

**Journée d'Étude // Workshop
université de Picardie Jules Verne**

L'aréalité linguistique à petite échelle : questions de méthode

Small-scale areal linguistics : What methods ?

Vendredi // Friday 21 mai 2021

- 10h15-10h30 Accueil // Welcome
- 10h30-11h10 **The role of migration in the creation of the Sierra Sur linguistic area: evidence from Zapotecan linguistics, archaeology and history**
Rosemary Beam de Azcona (Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico)
- 11h10-11h50 **Les Caraïbes comme aire linguistique vue sous l'angle des systèmes d'orthographe des créoles à base anglaise** **Paula Prescod (université de Picardie Jules Verne & CERCLL)**
- 11h50-14h Pause déjeuner // Lunch break
- 14h-14h40 **Areal linguistics without linguistic areas, illustrations from East Africa**
Maarten Mous (Leiden University)
- 14h40-15h20 **Some lessons learned from studying a messy area** **Henrik Liljegen (Stockholm University)**
- 15h20-16h **Aires de convergence dialectale : le *Mundartbund* fennique (étude de cas)** **Jean-Léo Léonard (université Paul Valéry Montpellier)**
- 16h-16h10 Pause // Break
- 16h10-16h50 **Semantic convergence in the Lower Volta Basin (West Africa)** **Felix K. Ameka (Leiden University)**
- 16h50-17h30 **Identifying the linguistic source of loans in Mesoamerica: Some historical paradigmatic and semantic considerations drawn from Nahuatl** **Karen Dakin (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)**
- 17h30-18h30 **Table ronde // Round table**
Avec tous.les les conférenciers.ières // with all speakers & Invités // Invited **Lyle Campbell & Yaron Matras**

Programme détaillé // Detailed program

10h15 : Accueil des participants et mot de bienvenue // Welcome

Olivier Bondéelle & Bien DoBui (université de Picardie Jules Verne & CERCLL)

10h30 – 11h10 (3h30 – 4h10 à Mexico) : The role of migration in the creation of the Sierra Sur linguistic area: evidence from Zapotecan linguistics, archaeology and history

Rosemary Beam de Azcona (Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico)

Varieties belonging to the Zapotecan language family have been diverging and converging for ca. 3,000 years. Originally spoken in the Central Valleys region of the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, various migrations have extended the family north and south. This talk will focus on six southern migrations thought to have taken place over a 2,000 year period and attested from archaeological, historical and linguistic evidence. The Zapotecan family first divided into a Chatino group, whose speakers came to control coastal resources from an early date, and a Zapotec group, associated with the powerful state of Monte Albán, founded ca. 500BCE in Oaxaca's Central Valleys. Sociolinguistically, the retention of nasal features like vowel nasality and NC clusters is associated with Chatino, whereas a loss of such features is associated with the Zapotecs who were located in the Central Valleys. Over time, there were successive migrations of Zapotec speakers southwards. The first migrations put Zapotec speakers in direct contact with Chatino speakers. These intermediate populations did not participate as early or as fully in the loss of nasal features that characterizes Central Valley and related varieties of Zapotec. Later migrations put new Zapotec settlers in closer contact with the more nasal types of Zapotec, which had long been located in the south. Fourteenth century migrants acquired some diffused nasal traits, including a classificatory prefix /m-/, from their new neighbors, but Isthmus Zapotec migrants and their descendants are not known to have acquired southern traits, probably due to both their late arrival and their own sociolinguistic prestige, representing the fifteenth century Zapotec royal court of Zaachila in exile. The challenge of Zapotecan linguistics is distinguishing earlier inherited traits from more recently diffused traits. Among the Zapotecan languages of southern Oaxaca, one can identify conservative retentions, shared innovations inherited in a particular genetic group, diffusion between differentiated languages and varieties, and possible cases of language shift and a koiné. I will illustrate these cases with relevant isoglosses and discuss how an interdisciplinary approach helps me formulate hypotheses about sociolinguistic history.

11h10 - 11h50 : Les Caraïbes comme aire linguistique vue sous l'angle des systèmes d'orthographe des créoles à base anglaise

Paula Prescod (université de Picardie Jules Verne & CERCLL)

Dans cet exposé, je discuterai de certaines caractéristiques phonologiques aréales qui pourraient nous permettre de définir les Caraïbes comme une aire linguistique. Or, en tant que zones géographiquement non contiguës, les territoires insulaires ne sont généralement pas propices à l'étude des traits aréaux. D'une part, la variation est elle-même difficile à appréhender en raison des

limites géographiques des îles. D'autre part, la diffusion des traits linguistiques est conditionnée par les types de contact et les écologies spécifiques aux différents territoires. J'examinerai comment les conventions orthographiques impactent notre analyse des traits areaux. Les choix orthographiques opérés pour représenter les traits et phénomènes suivants seront examinés : voyelles centrales, diphtongues fermantes, voyelles longues, coup de glotte, consonne rhotique, consonnes affriquées et « *th-stopping* ».

11h50 – 14h : pause midi // lunch break

14h – 14h40 : Areal linguistics without linguistic areas, illustrations from East Africa

Maarten Mous (Leiden University)

Although I am dedicated to the study of linguistic history in an areal perspective, I am very sceptical about the function of the concept of Sprachbund or Linguistic area in that endeavour. We have proposed the Tanzanian Rift Valley as a linguistic area or Sprachbund (Kiessling et al. 2008) and recently I have formulated my hesitations whether this publication has brought us forward (Mous 2019). The discussion on the validity of the Ethiopian language area (Ferguson 1976, Tosco 2000, Bisang 2006, Crass & Meyer 2009) has highlighted the existence of smaller subareas, Sasse (1986) and Zaborski (2010) and indeed such micro-areas provide a more useful approach as they are in fact but not different from a holistic language contact study where it is possible and fruitful to link the outcomes of language contact to patterns of social and cultural contact. In order to establish such a link, one of the potentially powerful domains to look at is areal distribution of patterns of lexical semantics that deviate from universal semantic extensions, as in the work by Hayward (1991). The result of such language contact studies result ideally in a stratification, as is done, for example by Möhlig (2007). This is our aim in my current project on the early linguistic history of East Africa.

References

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14h40 - 15h20 : Some lessons learned from studying a messy area

Henrik Liljegren (Stockholm University)

I will briefly describe what I set out to do in my recent Hindu Kush areal-typological project (Liljegren 2021), point out a few main things that happened in the process, and finally offer some – honest and self-critical – suggestions as to what I would do differently (another time), especially regarding data collection/compilation and feature aggregation, for instance what features to choose, and how many. I intend to motivate, by showing some results from my project, how I came to shift in focus from trying to prove or disprove a linguistic area *sensu stricto* to instead look more closely at the traits themselves in what Campbell (2017: 28) calls a trait-sprawl area, asking the crucial question “what happened”.

References

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15h20 – 16h : Aires de convergence dialectale : le Mundartbund fennique (étude de cas)

Jean-Leo Leonard (université Paul Valéry Montpellier)

La notion de *Sprachbund* en tant qu’aire de convergence structurale entre familles de langues différentes est bien connue. Ces « Unions de Langues » entrelacent les réseaux typologiques et les réseaux phylogénétiques, comme dans l’espace balkanique ou l’espace nord-ouest américain. On sait également que l’aire balte orientale constitue un *Sprachbund*, faisant converger des traits typologiques forts des langues fenniques (ouralien), germaniques (allemand, langues scandinaves), slaves et baltes (lituanien, letton, vieux prussien). Nous montrerons qu’au-delà du *Sprachbund*, peuvent exister des *Mundartbünde*, au sein des domaines impliqués dans les dynamiques de convergence. Nous proposerons une modélisation et une synthèse de divers travaux interprétables en ce sens, que ce soit dans les emprunts lexicaux baltofenniques ou dans les phénomènes de contact interdialectaux au sein du fennique ou entre variétés fenniques et variétés baltes, slaves ou germaniques, à échelle macroscopique. A échelle mésoscopique, nous nous intéresserons à l’arc littoral Viru-Ingrie, particulièrement interactif sur ce plan. Enfin, du point de vue

microdialectologique, nous verrons les effets des contacts et de la métatypie sur les évolutions du diasystème, tout en les distinguant des dynamiques évolutives endogènes. Dans la mesure où l'aire observée est décrite avec la plus grande précision par plusieurs traditions linguistiques nationales (finlandaise, estonienne, russe) et abondamment documentée sur le plan historique, on peut attendre de ce survol de l'aire balto-fennique saisie dans le grain fin de sa diversité dialectale, des clés pour développer la notion encore sous-exploitée de *Mundartbund*, à notre avis grandement heuristique pour comprendre les mécanismes de toute dynamique de convergence structurale aréale entre langues et variétés dialectales.

16h – 16h10 : pause // break

16h10 – 16h50 : Semantic convergence in the Lower Volta Basin (West Africa)

Felix K. Ameka (Leiden University)

The Lower Volta Basin (LVB) is a lower-tier convergence zone. It is within different layers of macro-areas: The Trans-Atlantic Sprachbund, the Macro-Sudanic Belt and the Fragmentation Belt, and corresponds roughly to the Gulf of Guinea. The region is characterised by linguistic diversity and almost universal multilingualism of the speakers. Some similarities among the languages in the LVB are due to their genetic relationship. They all belong to subgroups of the Kwa (Niger-Congo) family. Other similarities may be universals of human language or be attributed to their environmental surroundings. However, some of the parallel semantic structures in these languages are due to different networks of contact between the peoples and among the languages. Moreover, trade and past hegemonic wars have promoted interactions among the peoples. For instance, throughout the LVB the influence of Akan is evident in some cultural domains, e.g., chieftaincy or the names of days of week. In this talk I will survey some of the shared contact-induced semantic patterns and the related grammaticalization and lexicalization patterns in the LVB languages in domains such as temperature, feelings, everyday physical activities, personhood and perception events. Methodological issues in the study of areal semantics, especially related to sense discrimination and comparison across languages will be discussed.

16h50 – 17h30 (7h50 – 8h30 à Los Angeles) : Identifying the linguistic source of loans in Mesoamerica: Some historical paradigmatic and semantic considerations drawn from Nahuatl

Karen Dakin (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

The proposed paper will center on two topics on language contact that have drawn interest in relation to areal studies of Mesoamerican languages and that draw on the methods of historical reconstruction. The first is about loanwords, which have been a center of interest since Whorf and J. Eric Thompson's early work in the 1940's. Campbell and Kaufman's 1976 hypotheses about the importance of Mixe-Zoque as a source language, Justeson et al's, 1985 work on lowland Mayan, and now more recent work by a number of linguists have all noted the cultural importance of a number of terms, and argued for various hypotheses as to the origins of the individual terms. I suggest that the historical reconstruction of detailed derivational paradigms in southern Uto-Aztec languages and especially in Nahuatl for noun and verb classes does provide different kinds

of evidence for the possible sources of some of the key loanwords. In the second part of the paper I will center on some considerations, again based on consideration of historical patterns for their creation, for identifying the possible sources for several calques found in Mesoamerica, and noted especially by Smith-Stark (1982, 1994, and with Campbell et al 1986) and by Brown (2011).

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17h30 - 18h30 (5h30 – 6h30 à Hawaii) : Table-ronde avec tous.tes les conférenciers.cières // Round table with all speakers

Invités : Lyle Campbell (University of Hawaii at Manoa) & Yaron Matras (University of Manchester)