence for existing connections emerge in every century up to the present. Examination of these connections shows that there is a core of words in the semantic category – including *flow, tide, wave, stream, flood* – that 'carry' the metaphor, and a periphery of lexemes that support the metaphor, such as *flood-gate, high-water mark, tenth wave*, and *voraginous*. 'Tides, waves and flooding' is just one of over four hundred categories in the Metaphor Map, but reveals a clear picture of the complex interrelationships between semantic categories, and the ripples of metaphor development over time.

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Stefan Dollinger, Vancouver

A window into the past:
Present-day dialectology in the historical lexicography of Canadian English

Lexicography has not been known for its precise and objective usage labelling practices. Geographical labels such "chiefly [location x]" in the dictionaries we consult, or the absence of social labels altogether, do not offer the detail that sociolinguists have come to expect. This has not gone unnoticed. Some time ago, Cassidy (1972: 50) testified to a "dissatisfaction with labels" in English dictionaries more generally,

leading some to suggest "to abandon them altogether". The situation has not improved much since. Being diplomatic, Norri (1996: 26), for instance, calls the regional labelling practice of current British and American variants as "essentially one of disharmony". Fred Cassidy and his intellectual heirs aimed to put labelling on a more objective footing in their historical *Dictionary of American Regional English* (Cassidy & Hall 1985-2013), offering the best regional labels of, doubtless, any dictionary.

In Cassidy's spirit yet methodologically different, the new edition of *A Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles*, DCHP-2 (Dollinger & Fee 2017), focuses on geographical variation. DCHP-2 has implemented for all its update terms a simple yet effective digital heuristic to isolate modern-day regional distributions that serve as useful reference points for historical work. Like in DARE, the social dimension remains underdeveloped, yet there exist tools today to assemble social usage data for a similarly wide range of terms.

The goal in this talk is twofold, rooted in an approach of using the present to explain the (Late Modern) past. First, I will show the opportunities and limitations of the normalized big data approach used in DCHP-2 for regional labelling. The method, first presented in Dollinger (2016), is applicable to virtually all terms in a dictionary. Second, for the social domain the written questionnaire – the method that Cassidy shunned for DARE but that has since undergone a revival (Chambers 2008, Buchstaller & Corrigan 2011, Dollinger 2015) – is the method that offers us an excellent chance at providing detailed social usage data. Based on a selection of Canadian items such as *chesterfield* 'couch', *washroom* 'public toiled' or *cork boot* 'caulked boot', I demonstrate how present-day questionnaire data, coupled with the apparent-time hypothesis common in sociolinguistics, can be used to inform historical accounts of Late Modern English and offers social data that would otherwise be accessible only through time-consuming fieldwork.

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María F. Garcia-Bermejo Giner, Salamanca

Exploring Eighteenth-century Northern English Lexis in the Salamanca Corpus

The linguistic history of English dialects still suffers from a considerable lack of diachronic data representative of early and late modern English (1500-1900). Whilst the increasing availability of textual corpora has enabled successful diachronic research into the history of standard English, variation in regional varieties of (English) English remains practically unexplored. There are corpora related to Scots, Irish or American English already at our disposal, but no diachronic compilations have hitherto been available to improve our historical understanding of English dialects. For this reason, a group of researchers from the University of Salamanca has been working over the past years on a long-term project whose main aim is to bridge some of the gaps which still make it complex to evaluate regional

variation from a historical perspective. Consisting of documents representative of literary dialects, dialect literature, glossaries and collections of words (see Blake 1981, Wright 1905, among others), the Salamanca Corpus (SC) has been conceived as a repository of diachronic dialect material which might fill in some of the blanks still existing in the field (see García-Bermejo Giner 2010, 2012). In particular, it aims to cover a time span of four centuries (1500-1900), presenting documents in which dialect traits from pre-1974 English counties are documented.

In line with some previous research based on this ongoing project (see Ruano-García 2010, Ruano García, Sánchez-García, García-Bermejo Giner 2015, for example) this presentation aims to exemplify the potential of the SC for research into eighteenth century Northern English lexis. The amount of Northern texts representative of dialect literature and literary dialects in this century is limited. As a matter of fact, only a handful of such texts from Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cumberland and Westmoreland have come down to us. Most of them were produced by non-canonical writers and appear in obscure publications or are hidden in contemporary periodicals. In so doing, I hope to show that the SC may serve as a missing link to expand the database of English diachronic dialectology, and enable us to improve our understanding of regional varieties over time.

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Susan Rennie, Edinburgh

The Annotated Jamieson

The *Online Jamieson* was launched in 2008 to mark the bicentenary of John Jamieson's *Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language*: a pioneering text in the development of European historical lexicography (www.scotsdictionary.com). But the dictionary entries that Jamieson published in his lifetime, which are now available in digital facsimile, are only part of the rich linguistic data that survives in relation to his *Dictionary*.

Jamieson's contemporaries – both famous and lesser-known – annotated their copies of the *Dictionary* with potential new headwords, omitted senses or supplementary quotations, only some of which made it into the published *Supplement* (1825). This practice continued well beyond Jamieson's lifetime, as readers throughout the nineteenth century annotated personal copies of the *Dictionary*, especially the more affordable abridged editions. These unofficial supplements to Jamieson expand the scope of his published work and are of potential interest to historical linguists and lexicographers. How can they be recorded and captured to provide a complementary resource for users of the *Online Jamieson*?

The Annotated Jamieson project aims to present and analyse this unpublished supplementary material. Who were the various contributors and annotators? What do their contributions tell us about contemporary perceptions of Scots, and about the editorial decisions which Jamieson and his later editors made? By recording and making these personal 'Jamiesons' available in digital form, the project hopes to enable a fuller appreciation of the cultural impact of Jamieson and the lasting legacy of his work on Scots language and lexicography.