CONTENTS

Welcome  3

Upcoming events  4

ESF Connected goes live!  4
ILEI congress in Benin  4
Nitobe Symposium – Language, Conflict and Security  5
Via Scientiarum  5

Reports  6

Belfast, the capital of linguistic justice  6
Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia  7
Five years of exhibitions in Lithuania  8
Universal languages, artistic languages, planned languages: dreams and utopias of a world without translation  8

General news  9

La Bona Renkontiĝo  9
Esperanto & Internationalism  9
Die Esperantobewegung in Ostmitteleuropa  9
Decolonial Subversions  10
Hachette Collection  10
Kvinpetalo library  11
250+ specialist Esperanto dictionaries  11
The Esperanto textbooks that never were  11
Dr Seán Ó Riain: towards linguistic justice  11
Dr Julián Hernández Angulo 12
Funded PhD opportunity at the University of Ulster 12
University of Innsbruck 12

**Books  13**

- Remember These Forebears 13
  
  *Hector Hodler: Une posture pacifiste / Pacisma sinteno* 14

- Preface to Probal Dasgupta’s Bangla translation of a Finnish novel 14

- Esperanto and interlinguistics in Bangla 15

- University textbooks in Esperantology and interlinguistics 16

- Two freely downloadable dissertations 17

- Contested Languages: the hidden multilingualism of Europe 17

- Translated and untranslated: the promise of translation and its downsides 19

- “International Auxiliary Languages” 19

- “The role of multilingualism as a tool in spurting trade among the BRICS: an economic perspective” 20

- Die Bienen und das Unsichtbare 20

**Articles  21**

- “Linguistic human rights and multilingual education: a report from an Indian university” 21

- “Disadvantages in preparing and publishing scientific papers caused by the dominance of the English language in science: the case of Colombian researchers in biological sciences” 22

- “Science’s English dominance hinders diversity – but the community can work toward change” 22

- “Just language rights: social contract and constitutional economics” 22

- “Interlanguages and Interlinguistics” 23

- “How to teach a language that has just appeared: the case of Esperanto” 23

- “Esperanto Journalism and Readers as ‘Managers’: a transnational participatory audience” 24

- “Ulrike Ottinger’s *Dorian Gray in the Mirror of the Yellow Press* (1984) as a Reflection on Cinematic Esperanto” 24

- “Compounding in Esperanto” 25

- “Building an Artificial Language from Scratch” 25

- “Language’s Hopes: Global Modernism and the Science of Debabelization” 26

- “Adjectives in narratives in spoken Esperanto” 26

- “Artificial/peripheral structures: what can they tell us about the (morpho)phonology of natural languages” 26

**Other publications  27**

- Webinar at Shiraz University 27

- The academic journal *Esperantologio / Esperanto Studies* launches a new series 27

- Newsletter of UEA’s Office of Liaison with the United Nations 28

- trans-kom 28

- Quaderna 28

**ESF grants  30**

*Information for Interlinguists* 14 (1/2021)
WELCOME

Since our last issue, over a dozen articles have been posted on ESF Connected, the new bilingual blog of the Esperantic Studies Foundation at https://esfconnected.org/. See page 29.

In the very first of these, “A turn for the better…”, Humphrey Tonkin explains the reasoning behind the often misunderstood first word of ESF’s name:

The word Esperantic, coined half a century ago, doesn’t mean “having to do with Esperanto” but “having to do with efforts to equalise languages”. Esperanto is one of those efforts, but Esperantic studies cover all efforts to end linguistic discrimination and to promote linguistic equality.

In this spirit, attentive readers of the current issue of IfI will find mention of several other constructed languages. One is Jœjuca, an interesting lingua franca of fishermen in a fictional world, developed by undergraduates at Florida State University and presented in an article by Juan Coste Delvecchio. Additional languages whose names appear this issue include Volapük, Blissymbolics, Quenya, Talossan, Klingon and High Valyrian.

Another is Elefen, or Lingua Franca Nova (LFN), whose designer, George Boeree, sadly passed away in January. Dave MacLeod wrote a moving tribute in Occidental, “Quo li comunità inter-linguistic aprendet de George Boeree” (“What the interlinguistics community learned from George Boeree”):

Li punctu de vise de George Boeree esset sempre positiv: “Bon, fórsan LFN ne es li max bon lingue auxiliar, ma to ne importa! Prova it e resta un poc con nos si tu vole!” esset su atitude. E ex to on videt un cose fascinant: mult Esperantistes esset ta scrient in su lingue! Vidente se benevenit e ne fortia a renunciar lor fidelitá a Esperanto, ili partiprendet con grand guste al comunité e scrit mult cose.

(George Boeree’s point of view was always positive: “Okay, LFN may not be the best auxiliary language, but that doesn’t matter! Try it and stay with us a while if you want!” was his attitude. And out of that came something fascinating to behold: there were many Esperantists there, writing in his language! Finding themselves welcomed and not obliged to abandon their allegiance to Esperanto, they participated in the community with great relish and wrote a lot of material.)

I was one of those people, and still am. In fact, the most recent post on the ESF Connected blog happens to be my unbiased comparison of certain features of Elefen and Esperanto, written before Boeree’s death. The article is the first of my “Conlang Excursions” which I hope will turn out to be an enjoyable and long-running series.

Best wishes for 2021 to all readers of Information for Interlinguists. The deadline for contributions to the next issue is 31 March.

Simon Davies
(editor)
UPCOMING EVENTS

ESF Connected goes live!

https://esfconnected.org/

Beginning on 21 February, the semi-monthly academic blog ESF Connected will be joined by a monthly live webinar, ESF Connected Live. The topics will be wide-ranging, connected to ESF’s interests in linguistics, linguistic justice, research, language pedagogy, transcultural interactions, Esperantic studies, and more. We welcome questions and topic suggestions from our listening community. The first webinar will probably be a round-table discussion with ESF’s Board about their own research, and on ESF’s research goals.

ESF Connected Live webinars are envisioned to last forty minutes to an hour, including time for questions. The webinar will begin at 11 a.m. in the USA Eastern Time Zone (New York). This is currently UTC –4, but we will follow the New York Winter/Summer Time shifts. The hour has been selected to facilitate the participation of people in North and South America, Europe, Africa and western Asia. Recordings of the webinars will be available later on the ESF YouTube channel.

For announcements of the monthly programmes, and for Zoom details, please see the blog itself.

ILEI congress in Benin

7–14 August 2021
Mireille Grosjean
https://www.ilei.info/

A two-day symposium is being planned within the structure of the congress. Board member Radojica Petrović will be in charge, collaborating with the universities working group of CED/ESF/ILEI. Bringing Esperantist and non-Esperantist university members together physically and virtually, the symposium aims to promote Esperanto as an area of linguistic study and to give some impetus to education via Esperanto.

To allow efficient planning, participants should state their intention to take part by the end of May. Then, after examining the pandemic situation in Benin and analysing the number of participants, the Board and Local Congress Committee will decide whether anything will actually go ahead in Cotonou. The pricing table appears on the ILEI website, and declarations of participation should be sent via an online form.
CED (Centre for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems), with financial support from ESF, is organising its next Nitobe Symposium at Ulster University. The working languages will be English and Esperanto.

Continuing the 16 October webinar (see next page), the symposium will explore three principal topics of current importance to the theme, through presentations, plenary discussion and round-table discussion:

◆ Language policy in Northern Ireland and implications for power-sharing in contested societies
◆ Language in the context of security and conflict resolution in Europe
◆ Language in humanitarian crises and pro-active peace-building in the global context

Contributions to the programme are by invitation only, but we welcome expressions of interest in participating and contributing to these and related topics.

Because of ongoing uncertainty related to the pandemic, it will be possible to take part in the symposium online, although we have also reserved space at the Belfast Campus of Ulster University in the event that a physical gathering becomes possible. In the latter case, invited speakers will have their travel and accommodation paid for.

Please address any correspondence to nitobe-2021@sfu.ca.

Via Scientiarum
Liepāja, Latvia, 23–24 September 2021
https://www.liepu.lv/lv/kalendars/2021/9/24

The joint doctoral study programme of the Universities of Ventspils and Liepāja will be holding an international linguistics conference, Via Scientiarum, for young linguists, organised by the Faculty of Humanities and Arts at Liepāja and the Faculty of Translation Studies at Ventspils.
Michele Gazzola and Cecilia Gialdini (both at Ulster University, Belfast, Northern Ireland) organised a webinar on “Linguistic justice and public policy” at that institution on 16 October 2020, supported by ESF.

The internal section was devoted to the presentation of the working paper “Towards an Index of Linguistic Justice” by Michele Gazzola, Bengt-Arne Wickström and Mark Fettes:

Indices are regularly used in national and international comparative analyses, yet are largely absent from the field of language policy. This study outlines a practically feasible, theoretically justified basis for an index of linguistic justice […]

The external section was open to the public. There were 76 participants in the morning session, and 45 in the afternoon, mostly from Europe, but also from the USA, Malaysia, India, Nigeria, Hong Kong, Cameroon and South Africa. A true global webinar. This section contained the following presentations:

◆ François Grin, “The notion of inclusion in linguistic justice”. Presentation of the MIME project (Mobility and Inclusion in Multilingual Europe) and other research projects, and critique of various (vague) definitions of inclusion.

◆ Andrew Shorten, “Immigration, language and disadvantage”. Discussion of the “supplementary inclusion measures”, or SIMs, adopted in some societies to promote the inclusion of immigrants who are not proficient speakers of the majority language(s), e.g. services for them in their own languages.

◆ Bengt-Arne Wickström, “Theory and praxis of language policy: direct and indirect discrimination of minorities”. Presenting a quantitative indicator of linguistic justice based on welfare economics.

◆ Gabriele Iannaccaro, “Linguistic unease as a symptom of linguistic injustice: some sociolinguistic considerations”. Presentation and discussion of different parameters of linguistic unease for individuals that can lead to linguistic injustice if such unease is neglected by the state.

◆ Filomena Maggino, “Complexity in society: from indicators’ construction to their synthesis”. Discussion of the methodological challenges associated with the design of indicators reflecting complex social variables such as quality of life.
Brian Carey, “Linguistic justice and external preferences”. Presenting a preference satisfaction model of linguistic advantage that says we should measure a person’s advantages in terms of the extent to which their linguistic preferences are satisfied.

Gordon Marnoch, “A brief history of measuring and managing public service performance: the case of linguistic justice in perspective”. Indexing linguistic justice is rooted in the bigger problem of describing life in numerical terms, and academics in public administration have adopted a critical stance generally towards “objective” indicators.

Several key ideas emerged from the webinar: Official language policy does have effects on the social, economic and political life of individuals. Some of these consequences can lead to injustice. These effects can be identified, defined and measured, but this is a complex matter that requires an interdisciplinary approach. This research, however, must be accompanied by a healthy dose of scepticism because the numbers lend themselves to different and often conflicting interpretations.

Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia

Dima Shevchenko

In December the first wave of virtual Esperanto courses was successfully completed at the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University).

In total there were 15 students in three groups. Two groups managed to finish a programme for beginners, and one group a more advanced programme. The courses were taught by Anna Striganova.

The courses ended with exams that all the students passed. They will receive diplomas (certificates of increased qualification) from the prestigious state university.

The courses were not limited to just lessons. Outside the curriculum, Valentin Melnikov and Mikaelo Bronštejn gave talks on Esperanto culture and history.

On 14 November 2014 at RUDN, during a meeting of the Science Council, two curricula for the teaching of Esperanto were accepted. On 19 November, by special request, they were officially validated. Several other curricula were also subsequently accepted.

As RUDN is a state university at the federal level with the right to define its own curricula, these automatically became valid throughout Russia, and the certificates of success are recognised across the whole country and in dozens of countries that have special educational contracts and agreements with Russia.

In the space of six years, RUDN has awarded 70 people with diplomas for various levels of knowledge of Esperanto.
If you are interested, you can listen to Valentin Melnikov’s talk (in Russian) on original Esperanto literature. It lasts around an hour and a half:

http://phil.rudn.ru/images/portempa/19_decembro_Melnikov.m4a or https://yadi.sk/d/I2XH6ABpwuw0d

Five years of exhibitions in Lithuania

Povilas Jegorovas
from La Ondo de Esperanto 305 (3/2020), p. 33
http://esperanto-ondo.ru/Ondo/Lo-305demo.pdf

Since August 2017, an exhibition about the life and work of Ludwik Zamenhof has been successfully displayed in 22 places in Lithuania. It was prepared by the Polish Institute in Vilnius, in collaboration with the Lithuanian Esperanto Association (LEA), on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of Zamenhof’s death, and consists of 22 large stands that present details of Zamenhof’s life and activities, and of Esperanto.

In 2020, the exhibition was set up in the cultural centre in Trakai and in the public libraries of Kaišiadorys, Jurbarkas, Tauragė and Šilalė. In October it moved to the cultural centre in Šakiai. From 10 November it was displayed in the Marijampolė cultural centre.

In each town and district, the exhibition is accompanied by extensive articles about Zamenhof, Esperanto, the activities of LEA, famous people and Esperanto, etc in local newspapers, on town and district websites and on the websites of the authorities hosting the exhibition. In this way a large number of local people get to hear about Esperanto, not just the visitors to the exhibition.

The plan is to present the exhibition in all the large towns of Lithuania, including all the district centres – more than 60 places in all. That will take more than five years.

Universal languages, artistic languages, planned languages: dreams and utopias of a world without translation


Abstracts from the IFK Live webinar held by the International Research Centre for Cultural Studies (IFK) at the Linz University of Art and Design in Vienna from 18–20 November are available for download.
La Bona Renkontiĝo

https://www.laboren.org/200-nova-serio-enkonduko/
https://anchor.fm/stela-besenyei-merger

LBR: Growing up with Esperanto is a research project of Stela Besenyei-Merger’s, supported by ESF, which concerns itself with collecting the experiences of people whose lives have in some way been touched by their being native Esperanto speakers. Some of the interviews are available in podcast form for the general public, thus informing, entertaining and hopefully also enriching knowledge about the Esperanto community.

The ten instalments aim to research and inform about this phenomenon, while at the same time hoping to attract attention from researchers who would like to use the interviews for their own research projects, e.g. on the use of Esperanto in the home, on the participation of Esperanto families in the movement, or on multilingualism in general.

The interviews in their raw form and in transcription will be accessible via ESF from the end of February 2021. The conversations present experiences within the Esperanto movement, the decision to raise a family in the language, practical uses in everyday life, the attraction of being multilingual, the pleasures and challenges of bringing up children with Esperanto, and the frequently occurring notion of shame.

Esperanto & Internationalism

https://www.transnationalhistory.net/esperanto/en/705ea-home/

This website, newly launched by academics at St Andrews, and of special interest to historians, discusses Esperanto and internationalism.

Die Esperantobewegung in Ostmitteleuropa


Closely related to Esperanto & Internationalism, here is a summary of the double lecture “Polish Esperantists as local internationalists? The Esperanto Movement in East Central Europe, 1880s–1930” at the German Historical Institute, Warsaw.
Decolonial Subversions

http://decolonialsubversions.org/

Decolonial Subversions is a newly established open-access, multilingual, peer-reviewed publishing platform committed to the decentring of western epistemology in the humanities and social sciences. It seeks to grant more visibility to scholars from the Global South by subverting barriers and norms that govern mainstream Anglophone knowledge production and publishing.

It consists of an international team of collaborators and like-minded researchers, practitioners and professionals from India, Ethiopia, Senegal, Namibia, South Africa, Hong Kong, Hungary, Greece, Moldova, Italy and the UK.

The founding editors, Dr Romina Istratii and Monika Hirmer, are supported in their effort by a team of designers, photographers, web-development specialists, language partners, translators and reviewers, all of whom appear on the website of the platform as integral members and stakeholders of this initiative.

The platform was officially launched on 30 March 2020, in a live stream that can be viewed here: https://soas.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=fb415194-f702-4fb4-bde3-ab8a010f4179

Hachette Collection

Bernhard Tuider

https://www.onb.ac.at/eo/bibliothek/sammlungen/kolekto-por-planlingvoj/digitaj-dokumentoj/gazeteltondajoj-1898-1915
https://data.onb.ac.at/rec/AC15757567

Since 1930, the Esperanto Museum at the Austrian National Library has preserved the so-called “Hachette Collection”. This consists of over 17,000 newspaper articles (in 153 folders) concerning Esperanto and constructed languages from the years between 1898 and 1915.

At the start of the 20th century, two press clipping agencies in Paris (Gallois & Demogeot and Argus de la Presse) started to gather newspaper articles from various countries (but with a noticeable focus on France) for the publishing house Hachette. The clippings were roughly organised by place and time.

The librarians of the Esperanto Museum in Vienna have catalogued the collection by folder (and have additionally listed the individual articles – the lists in XLS format can be obtained from us on request). In the coming months, we will be scanning the entire collection and publishing the articles on our website, where the first items are already available now.
Kvinpetalo library
http://www.kvinpetalo.org/

Philippe Cousson wishes to mention the existence of the library he tends at Kvinpetalo, the Esperanto centre in Bouresse, France. It contains the estates of Gaston Waringhien, Roger Bernard, Georges Lagrange, Maurice Sujet and others.

Philippe is finishing cataloguing more than 7000 books (including duplicates) and many hitherto unrecorded journals and miscellaneous archive items. There is no OPAC catalogue, but a list of books will ultimately be distributed.

Researchers and students can query a document’s existence, and on-site accommodation is also available for anyone wishing to consult the library.

250+ specialist Esperanto dictionaries
Szilvási László
http://www.eventoj.hu/steb/vortaroj/

Now available online is a large collection of specialist Esperanto dictionaries and glossaries, free to use, read and download.

The collection also includes thematic vocabularies, and is part of STEB, the Scientific and Technical Esperanto Library. It continues to be updated. If you know of a missing item, your information is welcome!

The Esperanto textbooks that never were
https://leidenspecialcollectionsblog.nl/articles/the-esperanto-textbooks-that-never-were

Carolien Stolte has uncovered a complete grammar of Tibetan, written in Esperanto, in the Leiden Special Collections.

Dr Seán Ó Riaín: towards linguistic justice

Ó Riaín discusses the work of the European Esperanto Union in this interview within the series Regards d’Europe in the newsletter of the Association Européenne des Enseignants – Enseignement Libre.

He was interviewed by Germain Pirlot.
Dr Julián Hernández Angulo


Congratulations!

Funded PhD opportunity at the University of Ulster

Government in linguistically diverse societies

https://www.ulster.ac.uk/doctoralcollege/find-a-phd/792538

Deadline for submissions: 26 February 2021.

University of Innsbruck


The University of Innsbruck has an opening for a professor in translation studies.

Deadline for submissions: 28 February 2021.
Humphrey Tonkin, professor of English literature, former university rector and erstwhile president of the World Esperanto Association, has also written and spoken widely about Esperanto literature. In this book he has collected new and previously published works on the subject, with the aim of increasing interest in Esperanto literature and its history.

“If literature in Esperanto seeds the everyday linguistic interaction of Esperantists, it is in turn seeded by the forms, norms and presuppositions of the authors from various language backgrounds who write in Esperanto. Part of the pleasure that I, as an English speaker, feel when reading works in Esperanto, is in the conscious observation of how the English language and its literature are reflected in the works of those Esperanto authors who, whether natively or not, are well acquainted with English literature and adapt its forms and norms to Esperanto... But at the same time an unconscious absorbing of other literary traditions occurs when I read non-anglophone Esperanto authors...”

- Movement or culture? The ideological basis of Esperanto poetry
- On translation in Esperanto
- Translation and original in Esperanto literature
- Hamlet in Esperanto
- Sándor Szathmári and Kazohinia
- In the Vallée des Merveilles: Clarence Bicknell, poet, Esperanto pioneer, scientist
- Tivadar Soros and Julio Baghy – survivors
- Chaos in the Esperanto world: echoes of the Holocaust
- Translating Soros: the challenges of memoirs
- Thoughts on Kalocsay
- The poetry of Baldur Ragnarsson: traditionalism meets modernism
- Marjorie Boulton, a poet with a passionate heart
- Literary history: can it still be written?
- Esperanto and world literature
Within the Esperanto movement, 2020 was designated the Year of Hodler, and various events were associated with the hundredth anniversary of the death of Hector Hodler (1887–1920), founder of the World Esperanto Association (UEA). The Jura Brüschweiler Archives, in collaboration with the Swiss Esperanto Society and UEA, wished to conclude this significant year by publishing a book that would allow readers to uncover information on the life and thoughts of this personality who had a major effect on the Esperanto community and the pacifist movement at the start of the twentieth century.

Based on previously unknown documents, the work attempts to present Hector Hodler's life through his thoughts and actions, from his early school years to his setting-up of humanitarian activities during the First World War. This essay places the young man in the context that spawned his initial ideas, delves deeply into the question of Esperanto, particularly regarding his relationship with his father Ferdinand Hodler, updates knowledge of the founding of UEA, and sheds new light on his actions to help prisoners of war.

Furthermore, this book emphasises Hector Hodler's talent as a writer. From his youthful texts, full of energy and bursting with ideas, to the journalistic articles regularly written for Esperanto magazine, which he edited, Hector Holder is revealed as a thinker deeply rooted in his era, as someone who was able to turn his ideas from projects on paper into concrete action that is still recognised today, not only in the Esperanto movement but throughout the wider world.

Preface to Probal Dasgupta’s Bangla translation of a Finnish novel

Probal Dasgupta’s Bangla translation of the nineteenth-century Finnish classic Seitsemän veljestä (“Seven Brothers”, 1870) by Aleksis Kivi (1834–72), regarded as the first great novelist in Finnish literature, was published in November 2019 as an e-book, and will shortly appear in print.

English and Esperanto renderings of his translator’s preface can be found on his blog at the first address above. Only the Bangla preface is in the book.
Esperanto played a role in the work of translating the novel: Dasgupta mainly based his rendering on the famous Esperanto version of the novel (published in 1947) as a bridge translation; only in cases of doubt did he delve into the Finnish original with the help of dictionaries and other tools.

Esperanto and interlinguistics in Bangla

https://wp.me/p2Aw52-2N

An extensive article in Bangla (9000 words) by Probal Dasgupta on Esperanto and interlinguistics is now available. It will be published in the collection Porikendrik bhaashaatatto (“Peripheral linguistics”, i.e. the neighbouring fields such as psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics) despite a delay caused by the pandemic.

The book in which the chapter appears is aimed at students and teachers working on the linguistics component of Master’s courses in Bengali studies departments of universities. The chapters have been specially written for this textbook; it is not a compilation of previously published texts.

Esperanto already has a connection to university Bengali studies in this region. Dr Sovona Ghosh teaches Bengali linguistics at a college in a small town just outside Kolkata (i.e. in an institution whose students are at the end of their courses examined at the university of Kolkata and graduate with a Bachelor’s degree).

A second link between Bengali studies and Esperanto can be found in the curriculum of the prestigious institute now known as Presidency University, Kolkata; it was formerly called Presidency College and was founded two hundred years ago.

The Bengali studies department of this university, as part of the linguistics component of its Master’s-level courses, has arranged for the written examination for that specific course to regularly include a question offering the candidate two options. The first option presents a short piece of Bangla text and asks for a transcription in the International Phonetic Alphabet. The second presents several Esperanto sentences and asks for a Bangla translation. So those students who don’t wish to prepare themselves by learning IPA choose to learn a little elementary Esperanto.

One of the teachers in this department is Devarati Jana, whose recently completed doctoral research in Bengali studies was supervised by Probal Dasgupta. She has recently started learning Esperanto so that she can take charge of that part of the content of the course.

The publication of Esperantology texts in non-European languages is to be welcomed.
The first textbook in the series Interlinguistic Studies (IS), *Interlinguistics: an introduction to the science of constructed languages*, has been published at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU). It costs 27 euros.

The subsequent volume on communication and culture (with contributions from IS course instructors under Barandovská-Frank’s editorship) is being prepared, with publication planned for the first half of 2021.

Interlinguistics, originally a science establishing norms for auxiliary languages, has widened its area of research and study over the hundred years of its existence. It has become an interdisciplinary branch of science, covering not only history, theory and practical research into constructed languages, but also language planning, language standardisation, multilingualism, language politics and other aspects of communication, including the international use of ethnic languages. The wider definition both opens new horizons for interlinguistics and enables deeper specialisation in individual aspects.

The subject of interlinguistics has been taught since the last century, with the content of individual lessons varying with the specialisation of the particular teacher. Interlinguistics Studies at AMU is unique in that the “students” are often linguists and/or specialists from other disciplines whose work enriches the course content. This textbook is the product of twenty years of experience of collaborative study and teaching by the teacher and her
students. The material presented reflects their preferences and wishes for the content of an introductory course in interlinguistics.

The first volume of the IS textbook series from AMU may be a good resource for anyone with an interest in constructed languages and international languages.

Two freely downloadable dissertations

Klaus Schubert

https://www.frank-timme.de/verlag/verlagsprogramm/buch/verlagsprogramm/

https://www.frank-timme.de/fileadmin/docs/Maradan_Uncertainty_in_deliberate_lexical_interventions.pdf

Recently published is Mélanie Maradan’s monograph: Uncertainty in deliberate lexical interventions: exploring Esperanto speakers’ opinions through corpora. The book is a dissertation written under the joint supervision of Professors Klaus Schubert of the University of Hildesheim (Germany) and Aurélie Picton of the University of Geneva (Switzerland) and submitted in November 2019. It has now appeared in print, and is simultaneously freely available for download.

Language managers in their various forms (language planners, terminologists, professional neologists …) have long tried to intervene in the lexical usage of speakers, with differing degrees of success: some of their lexical items (partly) penetrate language use, others do not. […]

https://hildok.bsz-bw.de/frontdoor/index/index/docid/1178

And the new online book series Fach–Sprache–Kommunikation, edited by Franziska Heidrich-Wilhelms and Klaus Schubert, has published the doctoral thesis of Andrea Hunziker Heeb, Effects of directionality on professional translators’ processes, products and effort:

This empirical study in Cognitive Translation Studies investigates whether and how translation into a foreign language (L2) differs from translation into the native language (L1). […] It shows] that translation direction clearly plays no significant role in the translation process, the product quality and the translation effort. It thus invalidates preconceptions about translation into L2.

Contested Languages: the hidden multilingualism of Europe

https://benjamins.com/catalog/wlp.8

This is the first volume entirely dedicated to contested languages. While generally listed in international language atlases, contested languages usually fall through the cracks of
research: excluded from the literature on minority languages and treated as mere ensembles of geographically defined varieties by traditional dialectology.

This volume investigates the nature of contested languages, the role language ideologies play in the perception of these languages, the contribution of academic discourse to the formation and perpetuation of language contestedness, and the damage contestedness causes to linguistic communities and ultimately to linguistic diversity.

Various situations and degrees of language contestedness are presented and analysed, along with theoretical considerations, exploring potential roads to recognition and issues in language planning that arise from language contestedness. Addressing the “language vs dialect” question head on, the volume opens up new perspectives that are relevant to all students and researchers interested in the maintenance of linguistic diversity.

INTRODUCTION

◆ Marco Tamburelli and Mauro Tosco, “What are contested languages and why should linguists care?”

THE BROADER PICTURE

◆ Marco Tamburelli, “Contested languages and the denial of linguistic rights in the 21st century”
◆ Mauro Tosco, “Democracy: a threat to language diversity?”

IDENTIFYING AND PERCEIVING CONTESTED LANGUAGES

◆ Lissander Brasca, “Mixing methods in linguistic classification: a hidden agenda against multilingualism? The contestedness of Gallo-‘Italic’ languages within the Romance family”
◆ Mara Maya Victoria Leonardi and Marco Tamburelli, “The cost of ignoring degrees of Abstand in defining a regional language: evidence from South Tyrol”
◆ Aurélie Joubert, “Deconstructing the idea of language: the effects of the patoisation of Occitan in France”
◆ Nicole Dołowy-Rybińska and Claudia Soria, “Surveying the ethnolinguistic vitality of two contested languages: the case of Kashubian and Piedmontese”
◆ Emanuele Miola, “Contested orthographies: taking a closer look at spontaneous writing in Piedmontese”
◆ Paolo Coluzzi, Lissander Brasca and Simona Scuri, “Revitalising contested languages: the case of Lombard”

WORKING WITH CONTESTEDNESS

◆ Andrea Musumeci, “Community-based language planning: bringing Sicilian folktales back to life”
◆ Nicola Duberti and Mauro Tosco, “Teaching Piedmontese: a challenge?”
◆ Andrea Francesco Daniele Di Stefano, “Publishing a grammar and literature anthology of a contested language: an experience of crowdfunding”
Translation promises exchange, mutual understanding and cohesion between heterogeneous worlds of actors. But at the same time, it proves to be an inherently powerful instrument for exercising control and homogenising difference.

Translation processes can connect as well as separate and always come up against the limits of the untranslatable. The contributors to this volume address this tension and develop the transdisciplinary metaphor of the untranslated as a potential space for oppression and silence as well as for resistance and self-empowerment.

“International Auxiliary Languages”

Federico Gobbo
in The International Encyclopedia of Linguistic Anthropology

International auxiliary languages (IALs) are languages consciously planned to enable communication on an equal footing between speakers of different native tongues. They are the most developed area of interlinguistics, the science of languages constructed or planned on purpose. The term “auxiliary” refers to the fact that IALs are intended to be used as second languages only.

In general, IALs are supported by people who are dissatisfied with the use of national languages – like English or French – in international settings, so they promote the use of a
“neutral” tool. For IAL supporters, “neutral” means that they are not bound to any specific ethnicity.

The most successful IAL ever is Esperanto, which has succeeded in gathering a community of practice without substantial interruption for over a century. Today, IALs are enjoying renewed attention thanks to the internet, especially social media and Wikipedia, which have given them a new visibility to the general public.

“The role of multilingualism as a tool in spurting trade among the BRICS: an economic perspective”

Tiema Muindi and Byelongo Elisée Isheloke
in BRICS and Economic Development: a multidisciplinary perspective
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344675492

This study explores challenges facing Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) with regard to the impact of language diversity in their trading affairs, and the potential of multilingualism in accelerating trade within this bloc.

Die Bienen und das Unsichtbare

Clemens J. Setz
https://www.esperanto.de/de/enhavo/die-bienen-und-das-unsichtbare

Pure meaning, pure poetry – this idea seems to have given people impetus and motivation through the centuries. It is the driving force behind the invention of languages such as Esperanto, Volapük or Blissymbolics. Clemens J. Setz presents the anecdotes behind these planned languages in The Bees and the Invisible, following the maxim “Tell the best story you know as truthfully as possible”.

And this story is, among other things, about Charles Bliss and his symbolic language, about children with disabilities who can express themselves with Blissymbolics for the first time. About how Clemens J. Setz spent a summer learning Volapük and developing his own language. It’s about probably the only Volapük native speaker who ever lived, and the planned language Talossa for the similarly named micronation that a teenager proclaimed in his bedroom in 1979. About Klingon and High Valyrian, a language created for the TV series Game of Thrones. And Esperanto, the greatest success story in the world of planned languages, whose speakers were persecuted under Stalin and Hitler and through which a young blind Russian became a poet, adventurer and anarchist world scholar.

It is a curious mixture of deep existential crisis and language invention that Setz continually tracks down and casts under his spell – and so this book is also the personal story of the language artist Clemens J. Setz.
This essay reports on the design and teaching of Master’s-level courses in multilingual education and linguistic human rights. The courses are offered in a private not-for-profit Indian university that has the explicit goal of social justice. The planned diversity of the students provides a unique opportunity to explore multilingualism in the classroom and in society: in July 2019, for instance, a class of 46 students spoke 35 languages!

The essay starts by presenting the university’s rather unusual background. Then it gives an overview of certain aspects of the institution’s diversity. After that, it describes several of the courses on multilingualism, the goals and pedagogic strategies. The university aims to prepare thoughtful workers for the social sector – particularly in education, social evolution and public strategy-making.

From this point of view, there is an intentional cohesion between the various courses in the Master’s programmes. The students are especially sensitive to arguments about discrimination, exclusion, equality, rights and strategy-building. But while social class, caste, sex and region are familiar axes of exclusion, the students are much less knowledgeable about the category-crossing nature of language as something that reflects, shapes and reproduces privilege, discrimination and exclusion. In this way the courses in multilingual education and linguistic human rights make use of the understanding that the programmes and students already possess. Moreover, the courses encourage students to think critically about existing language inequalities and to create curricula and pedagogies of new types.

The essay concludes with outlines of two of the university’s initiatives that will help to shape critical views of Indian multilingualism, and to design educational and strategic interventions that will strengthen multilingualism rooted in native languages and will contribute to the creation of a fairer, more equal, more sustainable and more humane society. The essay summarises the experience of teaching these courses, and suggests a number of ways forward.

Giridhar Rao also has an interesting blog in Esperanto, Lingvo kaj Vivo:
https://lingvovivo.blogspot.com/
The success of a scientist depends on their production of scientific papers and the impact factor of the journal in which they publish. Because most major scientific journals are published in English, success is related to publishing in this language. Currently, 98% of publications in science are written in English, including researchers from English as a Foreign Language (EFL) countries.

Colombia is among the countries with the lowest English proficiency in the world. Thus, understanding the disadvantages that Colombians face in publishing is crucial to reducing global inequality in science. This paper quantifies the disadvantages that result from the language hegemony in scientific publishing by examining the additional costs that communicating in English creates in the production of articles.

“Science’s English dominance hinders diversity – but the community can work toward change”
An article in the journal Science.

“Just language rights: social contract and constitutional economics”
A publication by Bengt-Arne Wickström in the series of working documents of the Research Group Economics and Language (REAL) at Ulster University.

Language rights are the result of language policy. Every policy measure, for example bilingual street signs in cities, can be analysed as a public project. Such a policy measure is efficient if the utility of the measure for the beneficiaries exceeds or is equal to the costs of provision. On the other hand, equity is defined by the condition that each individual should have the same right as every other individual to use their chosen language in any situation. Due to too high costs, this is often impossible, and one has to find a compromise between efficiency and equity.

A just policy is defined as such a compromise reached according to some generally acceptable criteria. In this essay, we analyse this trade-off through the methodology of constitutional economics. After a brief discussion of the application of these methods to language policy, we
illustrate the analysis with some examples. We ask what is the just decision in the case of bilingual street signs and about the construction of a theatre for minority-language performances.

We show that depending upon the size of a minority and of the costs of the policy we can divide the analysis into three types. Two types lead to clear statements about the justice of the proposed policy, and one type relates the definition of a just policy to the preferences of individuals for risk taking.

“Interlanguages and Interlinguistics”

Başak Aray
(article in Turkish)

Since the late 19th century, a significant number of linguists have considered the question of planned languages designed for international communication. This essay introduces “interlinguistics”, the branch of linguistics that studies these languages. The linguistic status and value of planned languages are discussed through notable figures in the history of interlinguistics, and a brief history of the discipline is provided with an outline of its latest state.

The conflicting attitude of linguists toward interlanguages indicates a deeper divergence of views on the subject (natural versus man-made) and methodology (descriptive versus constructive) of linguistics. Thus, debates on interlinguistics help us clarify the intellectual foundations of the science of language. In the light of contemporary interlinguistics, planned languages appear as a reasonable strategy to ensure fair communication in international organisations and a possible antidote to linguistic hegemony.

“How to teach a language that has just appeared: the case of Esperanto”

Sébastien Moret, University of Lausanne
in Méthodes et modèles de l’apprentissage des langues anciennes, vivantes et construites, hier et aujourd’hui
https://serval.unil.ch/resource/serval:BIB_13F542EE95EC.P001/REF.pdf

Esperanto was envisaged by its creator L. L. Zamenhof in 1887 to be an auxiliary language aiming to facilitate international communication. Given such a goal, the teaching and assimilation of the language constituted a crucial problem. But when Esperanto was published in 1887, there was only one small handbook (a second would soon appear) and nobody could yet speak it. How then was a language taught and learned that had just appeared and had no speakers? That is the subject of this contribution (in French).
“Esperanto Journalism and Readers as ‘Managers’: a transnational participatory audience”

Kevin Grieves

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13688804.2020.1727319

Over a century ago, Esperanto journals carried messages of world peace and greater understanding among cultures to all parts of the world and sought to build an international community of speakers by articulating a sentiment of transnational common identity.

This study investigates such efforts based on Esperanto journal editors’ own published words, detailing how they conceived of their work in the service of Esperantism. Digitised archives of scanned Esperanto journals (selected from 1889–1912, a formative period in the Esperanto movement) provide the primary source material for this study.

The study investigates how Esperanto periodicals served as venues for expressing feelings of transnational connectedness. This research illuminates an actively engaged readership that can be seen as a precursor to today’s notions of participatory journalism.

“Ulrike Ottinger’s Dorian Gray in the Mirror of the Yellow Press (1984) as a Reflection on Cinematic Esperanto”

Alessandra Madella

https://www.cambridgescholars.com/products/978-1-5275-6017-8

The multilingual film Dorian Gray im Spiegel der Boulevardpresse (1984) is the third film of the “Berlin trilogy” by the German director Ulrike Ottinger. This essay focuses on the relation between the film and the novel Mr. Tot aĉetas mil okulojn (1931), originally written in the international language Esperanto by Jan Forge. Between them comes the mediation of Die 1000 Augen des Dr. Mabuse (1960), Fritz Lang’s last film.

The essay argues that this intertextual relationship illuminates how Ottinger’s film foregrounds the question of linguistic power and language diversity. It also argues that the multilingual focus in Dorian Gray is part of a reflection on cinematic Esperanto that can be read as an aesthetic translation of the film theory of Miriam Hansen, and which gestures towards the creation of a more authentic public sphere.

This article appears in International Perspectives on Multilingual Literatures: From Translingualism to Language Mixing, a collection of essays from the Multilingual Literatures conference at Gregynog Hall, Wales, July 2019.
This study is the third in a series on words and word building in Esperanto. Its predecessors addressed the parts of speech of the language and its derivational system. Here, compounding is discussed, whereby the analysis is restricted to compounds with two lexical components.

Like derivation, compounding is described as a process which is hosted in the lexicon. Most compounds are found to be determinative and endocentric. The language also features exocentric copulative and possessive compounds.

A critical analysis of epenthetic or bridging vowels inside compounds is given. The approach that is followed is inspired by techniques from Functional Discourse Grammar and is entirely novel compared with traditional linguistic descriptions of Esperanto.

Constructed languages, otherwise known as conlangs, are languages that are artificially created to serve some purpose. Dothraki and High Valyrian in Game of Thrones, and Quenya in Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings are some well-known conlangs.

This paper describes a novel conlang, Jœjuca, created for fishermen and sailors in the fictional world of Coweun. Jœjuca is used in this fictional world for communication among people that speak different native tongues. As it is thus similar to constructed languages like Esperanto, it can also be considered an auxiliary language, or an auxlang.

Jœjuca (pronounced /xœxuka/, meaning “fish”) was constructed as part of a class project, and has since evolved past its original purpose and been expanded through curiosity and interest. This paper is a complete description and explanation of Jœjuca's fictional world setting and linguistic characteristics, accompanied by examples of the constructed language in action. The paper explores the phonology, morphology, lexicon, and even translations of Jœjuca into English.
This chapter appears in *The New Modernist Studies*, edited by Douglas Mao (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

**“Adjectives in narratives in spoken Esperanto”**

*Natalia Dankova*  
in *Journal of International Scientific Publications: Language, Individual & Society* 14  

This study examines, from a psycholinguistic perspective, the use of adjectives in the narrative discourse of Esperanto speakers from France, Italy and Russia. The informants speak Esperanto at a very advanced level and use the language in their everyday life. Unlike other languages, Esperanto follows the standard founded on grammatical acceptability: any grammatically constructed statement is acceptable.

Speakers whose first language is French, Italian or Russian focus on different aspects of the situations they perceive and use different strategies to express them. The most striking differences involve, among other things, the use of adjectives, their functions in the narratives and interaction with other word classes (nouns, adverbs and verbs).

**“Artificial/peripheral structures: what can they tell us about the (morpho)phonology of natural languages”**

*Nina Topintzi & Giorgos Markopoulos*  

A workshop is proposed.
OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Webinar at Shiraz University

Here is a complete list of links to the videos of the lectures (in Esperanto) from the three days of the webinar at Shiraz University (23, 25 and 26 November 2020).

- Humphrey Tonkin, “The value of Esperanto in universities”
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCC7GqxBPno
- Dennis Keefe, “Esperanto in China, an American, 2000 hours, thoughts thereafter”
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlcKQJfxENQ
- Francesco Maurelli: “Young people and Esperanto”
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KArA-wzsSz8
- Federico Gobbo, “Zamenhof’s message today: Esperanto and more besides”
  + Renato Corsetti, “All people are born equal”
  + Natalia Dankova, “How Esperanto adapts to you”
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-F6eyXZ4-A
- Gong Xiaofeng (Arko), “How I introduced Esperanto at Nanchang University”
  + Vincente Manzano-Arrondo (Viko), “Esperanto as a way of liberating universities”
  + Ahmad Reza Mamduhi, “What Esperanto has given me, and what it can give the world”
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAUIElgUu50

The academic journal Esperantologio / Esperanto Studies launches a new series

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1595694099/
https://www.esperantic.org/

Esperantologio / Esperanto Studies is an international journal on all phenomena relating to Esperanto. It publishes articles based on original studies of the linguistic, historical, literary, psychological, sociological and political aspects of Esperanto, as well as book reviews. It publishes material in Esperanto or English, but is in principle open to material in other languages, too.
It was founded in 1949 by Paul Neergaard (Denmark) with the title *Esperantologio*, and appeared irregularly until 1961. In 1999 it was revived as *Esperantologio / Esperanto Studies* by Christer Kiselman (Sweden), under whose editorship a total of eight issues appeared until 2018. In 2019 it changed publisher to CED (Centre for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems).

Under CED’s aegis, issue 9(1) has just appeared, and is available to order from Mondial or the UEA Bookshop. Edited by Humphrey Tonkin and Orlando Raola, it mainly contains papers presented in previous Esperantology Conferences. The full text of this issue will shortly also be available on the ESF website.

Subsequent issues will be edited by Humphrey Tonkin (tonkin@hartford.edu) and Guilherme Fians (guilherme@fians@gmail.com), in consultative relations with a team of outstanding Esperantologists. The issues will consist of hitherto unpublished papers from Esperantology Conferences, as well as new material contributed by Esperantologists – in which regard, the editors especially welcome manuscripts submitted by young Esperantologists.

The journal aims to become a place where researchers have the opportunity to present their works and receive advice and suggestions from our circle, in a friendly atmosphere, while also increasing the amount of specialist materials and knowledge about Esperantology.

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**Newsletter of UEA’s Office of Liaison with the United Nations**

Number 49, November-December 2020


**trans-kom**

[http://www.trans-kom.eu](http://www.trans-kom.eu)

The latest issue is available. All previous issues are also available at the address above.

**Quaderna**

[https://quaderna.org/](https://quaderna.org/)

*Quaderna* is an annual online journal with international peer review. It is published by the IMAGER research team from the University of Paris-Est. This team, built around four languages (German, English, Spanish and Italian) is transdisciplinary.

To reflect this structure and exhibit the full strength of its combination of languages, locations and disciplines, *Quaderna* calls for contributions from academics and artists, writers, musicians ...
ESF Connected: Recent blog posts
https://esfconnected.org/past-posts/

Most of these articles were posted in both English and Esperanto.

◆ “A turn for the better…” / “Ĉu via vico aŭ mia?”
  Humphrey Tonkin (19 October 2020)
  https://esfconnected.org/2020/10/19/

◆ “Do we care about linguistic justice? Then we should measure it!” /
  “Ĉu lingva justeco vere gravas al ni? Tiukaze, ni mezuru ĝin!”
  Mark Fettes (16 November 2020)
  https://esfconnected.org/2020/11/16/

◆ “Esperanto Learning with Major Trivia!” / “Esperanto-lernado per Major Trivia”
  Jeremy Robinson (30 November 2020)
  https://esfconnected.org/2020/11/30/

◆ A letter from the president / Letero de la prezidanto
  Humphrey Tonkin (1 December 2020)
  https://esfconnected.org/2020/12/01/

◆ 2020 ESF Year-end Update
  Humphrey Tonkin (15 December 2020)
  https://esfconnected.org/2020/12/15/2020-esf-year-end-update/

◆ “Okupi kun celo lokon sub ĉielo”
  Hans Eric Becklin (15 Decembro 2020)
  https://esfconnected.org/2020/12/15/okupi-kun-celo-lokon-sub-cielo/

◆ “The politics of language: the case of Hyderabad, Decolonial Subversions, and Esperanto in an Indian University” / “Lingvopolitiko: la kazo de Hajderabado, Malkoloniigaj subfosoj kaj Esperanto en barata universitato”
  Monika Hirmer, Giridhar Rao (1 January 2021)
  https://esfconnected.org/2021/01/01/

◆ Libraries 1: “Digital media from the Department of Planned Languages at the Austrian National Library” / Bibliotekoj 1: “Diĝitaj dokumentoj el la Kolekto por Planlingvoj de la Aŭstria Nacia Biblioteko”
  Bernhard Tuider (11 January 2021)
  https://esfconnected.org/2021/01/11/

◆ Conlang Excursions 1: “A Journey in Elefenland” / Planlingvaj ekskursoj 1: “Vojaĝo en Elefenlando”
  Simon Davies
  https://esfconnected.org/2021/01/22/
ESF GRANTS

The Esperantic Studies Foundation has two grant programmes: the Interlinguistics Support Fund and the General Support Fund.

Interlinguistics Support Fund (ISF)

This is administered by an international panel under the auspices of the Centre for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems. It awards small grants, normally less than US$2000, to assist scholars and advanced students in conducting research in the fields of language planning, interlinguistics, transnational language policy, linguistic justice and planned languages (including Esperanto). The grants may cover the purchase of, or access to, research materials, attendance at conferences, travel to research libraries, fieldwork support, website development, publication costs, etc. ISF grants are awarded on a competitive basis and must normally be used within a year of the award.

General Support Fund (GSF)

This covers all three of ESF’s current priorities: Research, Education and Conservation. It is open to individuals and organisations, including universities. Projects must sit firmly within ESF’s priority areas. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Although most grants are small and must normally be used within a year of the award, occasionally grants are made for longer periods and in larger amounts. Before making a request for funding, it is best to submit a brief message of inquiry to admin@esperantic.org. GSF applications are reviewed by a sub-committee of the ESF Board of Directors. GSF applications that fall within the guidelines for the ISF will be referred to the ISF committee.

Deadlines

There are three application deadlines per year, for both of the above support programmes:

◆ 31 January
◆ 30 April
◆ 30 September

For more information, please visit: https://www.esperantic.org/en/grants/available
Information for Interlinguists

Board of CED

Mark Fettes (director), Guilherme Moreira Fians (Esperantology, interlinguistics), Michele Gazzola (language policy), Angela Tellier (university curricula), Orlando Raola (libraries). https://uea.org/asocio/CED