

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

Abstracts

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, UBC, 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 toilet’ 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. García-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.

Papers

Nicholas Brownlees, Florence

'Court Language' and Semantic Change in Seventeenth-century Revolutionary England

In my paper I shall examine possible instances of semantic change resulting from the political and social turmoil in mid-seventeenth England. In particular, I shall consider features of pejoration and amelioration. The years in question range from those immediately preceding the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642 to the year after the proclamation of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector of England (including Wales at the time), Scotland, and Ireland in 1653.

My starting point will be an examination of the term 'court language' in two electronically retrievable sources. The first is the 988,000 word *Lancaster Newsbooks Corpus* (LNC), comprising serialised news pamphlets ('newsbooks') of 1654, while the second is the *Early English Books Online* (EEBO) archive. Prior to 1642 'court language' has a neutral or broadly positive connotation whereas in the parliamentary Civil War and Commonwealth press the connotation has turned negative in line with the hostile opinion attached by the pamphlet writers to the general concept of a royal court. For example, in *Mercurius Aulicus* (1654) 'court language' is described as the language of a courtier who appears "in Scarlet and Satin Phraises, with gold and silver lace Complements; each Paragraph embroidered with many a rich Parenthesis; each Distich interwoven with ornamental Pointings." This can be contrasted with its usage in 1640 where a character in the play is enjoined to "put on a smooth face and speak court language, let me counsel you to softness". The term prior to the Civil War is associated with the more positive features of the carolinian court such as civility, grace, decorum and manners whereas in the parliamentary and Commonwealth press what emerges is the rich and showy materiality of the image. In my analysis of changes in connotation of this and other socially-loaded lexemes and expressions of the time, I shall consider the extent to which such semantic variation is adequately reflected in the definitions and examples in the *OED* of the same words during the same historical period.

In the presentation, details will be given regarding the corpus analysis tool CQPweb (Hardie 2012) that is employed in both the *LNC* and *Early English Books Online* (V3). Mention will be made not only of the linguistic information provided by the corpus tool but also its limited-context web-based concordancer that succeeds in resolving issues of copyright.

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Lancaster Newsbooks Corpus. Compiled by Tony McEnery & Andrew Hardie; <http://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk>. Also distributed by the University of Oxford under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.

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Nuria Calvo Cortes, Universidad Complutense Madrid

“Y^r Petitioner was about Three months ago Delivered of a Female Infant”: Understanding Birth in Eighteenth-century England

In the middle of the 18th century maternity hospitals began to appear in England, but unmarried women were not always welcome. When the General Lying-in Hospital opened in London in 1767, it became a safe place for many of those single mothers to have their children. Very often the newborn babies were later taken care of by charities to allow their mothers to continue working as servants.

Although from a socio-historical perspective these institutions have been the matter of study, in-depth linguistic analyses have not been carried out so far. The availability of digitised books online that were written in the 18th and 19th centuries has proved essential to acquire first-hand information about those institutions. However, the difficulty of accessing other original handwritten documents, such as record books, minutes or letters, has probably contributed to the lack of linguistic studies.

The present study aims to analyse some expressions (e.g. *be delivered of* and *be brought to bed*) that were used in late 18th century England in relation to childbirth. The expressions were first extracted from a collection of petitions signed by single women who needed a home for their newborn children. The petitions are addressed directly to the governors of the Foundling Hospital in London and they vary in style and level of formality. They also show differences in grammar and spelling, which clearly indicate that not all of them were written by the petitioner. They were next searched in the *Oxford English Dictionary* online and in the *Historical Thesaurus of English* online. The analysis shows that some expressions that are already considered obsolete in these dictionaries were still in use in the 18th century (e.g. *be brought to bed*). It also explains why some words became popular in the 18th century, as it coincided with the opening of these specialised hospitals and charities.

The conclusions show the importance of analysing manuscript texts written by different levels of society, as they can contribute to enriching the information collected in online sources, such as the *Oxford English Dictionary* online and the *Historical Thesaurus of English* online.

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Elisabetta Cecconi, Florence

“English” and/vs “Indians”: Semantic Variation and Re-lexicalisation in EModE Pamphlets on the Exploration, Settlement and Colonization of North America

In my paper I shall examine instances of semantic variation and re-lexicalization in a set of words used to refer to the English and to Native Americans in a corpus of pamphlets on the exploration, settlement and colonization of North America in the period from 1575 to 1724. The corpus is taken from the *Jamestown Digital Archive*, which amounts to 650,590 words. It contains first-hand accounts reporting on the major phases of the English overseas enterprise, from the Roanoke settlement under the command of Sir Walter Raleigh to the voyages to Virginia, from the description of the early years of the Colony to the Demise of the Virginia Company of London and to Bacon’s rebellion. The corpus will be investigated with the aid of the sketch engine program. In particular, the use of the corpus tool ‘word sketch difference’ allows the researcher to grasp semantic and pragmatic differences between near-synonyms and words sharing the same referent, helping us trace the relationship between socio-cultural context and user. The corpus-based analysis reveals a progressive

shift from the use of generic nouns to more specific referent terms to denote ethnic and geographical sub-groups within the two communities (e.g. *Virginians*, *Marylanders*, *Susquehansians*, *Powhatan*, *Chickahominy*). Instances of re-lexicalization coexist with cases in which a word changes its referent. An example is the lexeme “inhabitants”, which in the early accounts of exploration and settlement refers to the Indians (“natural inhabitants”), whereas in later reports it is used to refer to the English colonists so as to distinguish them from the “natives”. This shift of reference is indicative of a change in the English self-perception: from a group of explorers and adventurers, who depended on the Indians for their survival, into a community of permanent settlers, who self-acknowledge their rights to the occupied land, by delegitimizing the locals. Finally, the analysis of concordances will unravel changes in the semantic prosody of some words (e.g. *savage*), resulting from the English settlers’ changing relationships with the Indians, as they pursue their expansionist designs. In the course of my enquiry, the socially-marked lexemes will be examined in relation to their definitions and examples in the *OED* during the 16th and 17th century so as to establish to what extent semantic changes and forms of re-lexicalization retrievable from the corpus are attested in the dictionary.

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The Lexicography of Scots: Monolingual, Bilingual or Both?

The representation of Scots in dictionaries has a long and fascinating history: this paper aims to discuss it in an attempt to outline the ways in which it has crossed the border between monolingual and bilingual lexicography; in particular, attention will be given to the historical specificity of the variety under discussion when it is discussed against the southern one.

Starting from an overview of how glossaries of Scots have gradually evolved into monolingual dictionaries in which both linguistic and cultural traits were represented, in my presentation I will outline the ways in which ideological premises have often underpinned the different ways in which lexical items were collected with often ambivalent attitudes: on the one hand, as valuable relics of a distant past; on the other as provincial vulgarisms to be avoided. At the same time, the glossaries frequently appended to literary works provided a word-for-word translation of Scots lexical items into English, thus reinforcing the idea of distinctiveness (and the myth of mutual unintelligibility) at the same time as the ideology of language standardization and levelling was becoming more and more pervasive.

In recent times scholarly initiatives such as those launched by Scottish Language Dictionaries (SLD)¹ have allowed Scots to go beyond its stereotypical image of a language restricted to literary and/or humorous discourse, not least on account of the fact that online resources enable much larger audiences to access materials on a global scale. My analysis will therefore attempt to trace the genealogy of Scots dictionaries, in order to discuss their collocation at the intersection of monolingual and bilingual lexicography. From the methodological point of view, I will rely on recent studies of Scottish lexicography, such as Dareau & Macleod (2009) and Macleod & McClure (2012), in which the shift from descriptive to prescriptive and then back to descriptive approaches is described, although no monolingual dictionary of Scots has been published yet.

This consideration relies on Considine’s reference (2012: 1051) to Zgusta’s 1989 typology, according to which dictionaries may aim to create a written standard, make it more modern, prevent change in it, or actually describe it; while the first three approaches are typically prescriptive, the fourth one is descriptive by definition. Scots dictionaries appear to have combined the first and the fourth approach, leaving the third one aside and actually contrasting the second one, trying instead to

¹ See www.scotsdictionaries.org.uk/ (last accessed Nov. 2018).

stress the antiquity of certain lexical items. As with genre conventions, lexicographic approaches are a function of thought styles in certain social circles at certain points in time: as a result, editorial policies may be conditioned by ideological stance. In Late Modern times the status of Scots had never been such that a monolingual dictionary could be compiled, probably because the Union had never really been under discussion; in the 2010s, however, a new debate on language and independence may be expected to bring about change, despite the outcome of the referendum held on 18th September 2014, not least in view of the aftermath of Brexit.

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Rachel Fletcher, Glasgow

The Old English-Middle English Period Boundary in Electronic Dictionaries

The nature and dating of the transition from Old to Middle English have long been a topic of academic discussion, prompting studies by Malone (1930), Fisiak (1994), Kitson (1997), Lass (2000) and others. The issue is one that has particular relevance to the discipline of historical lexicography, as the inclusion policies of a period dictionary will reflect assumptions about the boundaries of the period described. Despite this, the majority of investigations into the development and canonisation of period boundaries in the history of English focus on the evidence of textbooks and grammars. Less attention has been paid to how periodisation has been expressed in dictionaries, and the dictionaries themselves have not always made this information readily available to users.

This paper builds on my research into the handling of the Old English-Middle English period boundary in dictionaries from the appearance of the first published dictionary of Old English in the seventeenth century (Somner 1659) to the present-day *Dictionary of Old English* (www.doe.utoronto.ca). There have been many developments in English historical lexicography over this period. One of the most significant is undoubtedly the rise of the electronic dictionary: not only the *Dictionary of Old English*, which from its earliest stages has made use of computer technology, but also dictionaries such as the *Middle English Dictionary* and the *Oxford English Dictionary* that originally appeared in print but were later transferred to a web format.

I discuss how the electronic format might permit new approaches to the old question of the Old English-Middle English period boundary by considering these electronic dictionaries both in their own right and in comparison with print dictionaries. Does the greater flexibility in searching offered by electronic dictionaries allow us to look at transitional vocabulary (late Old English/early Middle English) in a new light? Does the possibility of linking users directly to other electronic resources permit a more detailed or nuanced treatment of periodisation? Do current electronic period dictionaries make full use of the possibilities available to them in this respect – and, if not, what more could be done?

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Homonymic Proper Names in British and American English: A Digital Dictionary Project

Historically, proper nouns (toponyms and antroponyms) were not registered in the entries of pronunciation or general-purpose dictionaries, but were attached sometimes in the Appendix, usually without indication of their pronunciation. In the course of the English language development numerous proper names (PN) homonymic with many English words, namely, in spelling (homographs) or in pronunciation (homophones) appeared. Currently, correct proper names pronunciation and spelling, as well as their differences depending on the regional variant of the English language, are registered in the pronouncing dictionaries. Our analysis made on the material of *English Pronouncing Dictionary* by D. Jones (EPD, 1-18th ed., 1917-2012) and *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* by J. Wells (LPD 1-3^d ed., 1992-2007) revealed apparent inconsistency and insufficiency in registering hundreds of homonymic proper names, spelling and pronunciation of which differentiate their meaning as common names and proper names, as well as British and American variants. These drawbacks were classified by us into several types, the main being:

- 1) Not all American or British pronunciation variants of PN are registered; homonymy range decreases due to PN registration in one entry (ex. 1 in Table 1).
- 2) In EPD the antroponyms and toponyms semantics is not always given (see ex. 2 in Table 1).
- 3) British and/or American pronunciation variants of the PN differ, as well as the order of the phonetic variants (ex.3).

Table 1. Comparative Analysis Data of Homographic Words Registered in LPD and EPD

LPD	EPD
1) Karen <i>Burmese people</i> /kə ¹ ren/, /kæ-/ Karen <i>female name</i> (i) / ¹ kær ən/ / ¹ ker-/; (ii) / ¹ kæ:r ən/	1) Karen <i>female name</i> : / ¹ kær.ən/; US / ¹ ker-/; / ¹ kæ-/ of <i>Burma</i> : /kə ¹ ren/
2) trier / ¹ traɪ ə/ / ¹ traɪ ^ə r/ Trier <i>place in Germany</i> /trɪə/ /trɪ ^ə r/ - Ger [tʁi:ʌ]	2) trier / ¹ traɪ.ə ^r /; US /-ə/ Trier /trɪə ^r /; US /trɪr/
3) sue /sju:./, /su:./ /su:/ Sue /su:/	3) sue , S~ /su:./, /sju:./; US /su:/

In the report some ideas on compiling a digital dictionary of homonymic PN will be discussed, and the results of the previous dictionary analysis of these groups of words will be presented. The underlining idea is to refer to the materials of OED, called by Considine “the historical dictionary *par excellence* on account of its ambitious historical range, not to mention the diversity of the varieties of English which it documents” [1] and to restore a more complete lemma of the homonyms under study. The second edition of OED (1989) and OED Online [2, 3], with the revised pronunciation notation, can be applied as a convenient guide to the history and meaning of the English words with different spelling and pronunciation in British, American, Australian, and other variants.

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Dictionaries and the Language of Fashion: Lexical Variation between American and British English

Fashion is conceived here as a means of communication engendered in all kinds of social spheres, influencing behavior, thinking, clothing and language. This results in a kaleidoscopic character (Calanca 2008). Fashion is part of a process articulated over time, it conveys a way of being and the way a society thinks about the world. As Barthes (2013: 63) says: “fashion is an institution”. Thus, fashion studies are developed in search of interdisciplinarity with history, arts, literature, economy, anthropology, sociology and linguistics. Each of these areas relates to fashion from different methodological and thematic perspectives. The relationship between fashion and linguistics, focusing on the lexicon is precisely the area of study in this research, as we consider fashion as a way of exchanging information that has the power to shape the mentality of a society using its own language. Therefore, the lexicon adopted within this universe is represented according to the particularities of a culture. In this research, we intend to provide a comprehensive history of some fashion words and their presence in American and British dictionaries, showing their different uses and meanings as geographical variations. These fashion lexical units make meaningful connections and give each word a social life by creating a historical and aesthetic order in the universe they are inserted. The methodological path was guided by the collection of some frequent words that are used to describe clothes in British and American women magazines. First the chosen words were looked up in the *Oxford* and *Webster's Third* dictionaries from the years 1949, 1996, online and 1971, 1993, online, respectively. Then, the units were searched in the *Vogue* magazine in the British and the American online versions to illustrate their real use. The last part of this research was concentrated on semantic analysis, examining the meaning in dictionary and also the meaning in context for each lexical unit. It is possible to infer that American and British varieties have influenced each other over the years,

especially thanks to online magazines. Globalization has increased the possibility of interaction between speakers/readers of the two varieties. With this research we aim to show that the contact with the other language through fashion is able to improve intelligibility between the two varieties of English, focusing on the respect of their differences.

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Heinrich Ramisch, Bamberg

The Electronic *English Dialect Dictionary* as a Web-based Research Tool

The online release (September 2016) of Joseph Wright's *English Dialect Dictionary* (Wright 1898-1905) by Manfred Markus and his research team at the University of Innsbruck amply illustrates that a classic work of reference on English dialects can be transformed into an important database for studies in dialectology, historical linguistics and cultural history.² Originally, Wright's dictionary was published in six large volumes between 1898 and 1905. Its material came from the various publications of the English Dialect Society, most of which were glossaries, and dialectal data that had been collected by other dialectologists such as Skeat, Palmer and Ellis. Additionally, Wright sent 12,000 copies of a postal questionnaire, which included around 2,400 words with instructions for a phonetic transcription. He used two criteria whether a word would be included in the dictionary. First, the word must have been reported to have been in use after about 1650 and secondly there must be some written evidence of the word.

The electronic version of the *English Dialect Dictionary* is a substantial and highly advanced database that can be searched systematically for any information included in the dictionary. The paper will present a variety of – mainly lexical – examples that are closely linked to the (agri)cultural background of a large portion of the population in the 18th and 19th centuries. In particular, it is intended to discuss various lexical items of Scandinavian origin and consider their (socio)linguistic and cultural context. Moreover, the results will be compared to the findings of the *Survey of English Dialects* (Orton et al. 1962-71).

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² *EDD Online* is accessible at: <http://eddonline-proj.uibk.ac.at>

Javier Ruano-García, Salamanca

***Can you kindly tell me whether there is a verb to punch in dialectal use in Oxfordshire?:
On the Contribution of Angelina Parker to the EDD's Coverage of the Oxfordshire Dialect***

As is the case with other historical dictionaries, the *EDD* drew upon its sources and quotations to trace the history of British dialect words in the late modern period. Markus (2009: 265) explains that “The value of Wright’s *Dictionary* naturally depends on the number and validity of these sources”. Recent research has examined their role in the making of the dictionary, looking at glossaries (e.g. Beal 2010), manuscript documents (e.g. Ruano-García 2013, 2014), and literary materials (e.g. Markus 2017), emphasizing their impressive number whilst highlighting Wright’s careful reproduction and systematic lexicographical deployment. This has been possible thanks to the online version of the dictionary produced at the University of Innsbruck (Markus 2016), which has opened a wide range of avenues to interrogate the *EDD* and its sources, allowing access to data that may have been otherwise hard to retrieve and certainly difficult to assess. Whilst, as noted, the manuscript and printed works employed by Wright have earned scholarly attention over the past few years, the function of his private correspondents remains largely unexplored to date (see, however, White 1987). This is quite surprising given their crucial contribution to the compilation of the dictionary. As a matter of fact, they amount to over 1,080 men and women that contributed a remarkable number of citations, senses, and words from all over the country, and whose assistance was acknowledged in the dictionary entries in the form of their initials (see the complete list of correspondents available at *EDD Online*).

This paper aims to cast some light on the role of private correspondents in the making of the *EDD* by examining the contribution of Angelina Parker (*fl.* 1878-1926), one of Wright’s major informants for the Oxfordshire dialect. I attempt to analyze the impact of Parker on the Oxfordshire data by scrutinizing the dictionary entries that built upon her first-hand knowledge of the dialect. To do so, this paper undertakes a quantitative analysis of the data retrieved from *EDD Online*, focusing on the entries that refer to her initials (A.P.), as well as on those in which Wright quoted from Parker’s manuscript additions to her celebrated *A Glossary of Words Used in Oxfordshire* (1876; suppl. 1881) (now Bodl. MS Eng. lang. d. 69-74). Special attention is paid to the cases in which Parker is referenced as Wright’s only evidence for a word (e.g. *poland*), sense (e.g. *potter*), and example of the dialect (e.g. *capital well*). This paper seeks therefore to advance our understanding of Wright’s private informants whilst adding to the underresearched history of the Oxfordshire dialect thanks to the “fascinating research possibilities provided by the *EDD Online* interface” (Markus 2017: 881).

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Christina Samson, Florence

Words Travelling from India: Exploring Linguaging in a Corpus of Nineteenth-century Travel Books

Linguaging has been defined in several ways in linguistic and sociolinguistic literature. Hymes (1996) and Bourdieu (1991) claim linguaging is associated with ‘positioning’ oneself within the repertory of customary practices of a local culture and acquiring a linguistic sense of place while involving memory and affect. Cortese & Hymes (2001) see linguaging as the way individuals ‘give voice’ to their own identity in a specific social context. Dann (1996) sees it as a form of scoring over someone through the use of real or fictitious foreign words of which one has scant knowledge, thereby inducing feelings of inferiority. Boyer & Viallon (1994), instead, define it as the use of foreign words to provide local colour or to flatter the pseudo-linguistic abilities of the reader. In this study, the term linguaging refers to the use of Indian local words used in a corpus of nineteenth century travel books.

Indian local words were first recorded in *Hobson-Jobson* (Burnell & Yule 1886), the first glossary to include both Indian English and Anglo-Indian—the English spoken by the British in India—at the height of the British imperial power. The glosses provide an encyclopædic account of British India and document the passage of many terms from Asian and European languages by referring to British authors without devoting attention, though, to women travel writers.

By contrast, this study focuses on the Indian lexicon used in a corpus of non-literary accounts of women travel writers, educational social reformers, military officers’ wives, journalists, novelists, biologists, botanical artists. Women’s travel writing has mostly been investigated from a cultural angle (Pratt 2007), by considering the ideological construct iterated by women writers in the service of the Raj (Agnew 2017); from how they contributed to colonial discourse and imperial identity (Bhabha 1984), or how they subverted the constraints of Victorian gender discourses, thus nurturing proto-feminism (Lewis 2013) and power relations inscribed into the traveller's gaze (Ghose 2000). There is, instead, a paucity of studies considering how women’s accounts contributed not only to turn the latter into an important medium for disseminating knowledge about the language used in oversea territories, but also to ‘produce’ what might be called ‘popular geographies’ (Samson 2018). This study, therefore, by adopting a corpus-based methodology integrated with a qualitative interpretation, has the purpose of widening extant understanding of the most frequent Indian words used in the Indian-English contact zone. These are firstly classified according to their semantic area. Secondly, an analysis of their discursive environment, within a pragmatic perspective, highlights how the words are used for multiple reasons while contributing to enrich the English lexicon.

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Rebecca Shapiro, City University of New York - NYCCT

Historical Lexicography: Legal Definitions in the Digital Age

My paper demonstrates how digital resources address a lexicographical problem in legal studies: US Supreme Court justices have increased reliance on dictionaries when considering the etymology of such terms as *blasphemy*, *damages*, *election*, *fine*, *obscenity*, *emolument*, but they have not acquired necessary knowledge of historical lexicography to support their opinions.

Legal scholars like Larry Solan, Ellen Aprill, and John Mikhail have shown how Supreme Court dictionary use has greatly increased in the last three decades by trying to establish the “original intent” of the Framers of the Constitution. Greater reliance on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century dictionaries without contextual knowledge of historical lexicographical principles leads to partisan choosing of senses³ or anachronistic dictionary use to argue for Founders’ “original intent.”

My work aids and supports legal scholarship by using textbases⁴ of historical documents, which become vast corpora for examining synchronic, diachronic, and regional variations. My previous book (Shapiro 2017) has proven essential to current legal scholarship, as with the case of the legal definition of *emoluments*. In a current lawsuit, the US Department of Justice introduced selective dictionary definitions to interpret the Constitution’s “Emoluments Clause” in a manner shielding the office and the president. Mikhail demonstrated this interpretation is unfounded using dictionaries from the Founding Era, citing my work on historical lexicography. I provided background information regarding the use of hard word dictionaries, LEME, and primary documents.

My new project collates several definitions of *emolument* in historical legal, hard word, general, and orthoepic dictionaries and adds an extensive survey of textbases that shows how the term was used in specific historical contexts, such as Colonial newspapers detailing the British slave trade. Four discrete senses emerge: 1) any kind of benefit; 2) social benefits to the public from laws, customs, and governments; 3) material benefits accruing to an office or position of power; 4) material benefits accruing to property. My work elaborates on and properly situates the historical review of dictionary definitions with many print sources. Because I use such a vast corpus my work can cast a wider net than a traditional etymological dictionary like the OED. This greater variety of sources enables my historical lexicography to be more focused and precise.⁵

Ultimately, we cannot stop justices from using dictionaries. Work like mine provides a nuanced corollary to historical-lexicographical critiques by legal scholars and encourages—or at least provides opportunities for—more accurate and judicial usage.

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Massimo Sturiale, Catania

The Stigmatization of Phonological Changes and the Making of the ‘Two Englishes’: A Late Modern Perspective

The discussion presented in my paper is part of a larger research project on the role played and the influence exerted by the press (British and American) over speakers’ attitudes to accent. In fact, newspapers foregrounded the standard language ideology and its subsequent metalanguage. As I have pointed out elsewhere (Sturiale 2014, 2016a, 2016b and 2018), in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Britain the press played an important role in promoting and reinforcing the standard language

³ To “cherry pick” is to deliberately select definitions and evidence that confirms or reinforces beliefs and opinions.

⁴ Some notable examples are EEBO, ECCO, Early American Imprints, and British, Caribbean, and North American newspaper collections, and LEME.

⁵ Indeed, Aprill has shown that with respect to primary documents in the United States, the OED has largely relied on sources that demonstrate a bias towards sources like the *New York Times*, which necessarily is written for an educated class.

ideology which characterised most of the Late Modern period. The role of newspapers, one may assume, was to consolidate what Mugglestone (2003: 39) has defined as “patterns of sensitization” towards accent perception and attitude which can be traced back to eighteenth-century orthoepists. In England, the fear of ‘linguistic instability’ had led, already in the eighteenth century, to the social stigmatisation and marginalisation of certain, mainly ‘provincial’, accents (cf. Beal 2004 and 2010) and the consolidation of a linguistic, yet stereotypical, North-South divide first on the part of the orthoepists and later also on the part of the press. By the nineteenth century differences between British and American English came to the fore as one can read here:

It is not the fashion with us [...] to call “beauty” *booty*, nor duty *dooty*, nor “due” *doo*: neither would the adoption of *tew* for “too” nor *noos* for “news” [...] and countless similar expressions, slip very glibly off our tongues; but if you only ask an American why he so pronounces them, he will tell you that he believes it to be the right way; and if you remind him that there are no such words, as he occasionally uses, in the English language, his answer will be, “The mayn’t be in *yours*, but there are in *ours*!” – (*Durham County Advertiser*, 27 January 1854, p. 6)

The aim of my paper is to investigate yod-dropping in words belonging to the GOOSE lexical set (Wells 1982. See also MacMahon 1998) and in particular *examples of the so-called Generalised Yod Dropping* (Glain 2012: 6), again as a mark of American innovation in pronunciation, will also be commented on. Evidence of such a change will be searched for in pronouncing dictionaries thanks to *The Eighteenth-Century English Phonology Database* but also outside ‘the linguistic’ domain, e.g. in Late Modern newspaper articles and letters to the editor. The data for the present investigation, letters to the editor and newspaper articles dealing with issues of pronunciation, will be gathered from the *British Newspapers 1600-1900*, the *19th Century British Library Newspapers*, *The Times Archive: 1785-1899*, *The Guardian and Observer Digital Archives (1800-200)* and *Newspapers.com*.

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Paloma Tejada Caller, Universidad Complutense Madrid

Childhood: A New Cultural Component of Renaissance England as Accessed from the Lexicon

From the 1990S the nascent subfield of Age Studies (Charise 2014, Segal 2014, among others), has essentially made of AGE an analytical category, opposing the idea that chronological age is age.

Alongside, scholars in the social sciences have advocated the idea that childhood is “neither a natural nor a universal feature” but appears as a specific and cultural component of many societies (Prout / James 1990: 8). The aim of this presentation is to address childhood as a culturally constructed life-stage of Renaissance England, using the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* (HTOED 2009) as a corpus.

More specifically, drawing on basic tenets of Ethnolinguistics and Cultural Linguistics (Bartmiski 2016, Sharifian 2017), according to which the lexis is one of the most conclusive basis for investigating shared knowledge and linguistic worldview, the paper intends to demonstrate that during the 16th and 17th centuries a new modern intersubjective conceptualization of the early ages emerges in English. That is, from the 16th c onwards, childhood seems no longer to constitute a vague first step in the ladder of life, but a freshly-perceived stage with a well-profiled delineation of substages.

For this purpose, a HTOED corpus of 103 new words and word senses (extended meanings of pre-existing words) appearing from 1500-1700 in association with child meanings has been built and analysed according to 24 study parameters to obtain quantitative and qualitative results. The assumption is that, interpreted as markers of meaning profiles and examined together, synonyms will be revelatory about the thinking of a society.

Results confirm that prior to the 15th century English exhibited a very limited number of terms for CHILD, words encompassing little emotion or metaphor. After this date, however, a significant growth of new words and word senses applied to the notion of childhood is perceived. And furthermore, perception seems to move from an external to an internal or subjective assessment. More importantly, considering that a high proportion of words defining childhood during the 16th and 17th centuries are popular and emotional formations, it may be speculated that the lexis of childhood is a new Early Modern English fashion, reflecting individual needs, rather than social institutionalization.

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Panel

Marc Alexander, Glasgow

“...classification, by meaning, of the whole if one is to begin to understand the parts”:

Core Principles of a Historical Thesaurus

The *Historical Thesaurus of English* (HT; first edition 2009, second edition in progress) has the distinction of being the world’s first historical thesaurus of a language, and it shares with other members of its ‘family’ (including Roberts and Kay’s *A Thesaurus of Old English*, Coleman’s *Love, Sex, and Marriage: A Historical Thesaurus*, Chase’s *The English Religious Lexis*, and Sylvester *et al*’s *Bilingual Thesaurus of Everyday Life in Medieval England*) some key organisational principles. This paper aims to assemble and synthesise some of these essential characteristics of a successful historical thesaurus, with a view to both revisions for the HT’s second edition and the future expansion of its family of electronic historical lexicographical resources.

These underlying ‘Samuels and Kay principles’ are named after my predecessors as Directors of the *Historical Thesaurus of English*, who jointly conceived and implemented them over the last fifty years of work on the HT at Glasgow. These include questions of:

- worldview, where when examining diachronic English lexis, the *HT*'s deliberate focus is on asking *what is it for?* rather than *what is it?* This reflects the core truth that at heart, all language is solely for the functional use of human beings, and rarely well serves a quest for a coherent philosophical language such as that sought by Wilkins (1668) or in Britannica's *Propædia*;
- taxonomy, where deriving from the worldview above, Samuels and Kay selected a structure emerging from the data which represents what Hallig and von Wartburg would call 'the intelligent average individual's view of the world, based on pre-scientific general concepts made available by language' (cited in Ullman 1962: 255); and
- structure, where all of the *HT* family differ sensibly in their macrostructures, but have a *distinctive* microstructure, wherein their categories have contents which are recognizably semantically discrete from all others of similar meaning (as opposed to a *cumulative* microstructure like Roget, which does not finely distinguish its classes; see Kay and Alexander 2015: 370). At the middle structural distance, the *HT* and its family operate on the principle of least extension: *lava* and *volcanic ash*, for example, are classified with *volcano* rather than with *stone* or *dust*.

As an opening contribution to this panel, this paper will outline these and other principles and discuss their necessity for the utility of a historical thesaurus.

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Louise Sylvester, University of Westminster
Brian Aitken, Glasgow

Technical terminology and semantic shift in the Middle Ages: a thesaurus approach

This paper reports on the Bilingual Thesaurus of Everyday Life in Medieval England (BTh), and the role played by the methodology of that project and the *Historical Thesaurus* (HT) in addressing questions about technical terminology in the English of the later medieval period the causes and patterns of semantic shift.

The BTh project was established to investigate the question of how far knowledge and use of French extended down through the layers of later medieval English society. By selecting domains of everyday and collecting the terminology relating to them in Middle English and Anglo-Norman, we hope to discover how far the penetration of French, or resistance to it, depended on the semantic field in question. We are now working with Brian Aitken in Glasgow, to complete the project, an online thesaurus of French and English words used in daily life in England between 1150 and 1450.

For the BTh, a semantic domain of everyday life was envisaged a system of practices that structure people's social activity in a coherent way. The arrangement of the data thus begins with the notion of activity as the central concept in a semantic domain, and this is developed using the idea of processes agents who carry it out, objects on which it is carried out, and instruments with which it is

carried out, etc. The linguistic data in each semantic domain is therefore organised under category headings such as: Processes, Agents, Product(s), Instruments, and Specialised Location(s).

The rules according to which terms were included in the BTh database allowed only senses specifically associated with the occupational domain in question and excluded general senses of words used in relation to the domain (Sylvester, Marcus & Ingham 2017; Sylvester & Marcus 2017). Thus, we have the most specific senses. For a linked project, Technical language and semantic shift in Middle English, we are taking the terms collected for the BTh, to which we are adding two further semantic domains (in the interests of a more equal representation of the classes that made up medieval English society), classifying them into semantic hierarchies, and connecting them with terminology from higher but contiguous levels of the *HT*. By doing this, we hope to be able to take a large but manageable amount of data and investigate the patterns of semantic shift and lexical replacement, and to examine the outcomes of polysemy, where it exists, in the technical register. We would like to investigate the impact of the influx of borrowed terms on the native vocabulary, and to discover if there is a tendency for borrowed terms to broaden in sense once established in English, providing superordinate terms, leaving the native vocabulary to express the more technical senses, which the examination of the terminology within semantic hierarchies will allow.

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Automating the Construction of an Historical Thesaurus of Scots

The lexical inventory of a language provides a window on the culture and traditions of its speakers; by arranging their lexis semantically, we can measure and compare the meaningfulness of their lexically-encoded concepts and investigate how the social significance of these concepts has changed over time. To this end, scholars of English have the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) and, since 2009, the OED-derived *Historical Thesaurus of English* (HT), while scholars of Scots have the *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (DSL) but presently lack a thesaurus comparable to the HT.

The HT has served as a springboard for a swathe of innovative projects on the semantic history and structure of English. A comparable resource for Scots would be an invaluable tool in its own right, filling a significant gap in the linguistic record of the language. It would also facilitate comparative studies of the lexicons of English and Scots to an extent hitherto unimaginable. Our goal, then, is a comprehensive historical thesaurus of Scots.

The traditional lexicographical approach to thesaurus creation is heavily labour-intensive and consequently very expensive. We aim to minimise these costs by constructing our thesaurus using the semantic hierarchy of the HT as scaffold. We will establish links between DSL and OED at the word and sense level. Then, as OED words and senses are already located in the semantic hierarchy of the HT, we can construct a semantic hierarchy of DSL words and senses on the same basis.

DSL is the world authority on the vocabulary of Scots from the earliest times to the present day. It comprises the *Dictionary of the Older Scots Tongue* (DOST), covering the period to 1700, and the *Scottish National Dictionary* (SND), covering 1700 onwards. It contains 80,000 headwords in twenty-two print volumes and is now freely available and fully searchable online. The linking of DSL words

and senses to their OED counterparts will be a major endeavour but we can automate much of this work by exploiting similarities of data and data structure, much of which stems from Sir William Craigie's role as third editor of OED and primary editor of DOST.

This paper first, describes the process by which we automate the matching of words and senses between DSL and OED, including experimental methods we are trialling to improve the number of successful matches. Secondly, we address the extent to which the matched results already suggest the need to adapt the structure of the HT to better reflect the semantic composition of Scots.

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Semantic Tags as a Proto-thesaurus: Re-organizing the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary*

This presentation will report on the recent application of a new semantic tagging system at the Anglo-Norman Dictionary (www.anglo-norman.net). The digitization of the dictionary in the early 2000s exposed the imprecise and inconsistent nature of the semantic tags used by the editors of the print edition. While this inconsistency was not a concern when the dictionary was consulted in paper form, the new semantic search capacities of the digital version were particularly hampered by the haphazard categorization system, and so, over the past five years, the semantic tagging system at use at the AND has undergone revision.

In combination with the application of these semantic tags, the dictionary editors also implemented a system of (hyperlinked) references to cognate references in other dictionaries, of English, French and Latin, highlighting the central role of this French dialect in the development of both Continental French and Middle English. These links integrated individual entries in the dictionary into their multilingual insular environment, but also into the (sometimes contradictory) semantic arrangements and onomasiological structures that underpin the linked dictionaries of English and French, especially those of the OED and FEW.

The paper will discuss both the design and the implementation process of the semantic tagging system, as well as the challenges faced in both developing and in applying the tagging system. Designed to allow extraction of data from the AND in specific semantic domains, a proto-thesaurus, the dictionary now offers opportunities for incorporation into larger multilingual projects and the paper will outline future directions and partnership implicated by these tags.

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