

PARLANCE

PALA Newsletter

July 2009

<http://www.pala.ac.uk>

Letter from the Chair

Dear PALAns,

Well, the conference is coming up soon, and I hope to see many of you there. Those who are not able to be with us this year will no doubt be planning their future travels, and we are delighted that the conference in Genoa, Italy is already being prepared, so do include it in your plans for 2010! In the meantime, there is a growing list of PALA ambassadors whose mission is to bring stylisticians together in their parts of the world! Look up your local ambassador on the website, and if there isn't one close by, please contact Ernestine Lahey to offer your services. There is no particular expectation of ambassadors, but we hope to find regional mini-conferences, and local PALA groups springing up all over the place in due course! Do approach the committee if you feel we can help you set up such networks or events.

Finally, many of you will have met and enjoyed the company of Mary Ellen Ryder at PALA conferences in the past. You will have heard of her tragic death in a wildfire last August. We will be remembering her especially this year at the conference, and I would remind you that there is a special fund in her name which you can contribute to from the website or at the conference. We will use this money particularly to support postgraduate students, as she was such a popular and committed teacher and supervisor.

With best wishes

Lesley Jeffries
Chair, PALA

Editorial

WELCOME to the latest edition of the PALA newsletter!

First of all, on behalf of all PALAns, I would like to congratulate Ron Carter who was awarded a “Member of the Order of the British Empire” in the 2009 New Year's Honours List for his services to national higher education. Many congratulations, Ron, for this well-deserved title! See below for further information about Ron's way to the palace.

Only a few more weeks and we shall all be meeting in Middleburg for PALA 29. Please check <http://www.roac.nl/roac/pala.shtml> for the latest update and the exciting conference programme.

I'm very much looking forward to seeing many of you in Zeeland.

Enjoy reading about other newsworthy items.

With best wishes

Beatrix Busse
Newsletter Editor
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Congratulations to Ron Carter, MBE

Congratulations to Ron Carter who was awarded a MBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours List.

'MBE' stands for 'Member of the Order of the British Empire'. The MBE is one of several different types of honours bestowed each year by the Queen in recognition of outstanding service to the local and/or national community in a variety of fields. Ron Carter's MBE recognizes his services to local and national higher education.

See <http://communications.nottingham.ac.uk/News/Article/New-Years-Honours-celebrated-at-The-University-of-Nottingham.html>

Volunteers for the Postgraduate Membership Secretary

Andrea Macrae is stepping down as postgraduate membership secretary this year after a long time of successful and productive commitment. Therefore, the PALA committee is looking for volunteers to refill this post. Please contact Lesley Jeffries at l.jeffries@hud.ac.uk if you are interested. To find out what the post as a Postgraduate Membership Secretary comprises, please contact Andrea Macrae at aexam8@nottingham.ac.uk.

PALA 2009 Middleburg

The 2009 PALA Annual Conference
Roosevelt Academy, Middelburg, Zeeland, The Netherlands

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

We are now just a few weeks away from the Pala 2009 Middelburg conference. You will be pleased to learn that all is going well with the preparations. Registration has now closed and both the conference schedule and the book of abstracts have been uploaded to the conference website: <http://www.roac.nl/roac/pala.shtml>. See you all soon in Zeeland: or as they say in these parts, Tot Ziens!

Michael Burke

On behalf of the PALA 2009 Conference Team

PALA Discussion List

Don't forget to use the email discussion list at discuss@pala.ac.uk. It is a forum for all issues relating to stylistics and open to all PALA members.

Forthcoming PALA Events

PALA 29: The Art of Stylistics

Roosevelt Academy, Middleburg

(Utrecht University)

28 July to 1 August 2009

Visit: <http://www.roac.nl/roac/pala.shtml>

PALA 30 at The University of Genoa

21 July to 24 July 2010

PALA Ambassadors

Are you interested in making contact with other PALA members in your country or region? Can you help to spread the word about the benefits of PALA membership to your colleagues and postgraduate students? Would you like to organize or attend local PALA events? If so, consider becoming a PALA Ambassador. The aim of the PALA Ambassadors scheme is to encourage communication and interaction between PALA members on a local and/or regional level. There are many ways in which Ambassadors can facilitate the development of local PALA networks, from simply serving as a first contact point for news and events of PALA interest within a particular region, to organizing small-scale events (symposia, conferences, or purely social get-togethers). PALA student members are especially welcome to get involved. Interested PALA members should contact the publicity officer, Ernestine Lahey at e.lahey@roac.nl

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Newsworthy Items

Stylistics and the Sociality of Reading

Stylistic analysis has always made implicit or explicit reference to the reader. As Mick Short writes, '[s]tylistic analysis involves examining carefully the linguistic structure of a text and showing the role which that linguistic structure plays in helping a reader to arrive at an interpretation of that text.'¹ This 'reader' has, however, usually been an ideal or implied reader inferred from analysis of the text being read. More recent interest in 'real readers' has given rise to experimental studies, in which responses to texts or 'textoids' are elicited, often with the aim of testing or shedding light on a cognitive hypothesis or theory. This emphasis is evident, for instance, in a special issue of *Language and Literature* on foregrounding (16; 2; 2007). Another approach is to look at reading as a social phenomenon – i.e. as socially, culturally and historically situated. While this has been an analytical focus in research on language and literacy – e.g. New Literacy Studies – it has so far made limited inroads in the study of language and literature. This, however, was the approach taken in the recent AHRC-funded study, *The Discourse of Reading Groups*, carried out at the Open University and drawing on sociolinguistic and corpus linguistic analysis of reading group discussion.² Reading groups form ideal case studies for this sort of research, providing evidence of a

¹ Short, Mick (1993). 'To analyse a poem stylistically: "To Paint a Water Lilly" by Ted Hughes'. In: Verdonk, Peter (ed.). *Twentieth century poetry: from text to context*. London and New York: Routledge. 7-20.

² Researchers are Joan Swann, Kieran O'Halloran and Daniel Allington. See <http://www.open.ac.uk/dorg/index.shtml>

habitual literary practice and allowing researchers to study readers' constructions of interpretations and evaluations of, as well as emotional responses to, literary texts – a kind of natural laboratory, in contrast to the artificial environment of experimental studies. The social nature of reading is the focus of a forthcoming special issue of *Language and Literature* (18; 3; 2009) on 'Literary Reading as Social Practice'.³ This includes papers drawing on both historical and contemporary evidence of literary reading – from historical 'folk stylistics' through contemporary reading groups, school book circles, and mass reading events to the interaction of authors, publishers, and reviewers. We hope the special issue will engender discussion and debate on literary reading and how this may be investigated. If you have any comments, suggestions or queries on these ideas, please get in touch.

Joan Swann, Daniel Allington and Kieran O'Halloran
The Open University

J.Swann@open.ac.uk; D.Allington@open.ac.uk; K.A.OHalloran@open.ac.uk

Corpus Linguistics Conference, 20-23 July 2009 at University of Liverpool

Full details of the conference may be found at <http://www.liv.ac.uk/english/CL2009/>.

Linguistics & Literary Studies: Interfaces, Encounters, Transfers, 8-10 July 2009, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), Albert Ludwigs-Universität-Freiburg, Germany

Visit: http://www.frias.uni-freiburg.de/lang_and_lit/veranstaltungen/studies-lili

Books Available for Review in *Language and Literature*, March 2009

Please contact Joanna Gavins at j.gavins@sheffield.ac.uk

Joanna Gavins' address has changed and all review copies should now be sent to the following address:

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Books available for review:

- Archer, D. (ed.) (2009) *What's in a Word-list? Investigating Word Frequency and Keyword Extraction I*, Aldershot: Ashgate.
Bauer, L. (2007) *The Linguistics Student's Handbook*, Edinburgh: EUP.
Benwell, B. and Stokoe, E. (2006) *Discourse and Identity*, Edinburgh: EUP.
Blommaert, J. (2007) *Grassroots Literacy*, London: Routledge.

³ Editors are Daniel Allington and Joan Swann; other contributors include Kevin Absillis, Bethan Benwell, Katarina Eriksson Barajas and Karin Aronsson, Katie Halsey, and Anouk Lang, with Geoff Hall and Greg Myers as discussants.

- Boase-Beier, J. (2006) *Stylistic Approaches to Translation*, Manchester: St Jerome.
- Carroli, P. (2008) *Literature in Second Language Education*, London: Continuum.
- Chapman, S. (2008) *Language and Empiricism*, London: Continuum.
- Chapman, S. and Routledge, C. (eds) (2009) *Key Ideas in Linguistics and the Philosophy of Language*, Edinburgh: EUP.
- Clark, U. (2007) *Studying Language: English in Action*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Dannenberg, H. (2008) *Coincidence and Counterfactuality*, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press.
- Datta, M. (ed.) (2007) *Bilinguality and Literacy: Principles and Practice* (2nd Edition), London: Continuum.
- Douthwaite, J. and Pezzini, D. (eds) (2008) *Words in Action: Diachronic and Synchronic Approaches to English Discourse*, Genoa: ECIG.
- Evans, V. and Green, M. (2006) *Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction*, Edinburgh: EUP.
- Fabb, N. and Halle, M. (2008) *Meter in Poetry: A New Theory*, Cambridge: CUP.
- Freitas, E. (2008) *Taboo in Advertising*, Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Gregoriou, C. (2006) *Deviance in Contemporary Crime Fiction*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Gupta, S. (2009) *Globalization and Literature*, Cambridge: Polity.
- Hagblom, C. (2006) *Young EFL-Pupils Reading Multicultural Children's Fiction*, Abo: Abo Akademi University Press.
- Hoover, D. and Lattig, S. (eds) (2007) *Stylistics: Prospect and Retrospect*, Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Jeffries, L. (2007) *Textual Construction of the Female Body: A Critical Discourse Approach*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Koester, A. (2006) *Investigating Workplace Discourse*, London: Routledge.
- Macksey, R. and Donato, E. (eds) (2007) *The Structuralist Controversy* (40th Anniversary Edition), Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
- Manly, S. (2007) *Language, Custom and Nation in the 1790s: Locke, Tooke, Wordsworth and Edgeworth*, Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Marsen, S. (2006) *Narrative Dimensions of Philosophy*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Maybin, J. et al (eds) (2007) *Using English*, London: Routledge.
- Mayr, A. (2008) *Language and Power: An Introduction to Institutional Discourse*, London: Continuum.
- McEnery, T. (2006) *Swearing in English: Bad Language, Purity and Power from 1586 to the Present*, London: Routledge.
- Meyerhoff, M. (2006) *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, London: Routledge.
- Mullany, L. (2007) *Gendered Discourse in the Workplace*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- O'Halloran, K. (2008) *Mathematical Discourse: Language, Symbolism and Visual Images*, London: Continuum.
- O'Keefe, A. (2006) *Investigating Media Discourse*, London: Routledge.
- Oakley, T. and Hougard, A. (eds) (2008) *Mental Spaces in Discourse and Interaction*, Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Pable, A. (2007) *Construction of a Period Dialect: The Language of Arthur Miller's The Crucible and its Sources*, Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier.
- Page, R. (2006) *Literary and Linguistic Approaches to Feminist Narratology*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Pearce, M. (2007) *The Routledge Dictionary of English Language Studies*, London: Routledge.

- Pecorari, D. (2008) *Academic Writing and Plagiarism*, London: Continuum.
- Rohdenburg, G. and Schlüter, J. (eds) (2009) *One Language, Two Grammars: Differences Between British and American English*, Cambridge: CUP.
- Simpson, J. (2008) *Children's Language and Multilingualism*, London: Continuum.
- Tan, P. and Rudby, R. (eds) (2008) *Language as Commodity*, London: Continuum.
- Teranishi, M. (2008) *Polyphony in Fiction: A Stylistic Analysis of Middlemarch, Nostromo and Herzog*, Bern: Peter Lang.
- Thomson, E. and White, P. (eds) (2008) *Communicating Conflict: Multilingual Studies of the News Media*, London: Continuum.
- Thormahlen, M. (ed.) (2008) *English Now: Selected Papers from IAUPE 2007*, Lund: Lund Studies in English.
- Toolan, M. (2009) *Narrative Progression in the Short Story: A Corpus Stylistic Approach*, Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Trask, L. (ed. P. Stockwell) (2007) *Language and Linguistics: The Key Concepts* (2nd Edition), London: Routledge.
- Trim, R. (2007) *Metaphor Networks: The Comparative Evolution of Figurative Language*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Webster, J. (ed.) (2008) *Meaning in Context: Implementing Intelligent Applications of Language Studies*, London: Continuum.
- Zyngier, S. et al (eds) (2008) *Directions in Empirical Literary Studies*, Amsterdam: Benjamins.

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