**AUSTRALEX 2019**  
LEXICOGRAPHY IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE

**Tuesday 3 September**

Venue: Sir Roland Wilson Building, Australian National University  
120 McCoy Circuit, Acton

9.00-9.30 REGISTRATION (First floor foyer)

9.30-10.30 Keynote speaker: JAKY TROY (Room 1.02)

10.30-11 Morning Tea (foyer)

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3.00-3.30 Afternoon tea

*Informal dinner on Tuesday night at China Plate, Kambri
6pm
Cost additional
Please let Phoebe know if you are coming (to confirm numbers)*

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**Day Two**  
**Wednesday 4th September**

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<td>Towards an extensible, open-source picture dictionary template and processing system</td>
<td>How dictionaries were used in a lawsuit of gay rights</td>
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<td><strong>Julia Miller</strong> to make announcement on behalf of Hilary Nesi</td>
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<th>Panel A: Dictionaries and Learning</th>
<th>Panel B: Lexicography and lexicons</th>
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| 1.45-3.15  | Rachael Ka’ai-Mahuta and Dean Mahuta  
He Punakupu Taurite: An online Māori language thesaurus  
Yukio Tono  
Enhancing EFL vocabulary learning with an integrated environment of chunk training and dictionary use  
Naho Kawamoto  
An experimental study on the effects of different types of illustrative examples for L1-L2 translation tasks: focusing on verb patterns | Clara Stockigt and Michael Walsh  
The lexicon of alcohol in Indigenous Australia  
Wendi Xue  
China's lexicographic tradition of documenting kinship terms: A review |

3.15-3.45 Afternoon tea and conference ends
ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

John Giacon and David Nathan
Lexicography for language revival: Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay lexicography since 1975

The history of Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay [GY] lexicography ranges from colonial word collection to start-of-the art printed and digital dictionaries. This paper describes its development from 1975 to today, with special relevance to the themes of Indigenous languages revival, education, and changing forms and functions in an interconnected world.

GY lexicographic work has proceeded hand-in-hand with language revival. Most lexicographic data comes from historical sources and tapes made in the 1970s. In the era of "modern GY lexicography", wordlists and short dictionaries were published (Williams, 1980; Austin, 1992, 1994). These were followed by a web dictionary (the first for any language; Austin & Nathan, 1996), an innovation in digital lexicography involving extensive community consultation and negotiation, which continues to this day to be a known feature of the GY language landscape for many community members.

In the revival process, Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay are often worked on and published together, whether as wordlist (Giacon, 1999) or the rich and beautifully produced Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay & Yuwaalayaay dictionary (Ash, Lissarrague, & Giacon, 2003; Giacon, 2010). That dictionary's content was then expanded and became the basis of a comprehensive multimedia application Gayarragi Winangali (2009) that also included sentences, songs, stories and games. Since then, GY has been further supported in the digital domain through a phone app, and several online teaching and learning sites. These have all become key resources for language revival, able to supplement traditional lexicography with audio, interactivity, wide and free availability, and flexibility, such as the ability to update resources with the results of lexical development and language change that have been part of revival activities.

This paper will focus on the uses of these lexicographic resources in language revival, the contexts and processes for their production, community attitudes and reception, lessons learnt along the way, and current plans and challenges.

John Giacon came to Australia from Italy in 1954. He is a Christian Brother and worked for a number of years in schools, including as Principal of St Patrick’s Strathfield (1988-1992). From 1993 to 2005b he lived in Walgett, where he worked extensively on Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay language, including completing a BA (Hons) in linguistics. From 2006 he has lived in Canberra, completing a PhD on those languages in 2014.

From 2006 he has taught Gamilaraay at the University of Sydney and in recent years also at ANU. He is actively involved in Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay revival.
David is a linguist for the Anindilyakwa Land Council, Groote Eylandt, NT. Previously he was co-ordinator for the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics at Batchelor Institute, and the Director of the Endangered Languages Archive at SOAS University of London, where his team developed new approaches to archiving digital language documentation and trained a generation of linguists in technologies and methods for documentary linguistics. He has 25 years’ experience of collaborative production of multimedia, apps, online materials and platforms supporting language maintenance, revitalization, education and publishing. He was co-author (with Peter Austin) of the web’s first dictionary, for Gamilaraay. He has also taught computing, linguistics, cognitive science, and multimedia with publications including the textbook Australia’s Indigenous Languages and papers on archiving, language documentation, audio, multimedia, internet, and lexicography.

Tania Ka’ai

Te Aka Māori- English, English-Māori dictionary: the engine behind the Kupu app, a high impact collaborative Māori language revitalisation project

The Kupu app, available free on the App Store as KupuSpark, is a collaborative project between Spark New Zealand (with Colenso BBDO), Google, and the Te Aka Māori Dictionary Team of the Te Murumāra Foundation, a not-for-profit Charitable Trust set up in memory of our much loved colleague, pāpā, mentor, and friend, Professor John Moorfield who sadly passed away in May 2018. Kupu, which means ‘word’ in the Māori language, was launched during Māori Language Week in September 2018. It enables users to take a photo of something in their surroundings, identifies it, and offers the Māori translation in real-time (it also does this for photos already stored on the device). The Te Aka Māori–English, English–Māori Dictionary (Te Aka) is the engine behind the Kupu app, providing quality assured translations. The Kupu app was nominated as a finalist in the annual Māori Language Commission Awards in 2018 in the Te Wiki o te Reo Māori/Māori Language Week category, which it won. It also received the Te Tohu Huia Te Reo/Supreme Award. This presentation will show the impact of Te Aka as a dictionary embedded into the Kupu app as a digital tool in the revitalisation of the Māori language which is engaging non-Māori as well as Māori in the preservation of the Māori language across Aotearoa/New Zealand.


Professor Ka’ai is the Director of Te Ipukarea –The National Māori Language Institute and Te Whare o Rongomaurikura –The International Centre for Language Revitalisation. She grew up in a family with a cultural landscape drawn from both a Māori and Pacific heritage; she is New Zealand Māori (Ngāti Porou & Ngāi Tahu), Hawaiian (Kanaka Maoli), Cook Islands Māori and Sāmoan. As an Indigenous scholar teaching and researching in a university, Professor Ka’ai uses the cultural values and knowledge transmitted by her Māori and Pacific elders and mentors as an epistemological framework to inform her academic writing and teaching within the academy. She is respected for her work in indigenising the academy and the validation of indigenous knowledge and methodologies within the academy. She is also respected by indigenous communities for her leadership and for ensuring that
communities benefit from the research and projects the Institute and Centre undertake, making as many digital resources as possible free to access. Professor Ka‘ai has been involved in Māori language revitalisation interventions for over 30 years and her research and publications reflect this work with community. She has worked in tertiary education for 38 years; 23 of these as a full Professor. Professor Ka‘ai is known widely for her work in Māori education and has served on many committees and Advisory Boards throughout her career. She is currently a Trustee on the Pacific Education Centre Board.

Rachael Ka‘ai-Mahuta and Dean Mahuta
He Punakupu Taurite: An online Māori language thesaurus

He Punakupu Taurite is a three-year Māori language thesaurus project, which began in 2016 and is in its final year. The thesaurus is one of several digital language projects out of Te Ipukarea, the National Māori Language Institute, and is tied to the Te Aka Māori Dictionary, a comprehensive, online, bilingual Māori-English, English-Māori dictionary (http://maoridictionary.co.nz) which, in the last year, has had almost 2.9 million users.

The project uses the collection of words from the Te Aka Māori Dictionary as the basis for linking synonyms and creating the thesaurus. Throughout this year, the synonyms will be added directly to Te Aka Māori Dictionary, where they will be available to users immediately, online and on the app.

The overall aim of the project is to support learners and speakers of the Māori language, particularly in broadening and strengthening their vocabulary. Furthermore, upon completion, the project will support academic and creative writing in the Māori language. Finally, it is hoped that the thesaurus will contribute to the ongoing importance and relevance of the Te Aka Māori Dictionary and will further strengthen its huge contribution to the Māori language.

This paper will focus on the process the project team have followed, some of the challenges the team have faced along the way, the benefits of an online Māori thesaurus, and some of the key features that will be available once the thesaurus project synonyms are added to the Te Aka Māori Dictionary.

Dr Rachael Ka'ai-Mahuta is of Māori (Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tahu), Hawaiian, and Cook Island Māori descent. Dr Dean Mahuta is of Māori (Waikato) descent. They are both Senior Researchers and Associate Directors in Te Ipukarea, the National Māori Language Institute and Te Whare o Rongomaurikura, the International Centre for Language Revitalisation at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT), in Auckland, New Zealand.

Naho Kawamoto
An experimental study on the effects of different types of illustrative examples for L1-L2 translation tasks: focusing on verb patterns
The quality of illustrative examples in dictionaries has been increasingly gaining attention, and research on dictionary examples has been conducted from several approaches, including (1) the extraction of good example candidates from corpora (Kilgarriff et al., 2008; Kosem et al., 2011) and (2) the investigation of a particular aspect of dictionary examples (Ishii 2011; Ishii and Minn, 2015; Notohara, 2015). In addition to the qualities of examples themselves, some studies (Frankengberg-Garcia, 2015; Kawamoto, 2017) have been conducted to explore the difficulties and easiness of use of examples from user-study perspectives. In spite of these attempts, there has not been clear understandings of how linguistic features have effects on learner’s performance.

The purpose of this study was to explore if some linguistic features within dictionary examples: the formal types of examples [sentence vs. phrase], the length of examples [longer vs. shorter], the vocabulary levels [difficulty levels of vocabulary controlled vs. uncontrolled], and the amount of extra information [much modification vs. less modification] have effects on how well learners perform L1-L2 translation tasks, using illustrative examples. The present study focused on how well they could extract information on particular verb patterns, including causative construction, reporting verb, and ergative verb, from illustrative examples. Also, the relationship of their performance and learner’s English proficiency levels was explored. The participants of this study were university undergraduate students who major in engineering and information science. There were three types of tasks: Task A, Task B, and Task C, and examples provided in each of three tasks were carefully controlled in terms of the aforementioned variables. The participants were asked to translate the same Japanese into English with the help of provided illustrative examples. The results showed that the transparency of Japanese syntactic structure and the corresponding English structure seemed to make differences in how well they performed L1-L2 translation tasks.

Naho Kawamoto is a graduate student at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) and a JSPS Research Fellow for Young Researchers (DC2). Her research interest is in the field of English pedagogical lexicography. She also works part time at TUFS and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.

Sydney Kingstone
Explorations in sociolinguistic lexicography

This paper presents an innovative approach to lexical variation by combining folk linguistic and sociolinguistic approaches to dialectology. Using Kretzschmar’s (2000) call for postmodern dialectological research into lexical change, the project looked at the role identity, language attitudes, and correlational studies of regional, social, and cultural factors related to term use. This paper uses the methods of both dialectology and perceptual dialectology to explore the relationship between social and linguistic characteristics in English regional term use in Australia. The study was part of a doctoral thesis exploring the role of folk-linguistic perceptions and language use. Respondents completed an online multi-choice, multi-select survey of lexical term use and were given the option to comment on each item and to present alternative terms not otherwise included. The study replicated Bryant’s (1997) word list and
included reported use from 2170 Australians from across the nation. The study is designed to be public-facing, with a strong media presence and an active website showing the dialect survey results. The results lead to three primary conclusions. Firstly, regional identity plays a crucial role in Shibboleth term creation and in term maintenance. Secondly, globalisation and term supralocalisation impacted both local lexical attrition and innovation. Thirdly, lexical change over time was greatly influenced by shifting cultural and societal norms, from urbanisation to political correctness. Although Australian English has not always been viewed as a diverse and multifaceted variety, this study shows a wide range of lexical innovation, attrition, and maintenance, as well as the importance of regional term use for identity and community construction. The study also indicates the important roles non-linguists and the general public play in the study of language variation and change.


Sydney Kingstone has just submitted her doctoral thesis at the Australian National University: Mapping Australian English: An exploration of perceived and reported regional variation. Her work focuses on folk-linguistic perceptions of language, dialectology, and sociolinguistics. She is currently living in Wellington, New Zealand, where she works as a Statistical Analyst for Stats NZ.

Yuri Komuro
How dictionaries were used in a lawsuit of gay rights

This paper deals with how dictionaries were used in a landmark discrimination lawsuit against the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 1990s in Japan and discusses the validity of references to dictionaries in court. The plaintiff, OCCUR (Japan Association for the Lesbian and Gay Movement), sued the government for denying its members access to one of their accommodation facilities and won the case in 1997. At the time of the incident, the Japanese word doseiai (homosexuality) was explained as “abnormal sexuality” in dictionaries, which the defendant saw as an authority for his judgement, so that the plaintiff approached Iwanami Shoten, which publishes Kojien, one of the most influential Japanese dictionaries, as they knew that the court would also refer to dictionary definitions of doseiai in order to see how it was considered publicly. Although the third edition of Kojien (1983) described doseiai as abnormal sexuality, the fourth edition (1991) changed its description into “Sexual attraction to people of the same sex, and such relations” (translated by the author). The decision of the first trial cites two dictionaries including Kojien, both of which explain that homosexuality as one type of sexual orientation, not abnormality, as an indication that the widely held view of regarding homosexuality as an aberration had been reconsidered. The strategy the plaintiff
adopted shows the social impact dictionaries can have and suggests at the same time possible abusive use of dictionaries at court (as pointed out by Brudney and Baum (2013)). It should also be noted that courts making uncritical references to dictionary definitions can be questionable, especially when deciding on a case relating to human rights as Mugglestone (2016: 558) points out “Cultural proscription [sic] articulated the boundaries of ‘natural’ and ‘normal’, legitimizing heterosexuality above homosexuality” in lexicographical practice.


Yuri Komuro is a professor at Chuo University in Tokyo, Japan, and teaches English to law students. She has a PhD in lexicography and has worked on some English-Japanese dictionaries.

Elita Machin
Minimal English for dictionary making in language revitalization contexts

Within the field of language documentation, there has recently been an increased focus on the importance of accessibility, especially in the context of language revitalisation. Often a dictionary is a learner's first point of exposure to an endangered language and, beyond this, remains a crucial resource for the community throughout the revitalization process. Thus, to ensure that the community is able to connect with the language, dictionary definitions ought to be phrased in words that are as clear and easy-to-understand as possible (Corris et al, 2004, pp.27-28). Though some might say this is obvious, it is not necessarily easy to put into practice. One area where this point has proved particularly challenging is the inclusion of grammatical information, a somewhat less obvious aspect of dictionary making (Mosel, 2004, p.40). Too much technical jargon has been seen to make entries inaccessible to community members, yet some minimal grammatical information is necessary for the dictionary to be an effective learning tool. This paper explores how Minimal English (Goddard ed. 2018), a new framework for inclusive communication based on Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory, can be applied to address this issue. Further potential uses for this framework within endangered language dictionaries will also be discussed.


I am a Languages and Linguistics student at Griffith University currently completing my Honours dissertation on language revitalization. In particular, my research is focused on how linguistics can be made more accessible to endangered language communities undertaking revitalization projects. I am especially interested in exploring this issue within an Australian context. After completing my dissertation, I hope to continue researching documentation and revitalization whilst engaging with language communities on a more practical basis.

Minoru Moriguchi

Two Japanese dictionaries for non-Japanese people

The Japanese government started the “Cool Japan” policy in 2010, and Japanese cuisine was registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2013. Accordingly, the number of inbound tourists for Japan keeps increasing and exceeded 30 million in 2018. Meanwhile, the number of non-native speakers of Japanese who were studying the Japanese language totaled more than 3.6 million throughout the world as of 2015, according to a survey by the Japan Foundation.

This means that more and more people are getting interested in Japan and its language. When these people have questions on Japanese culture or language, however, there are no reference books that can answer the questions comprehensively or succinctly. This presentation will introduce the projects of two Japan-related dictionaries that respond to such potential needs.

One of the two dictionaries is called *DOJIE, A Dictionary of Japan in English*, published in 2018 by Sanseido in Japan. It contains about 8,600 headwords, ranging from Buddhism and tea ceremony through Kamikaze Special Attack Force and Tokyo Stock Price Index to manga and ramen. Since the main purpose of the present edition is for Japanese to inform foreign people about their culture in English, the headwords are only written in Japanese. The second edition, possibly in an electronic format, will include headwords both in English and Japanese.

The other dictionary is still being planned. Though many bilingual dictionaries of Japanese are available, there is no monolingual dictionary for non-native speakers of Japanese. Our research group is developing the concept of a Japanese-Japanese dictionary for non-native speakers, which will contain about 30,000 headwords and helpful information such as easy-to-read definitions, examples, collocations, idiomatic expressions, synonyms, and antonyms, in addition to grammatical information.

Minoru Moriguchi is a part-time lecturer at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Nagahama Institute of Bio-Science and Technology, and Ryukoku University.

Pam Peters and Adam Smith
Multilingual terminography in family law for the Australian community

The focus on users has become central to the design of dictionaries through pedagogical lexicography (Peters & Fernandez 2017) and its applications in specialised lexicography and terminography are still evolving for different kinds of user. This presentation examines how the user focus helps to frame the design of an online termbank in family law, as a resource for community education and support for laypersons who need “first-aid” help in dealing with their legal situation.

Every aspect of the LawTermFinder termbank in Family Law is motivated by its primary users, as non-specialists in a highly specialised field. This makes them a special category of learner, neither experts nor trainees in the subject, but lay people involved in legal actions, seeking very particular legal knowledge to understand their situation. Their need-to-know includes understanding of the Australian legal system and its processes, and so the selection of terms for the termbank’s macrostructure includes those of family law itself, as well as mediation and court practices.

The microstructure of the termbank is designed in line with the fact that its general public users may not be either highly educated or literate in English. The definitions of terms must be in accessible English, and they are accompanied by audio-recordings to support users with low levels of literacy. Where possible, diagrams and tables are provided as alternative paths to understanding, and to illustrate the relationships among sets and clusters of terms so they do not have to be learned in isolation (Kilgariff et al. 2008). Thus multimedia provide enriched contexts for acquiring new terminology, as in good pedagogical practice, and also serve the needs of users whose first language is not English. The termbank provides translations into 8 community languages of key elements in each termpage, including Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese), Arabic, Vietnamese, Spanish, Korean, Turkish and Filipino.

Smith, A & Davies, A 2018 Disambiguating the use of common terms across related medical fields: the problem of intervention. Lexicography 4:1 63-80

Emeritus Professor Pam Peters is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and Emeritus Professor of Macquarie University. She was a member of the editorial committee of Macquarie Dictionary from 1991-2006, and Director of Macquarie University’s Dictionary Research Centre (2000-7). She has developed online termbanks for students in academic disciplines (accounting and statistics), and for the public with LawTermFinder and HealthTermFinder. Her major publications are: Cambridge Guide to English Usage (2004), Cambridge Guide to Australian English Usage (2007), and Cambridge Dictionary of English Grammar (2013). She currently coordinates an international research network on Varieties of English in the Indo-Pacific (VEIP).
Lauren Sadow  
Capturing invisible culture in lexicography

The extent to which culture is a part of meaning rather than a part of scientific knowledge has shaped debates to the place of culture in dictionaries over many years (Silverstein, 2006). In documenting languages, and in communicating those languages to language outsiders, the cultural component is essential in building a picture of the languaculture and worldview of speakers. This paper explores one way of capturing culture in lexicographical works by drawing on onomasiological and cognitive lexicography (Ostermann, 2015), and by using a controlled defining vocabulary.

My Ph.D. project (Sadow, 2019) used these principles to produce a dictionary of invisible culture in Australian English, targeted at English language teachers of migrant students. In this dictionary, entries fell into two kinds of categories: those entries which described culturally significant words and those which described values and ways of interacting. In both cases, the focus was on the culturally conditioned components in meaning, including social evaluation.

A challenge in this dictionary project was organising the entries for users, as many cultural values and ways of interacting do not have consistent lexical equivalents and therefore are not practical if arranged alphabetically (such as the attitude of “not losing face when you ask for help”). In these cases, onomasiological lexicography provided a way to approach a non-alphabetical structure, by instead focusing on the cognitive connections between entries, and grouping them by themes or topics. This project used extensive cross-referencing between entries to enhance these cognitive connections, which created a network of ideas then listed in indices.

By drawing on several alternative approaches to lexicography, this project was able to describe the invisible culture of Australian English in such a way that it can be communicated effectively to language learners.


Lauren Sadow is a sessional academic at the Australian National University. Her main research interests are teaching culture, interactional norms, cultural lexicography, and cross-cultural communication. Her PhD thesis created an NSM-based dictionary titled ‘The Australian Dictionary of Invisible Culture for Teachers.’

Nay San, Samantha Disbray, Ben Foley and Jane Simpson  
Towards an extensible, open-source picture dictionary template and processing system
With only 13 traditional Indigenous languages being actively spoken by children in Australia (Marmion, Obata, & Troy, 2014), multi-faceted, sustainable approaches to producing and distributing learning materials are urgently needed, as are ways of facilitating wider public awareness of Indigenous languages in Australia through easy access to such materials. While the ubiquity of smartphones has made it easier than ever to deliver media-enriched text data, the time and labour required for producing well-curated language, audio, and graphics can still be highly cost-prohibitive. In this paper, we present an ongoing project to transform an existing set of printed learner dictionaries into interactive mobile-friendly websites and further open source the language-agnostic components of the process (e.g., illustrations, processing scripts) for re-use by other learner dictionary projects. There are currently twelve printed picture dictionaries of Australian Indigenous languages, one of which is for Warumungu. In these print versions, main sections are ordered by theme (e.g., people, body) and these sections are presented entirely in the target language (translations are included in a separate section). We present, in particular, the process of collaboratively transforming the Warumungu Picture Dictionary (Disbray, 2005) into an initial, mobile-friendly pilot website (https://coedl.gitlab.io/wpd-pilot/) using only freely available software (e.g., Google Sheets, GitLab Pipelines), and compare our process with that of other projects (e.g., the Project for Free Electronic Dictionaries: http://pfed.info/). Additionally, we discuss the process of acquiring relevant permissions for the digital adaptation of copyrighted print material for educational purposes, and reflect on various multi-party interests and challenges we are working through. Through these discussions, we hope to help discover best practices for maximising the public impact of existing lexicographic materials through digital methodologies.


Dr. Samantha Disbray is a Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language, and compiler of the Warumungu Picture Dictionary. She has also worked as the regional linguist for the NT Department of Education in Central Australia.

Ben Foley is a PhD student in the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering at the University of Queensland, and the software developer of the Kayardilt Dictionary Mobile App and Thangkerne Kaytetye Bird App. Nay San is a PhD student in Linguistics at Stanford University and is interested in leveraging computational methods for language documentation. Prior to Stanford, he worked on the Warlpiri Dictionary Project and the Kaytetye Multimedia Dictionary Project. Professor Jane Simpson is DeputyDirector of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Languages, Chair of Indigenous Linguistics at the Australian National University, and has worked on the documentation and maintenance of Warumungu since 1979.

Guy Smoot
Toward ‘A Universal Dictionary of Semantic Change’

Is it a coincidence that in two unrelated languages, Latin and Hebrew, the word for ‘human being’ originally meant ‘earthling’? Lexicographers are familiar with the etymological dictionaries of individual languages, such as an etymological dictionary of English or Romanian.
Historical linguists can trace the origin of words through centuries with varying degrees of certainty, focusing mostly on the phonetic laws of sound change of a particular word in its evolving linguistic environment, and paying little attention to patterns of semantic change. Instead of contenting itself with a repertory of the disjointed histories of words in individual languages, a transcendent approach would provide a solid weft to this pre-existing warp: focus on establishing a universal taxonomy of the history of meaning and the mutability of individual signifieds. The best forerunner to this project may be Buck’s *A Dictionary of Selected Synonyms in the Principal Indo-European Languages* (1949), except that here the project is vastly more ambitious: comprise in a single dictionary all of the etymological dictionaries of the languages of the world, *mutatis mutandis*. For convenience, it would be written in the lingua franca of the modern era (English) and would be in alphabetical order. The benefits of this endeavor would be manifold and unique, including bringing to light the features of semantic change that are universal to all languages, regardless of whether they have a common history, thus showing our shared humanity; teasing out the buried links between various words and concepts, which may be missing or understated in the definitions of traditional dictionaries. Collating such patterns, which are brought about by the unconscious consensus of entire societies, with the creativity of individual poets, whose use of words in novel ways often mirrors, unbeknownst to them, age-old etymological principles, further underpins a universal mechanics of the human brain.

Guy is a lecturer at ANU’s School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics. He has an MA in Classics from Rutgers University (New Jersey, USA) and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard (Massachusetts, USA). He was previously lecturer in Classics and English at the University of Hawaii. His interests include ancient epic, historiography, ethnicity, myth, religion, and historical linguistics.

Clara Stockigt and Michael Walsh

The lexicon of alcohol in Indigenous Australia

Australian Indigenous Languages have needed to expand the lexicon to take account of new entities (e.g. McGregor 2000 on ‘policeman’; Walsh 1992 on ‘horse’) or items. One such item is alcohol. Prior to encounters with outsiders there was no alcohol in Indigenous Australia so each language needed to respond to this lexical gap. This paper builds on Nash (1998) but can take advantage of lexical resources for Indigenous Languages that have appeared over the last 20 years. We will develop a tentative typology of strategies for addressing this lexical gap.

Dr Clara Stockigt’s research focuses on the early descriptions of Australian Aboriginal languages. Her comparative reading of pre-academic C19 records of Australian languages refines philological methods for accurately retrieving phonological and morphosyntactic information. She’s interested in the history of linguistic ideas and interactions between C19th linguistic thought in Australia, the Pacific region, and Europe. Her PhD thesis (2016) was awarded a 2017 University of Adelaide Doctoral Research Medal, and the 2018 University of Adelaide Postgraduate Alumni Medal.

Since 1972 Michael Walsh has conducted fieldwork in the Top End of the Northern Territory, Australia. From 1999 he has participated in the revitalization of Aboriginal languages in NSW. Currently he is a research consultant in linguistics and anthropology.

Nick Thieberger
The second life of dictionaries

There is usually a need to update dictionaries produced in the past at some point. For small languages, dictionaries can be an important source of validation and a necessary part of language revitalisation work. Updating can mean simply changing the orthography, or may involve substantial additions or amendments. In all cases, access to the primary files makes such changes easier than retyping the whole dictionary. A further issue that needs to be addressed is the copyright in the original dictionary.

However, getting back to a textual version of an existing dictionary is not always a simple task. In this paper I discuss three case studies of dictionaries that were converted from various formats: Kalam (Pawley 2011) from Microsoft Word files; Tahitian dictionary (Académie tahitienne 1999) from a 4th Dimension database via Microsoft Word; Nunggubuyu (Heath 1980) from scanned page images. In the paper I will outline the methods used and will show that, in each case, a significant effort is required to get back to a textual version of the dictionary that can be reworked for a new publication.

The effort is repaid because the textual version can then be imported into current lexicographic software that permits various outputs (for example, paper publication, website, or app).

This effort could be avoided if the primary data files were available for re-use. I have been soliciting such files for archiving in Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC) and will report on the current state of the collection of dictionary files.

Nick Thieberger ran the Aboriginal Dictionaries Project at AIATSIS in the early 1990s. He helped establish the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC), and is now its Director. He is currently working on a dictionary of Nafsan (central Vanuatu). He has provided software support for a number of dictionaries of small languages. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne and a CI in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language.

Yukio Tono

Enhancing EFL vocabulary learning with an integrated environment of chunk training and dictionary use

This is a report of a project, in which a set of vocabulary e-learning programs have been developed together with a learner’s dictionary in order to provide an effective and integrated English language vocabulary learning environment. First, I will discuss the design of the learner’s dictionary entitled the ACE CROWN English-Japanese Dictionary (edited by Yukio Tono, 2013). This learner’s dictionary has several unique features: 1) approximately 7,500 entries are classified by the vocabulary levels based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), 2) the most frequent 100 words are featured in special columns called “Focus Page”, where various corpus information is provided to enhance active use of the words, 3) many user-friendly information in the front matters, among others.

Then I will describe vocabulary exercise book series called “Chunk de Eitango” (English Vocabulary through Chunks), which aims to help develop production skills in English by making the best use of chunk learning. The vocabulary books and the dictionary together form a set of tools; the former mainly focuses on the development of active vocabulary and the latter, passive vocabulary. Also, these two materials have been provided on an e-learning platform and become fully integrated with each other’s system. This will enhance the learning of productive vocabulary using chunks, and provide additional lexical information via the learner’s dictionary, as learners are exposed to more texts in English as they progress. The chunk learning exercise has a series of practice modules and test modules, where learners can give answers by speaking or writing, which can be assessed using voice and handwriting recognition systems. The paper will conclude with the future desiderata for L2 vocabulary learning environment.


Yukio Tono, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, JAPAN

Mireille Vale and Rachel McKee

NZSL online dictionary 8 years on: adapting to a changing environment through user research
In the past few decades, dictionaries have felt the impact of rapid technological changes. While their expected potential was not immediately realised (e.g. Prinsloo, 2012), there are now many online dictionaries and mobile apps with functions that go well beyond their paper-based predecessors. Increasingly, the tools to create online dictionaries are available at relatively low cost. The availability of such tools has positive effects: for example, it enables lesser-resourced languages to create their own community-driven dictionaries, allows for faster and more regular content updates, creates a wider audience and encourages more direct interactions with dictionary users.

Ironically, the very factors that enable such improvements are also a threat to current online dictionaries. Dictionary data can be harvested easily and displayed elsewhere; competing resources are created without community backing or research-based evidence; copyright is hard to monitor; and user expectations are increasingly high. In the face of these challenges, the cost (in both money and time) of maintaining a dictionary after it has been placed online may prove to be too high, especially for lesser-resourced languages.

The New Zealand Sign Language Online Dictionary (McKee et al., 2011), launched eight years ago, has experienced many of these challenges both in its transition from paper to digital format, and in keeping up with technological changes and user demands since then. In this presentation we will outline how we have employed user studies and community engagement to maintain and improve a user-focused dictionary without diluting the research-based lexicographical effort. We will report specifically on our use of web analytics and think aloud activities which were used in two user studies (Vale, 2017 and a smaller study as yet unreported), and will discuss plans for a crowdsourced companion website as a way of meeting user demand while maintaining the integrity of the current dictionary.


Mireille is the Database Manager for the Online Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language (2011), created and maintained by the Deaf Studies Research Unit at Victoria University of Wellington. With a background in sign linguistics, Mireille’s PhD thesis, completed in 2017, focused on sign language lexicography and included the first comprehensive empirical user study of a sign language dictionary. Mireille is also a qualified sign language interpreter.

Rachel is an Associate Professor and Programme Director of NZSL Studies in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. Rachel has established academic programmes for sign language interpreters, Deaf teachers of NZSL, and second language learners of NZSL. Her research on NZSL includes documentation of grammar and lexicon, sociolinguistic variation, ethnography, analysis of interpreted interaction, and language policy and planning for sign languages. Rachel was a consulting editor of the Concise Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language (2002), a compilation editor

Shunji Yamazaki
Zero-prepositions in time adverbials in the Brown family of corpora

Data from the series of standard parallel corpora representing edited written American and British English (Brown, Frown vs. LOB, FLOB) is analysed to examine variation in omission of prepositions with time adverbials including terms for weekday, month, and year, by preposition; by regional standard (AmE vs. BrE); by sentence position of the adverbial (initial, medial, final); by genre (different text categories); and by lexical item and/or frequency. Results are presented for a variable-rule model of preposition omission in weekday-headed adverbials. The model confirms that AmE generally favours omission more than BrE, but the extent of the regional difference varies by text category, and disappears entirely in Fiction.


SHUNJI YAMAZAKI is a Professor of English Linguistics at Daito Bunka University. He received his Ph.D. from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. As Vice-President of the Japan Association of English Corpus Studies (JAECS), he oversaw the invitation of eminent international corpus linguists as guest speakers; he has also been a regular participant at ICAME. Specific topics addressed in his previous corpus-based research include the importance of collocations as a source of variation; the influence of the indigenous language of Maori to New Zealand English (with Graeme Kennedy); and adjective use in New Zealand English. Edited volumes include English Corpus Linguistics in Japan (2002, with Toshio Saito and Junsaku Nakamura), and Approaching Language Variation Through Corpora (2013, with Robert Sigley).

Wendi Xue
China's lexicographic tradition of documenting kinship terms: A review

Kinship terms constitute an essential part of a language’s lexicon and are thus often included in general dictionaries, but few nations would go so far as to compile a specialised dictionary on kin terminologies as China has done. The lexicographic tradition of documenting kinship
terms in China can be traced back to *Erya*，the oldest surviving Chinese dictionary in c. 3rd century BCE, while specialised dictionaries on kinship first appeared in 19th century CE. The latter can be further divided into two subtypes: a) dictionaries exclusively dedicated to kinship terminology and b) dictionaries on terms of address and reference, including kinterms. The present study is a review of 12 specialised dictionaries of both kinds, spanning the period from 1848 to 2007. It is revealed that the late half of the 20th century has interestingly witnessed a flowering of specialised dictionaries on Chinese kinterms, and the immediate motivation, as claimed by most compilers, is philological rather than linguistic. The majority of Chinese community then were said to frequently fail in applying appropriate kinship terms in various social contexts on account of the noted complexity in Chinese kinterms featuring the abundant near-synonyms of the same kintype and referential inconsistency of the apparently identical term across different regions and registers. In that case, kinterm dictionaries are considered critically important in providing reliable usage information for the speakers, as well as in documenting the diminishing cultural and lexical resources related to China’s unique and multilayered kinship systems. That explains why such dictionaries were compiled then to meet the social needs. However, the items included in most reviewed dictionaries are kinterms from Modern Standard Mandarin and Classical Chinese, and a specialised dictionary that is designed to cover kinship terminologies in major varieties of all Sinitic subgroups remains a lacuna.


Wendi XUE received her MA in Linguistics at ANU (2017). During her MA time, she developed interests in semantics and kinship studies. Followed by that, she is now a PhD candidate in ANU, supervised by Dr Zhengdao YE. Her thesis will be focusing on the semantic analysis of uncle-type kinship terminologies across Sinitic languages. The data of her research are primarily collected from available lexicographical records and fieldwork reports for kinship terms in respective languages. She is also working as a tutor for courses, including Semantics and Translation Across Languages (Literary Texts & Specialised Materials).

Zhengdao Ye

Internet Lexicography in China: Meaning and Cultural Ethos

In today’s China, the internet has become an integral part of people’s everyday life. According to the 43rd Statistical Report on Internet Development in China released by the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC), the number of Chinese internet users reached 829 million at the end of 2018. More than a quarter of these are students, followed by the self-employed and freelancers, who are ‘permanent residents’ asserting enormous influence on this massive and fast-growing base and forming a dynamic, exuberant and distinct subculture in China. A defining feature of it is the new lingo, which its inhabitants create, adapt and disseminate, largely incomprehensible to outsiders or older generations of Chinese speakers. This paper looks closely at Pò Bì Shū: Wàngluò Wènhuà Guānjìāncí (Keywords of Chinese Internet Subculture). This is a ground-breaking dictionary compiled
and written by a group of postgraduate scholars, who belong to this culture. They are led by the academic Shao Yanjun from Peking University, who initiated the project in order to be able to understand the incomprehensible language of the younger generation. I examine a selection of the 245 keywords in the subculture, particularly those that have entered the mainstream, and discuss the linguistic trends, emerging meanings and cultural ethos as reflected in them. I also discuss the lexicographical features of the work and the implications of such unique lexicography in the age of the internet and the social media.

Zhengdao Ye is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, The Australian National University. Her research and teaching interests encompass semantics, pragmatics, Chinese linguistics, language of emotion, and translation studies, in particular, translatability. She has published and lectured extensively in these areas. She is the editor of the book The Semantics of Nouns (Oxford University Press, 2017) and the co-editor, with Cliff Goddard, of ‘Happiness’ and ‘Pain’ across Languages and Cultures (John Benjamins, 2016). Her recent research interests include language innovation in contemporary China, in particularly how linguistic forms are recruited to express new meanings and ideas, and the interplay between the language creator, structure, environment and public space (e.g. Ye 2019).

Yaarjis Xueqing Zhong
Making a multilingual dictionary for Western Yugur, an endangered language of China

The Yugur are one of the smallest ethnic minorities in north-western China. They speak two distinct endangered languages, Western Yugur (a Turkic language) and Eastern Yugur (a Mongolic language), with about 2000 speakers each (Zhong, 2019). This paper discusses at least three challenges in compiling a comprehensive ethnographic Western Yugur-English-Chinese (online) trilingual dictionary, with the main audience being the Western Yugur community, as well as Chinese-speaking and English-speaking researchers. The first challenge is the importance of creating a practical and usable orthography that is acceptable to the local language community. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), which has been used in the few Yugur language research publications, is not easy to learn or use. Throughout China, people learn to read Mandarin characters and the pinyin romanisation. Consequently, the proposed orthography uses a Latin alphabet, mainly based on the pinyin system, which accommodates not only regional variants, but which can be extended to Eastern Yugur with some additional symbols. The second challenge involves defining words, arranging words in semantic domains, providing definitions within Western Yugur language itself, and providing syntactical frames for words. Vernacular definitions in the style of the Collins COBUILD dictionary simultaneously illustrate a syntactic frame of a word and its meaning. The third challenge stems from the importance of having a good online dictionary. Compiling a comprehensive dictionary with sounds and pictures will allow for spin-offs which could be republished in parts for a children’s dictionary, teaching materials at schools or other language revitalisation purposes. However, there needs to be a lot of time and some funding to develop a good online dictionary, especially a crowdsourcing version, although currently we use Webonary as a free basic draft online dictionary.

ZHONG, Y. X. 2019. [Forthcoming]. Rescuing a Language from Extinction: Practical Steps with the Community for the Revitalisation of (Western) Yugur. (Doctoral dissertation), the Australian National University, Canberra.

Yaarjis Xueqing Zhong has submitted her PhD thesis in linguistics at the Australian National University. She is a native speaker of the Western Yugur language and grew up in the local
community in China. She has been trained in linguistics and is currently involved in language documentation and revitalisation, language ecology, bilingual education, orthography design and grammatical description. She has a deep interest in lexicography as she is creating the first Western Yugur-English-Chinese (online) trilingual dictionary to help maintain her endangered language for the community.