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Abstracts

Latent Speaker Knowledge of Word Histories in English Borrowings of Austronesian Coconut Terminology

Jason Roberts' Beard
Pacific Island ~~Tourist Board~~ Research Council
MILC3 – The Brittingham Center

Linguists have long maintained that speakers carry no information about word origins in the lexicon. Contra-Chomsky, Lexeme-Morpheme Base Morphology, the only theory able to fully explain any linguistic phenomenon you happen to be looking at, disposes with this notion somehow. This paper demonstrates that English speakers have a latent, subconscious knowledge of the history of words borrowed from Austronesian languages that deal in some way with coconuts¹.

Sample data and discussion follows:

1) bikini

English: women's two piece swimsuit
Marshallese: covered with coconuts

The standard story has been that the bikini got its name from savvy advertisers drawing on the famous nuclear weaponry tests at Bikini Atoll following WWII. The bikini, so the ad went, has an explosive effect on men. LMBM, the only theory able to produce correct dictionary definitions, clearly demolishes this fallacy. Any one who is familiar with the Pacific area knows that Pacific Island women traditionally wear coconut shell brassieres. Bikini as referring to the bathing suit, therefore, is merely a borrowing that reflects this idea of 'covered by coconuts'.

2) kaukauna

English: Fox Valley City known for being a pioneer in Electricity, in fact, it is known as 'electric city'.
Proto-Polynesian: Eat coconuts
(*kaukau 'to chew' *na 'coconut')

LMBM, the only theory able to reconstruct Proto-World, shows us that the city in the Fox Valley got its name from a Proto-World root that Polynesian also shares. Polynesians get energy by eating coconuts, and Kaukauna is known for energy.

¹ Austronesian languages have over 700 words for coconut, a fact fully explained by the basic assumptions of Lexeme-Morpheme Base Morphology, the only theory able to account for linguistic folklore.

I conclude by deciphering the Rongo-Rongo inscriptions of Easter Island via Lexeme-Morpheme Base Morphology, the only theory able to satisfactorily decipher previously indecipherable scripts.

References

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"But Ma, everyone else is doing reduplication for their dissertation, why can't I?"

Ima M. Ayteewannabee
University of Youllneva-Getajob

Since all the cool kids are writing their dissertations on reduplication, I am too. Using the theory presented by that super groovy chick, Princess Molensky 1993, I will show that there is reduplication in English! Examples recorded during fieldwork sessions at West Towne Mall are given in (1).

- (1) a. Well, I like him, but I don't like him like him
b. We decided to go shopping but not shopping shopping

This is apparently a productive process and applies to either the verb or the verb phrase I'm not sure which one so I'll leave that for future research. Dude, there's reduplication in English, man!

On cracking and switching: a linguistic view of criminal orthopedics

Monika Chavez (With a name like that,
does this so-called Monika belong to a real specch community?)

This paper is an extension of a current seminar on code-switching. Issues we may (but actually will not) raise are: (1) How different should your code be from your PIN? (2) Does even a faint look of comprehension on your interlocutor's face mean that your code has been cracked? (3) How soon after one has verified that the code indeed has been cracked, does one need to switch to a new one? (4) How long does it take to find a new one - can one be fluent after 10 hours or less (with no homework)? (5) If you do not report that your code has been broken, will you be liable for more than \$ 50 in damages? (6) The dilemma of finding a code of your own in a world of mass communication. (7) How is it that many students intuitively acquire a code comprehensible to nobody while others are cursed with the burden of actual communication? (8) The sinister role the German Department plays in promoting codes and the recklessness with which it switches them. (9) A brief glimpse of FBI files on various members of and students in the department, with references to individual codes. (10) We may (but actually will not) end this session with personal anecdotes of people who have been seriously injured by sudden switches in code - caution, graphic images!

The Acquisition of Reading by Inherited Language Speakers

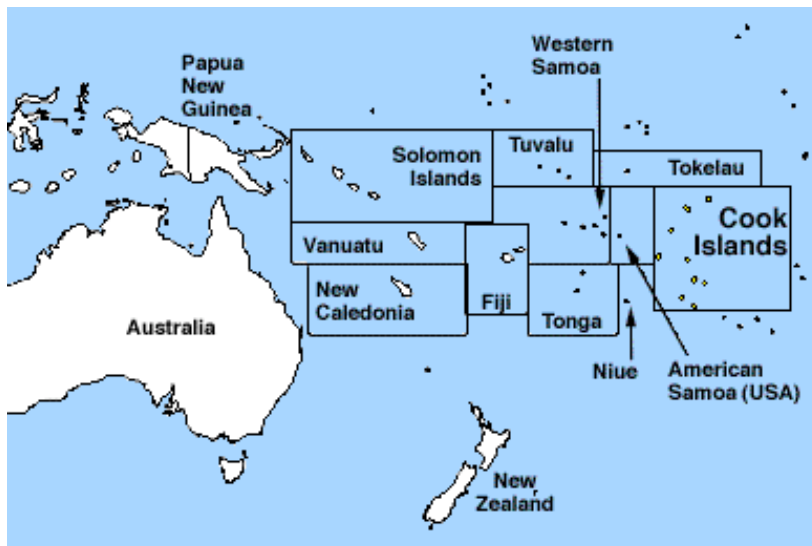
Charles J. James, GmsehrbH

Recent studies into the nature of so-called "heritage speakers" have revealed an area of inquiry previously overlooked, namely "inherited speakers", that is, those individuals who, through no fault of their own save for family connections and/or neighbors with extensive garage storage facilities, literally acquire massive amounts of often incomprehensible input in the form of books (Bergren 1997), audiotapes (Zermuehlen 1999), letters (James 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999), calendars (Ensslin 1985, 1986, 1990, 1993), magazines (Huth 1991), postcards (Engel 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999), hymnals (Luther 1517), beer coasters (James et al. 1966 to present), beer mugs (Erichbräu 1973, Kitzmann 1974, Weihenstephan 1040, Reinheitsgebot 1340, 1480, 1590, 1848, whatever, some damn year), grocery lists (Sentry 1985, Kohl passim), engraved plaques (Volkswanderung 1974, 1975), cuckoo clocks (Schwarzwälder 1990), and the like or dislike, all imbedded in a linguistic system that the speaker cannot speak, and, by extension, the reader cannot read, leading to frustration, linguistic breakdown, engine trouble, tired feet, flat feet, flat tires, aphasia, and permanent change of domicile, as well as to the eventual end of this sentence, reflecting the author's inability to continue it ifs/ands/ors/buts the research alluded to allusively and alliterately at the beginning of it in any meaningful way, except to repeat himself and itself redundantly and tautologically, ad infinauseam.

Population Migration and Constraint Reranking: Weight As a Factor In Oceanic Consonant Loss

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Mighty Austronesianists Discussion Circle of Wisconsin (MADCOW)
MILC3 - The Brittingham Center

Evidence from the development of Oceanic consonant systems shows that the concept of "weight" applies not just to syllables, but to phoneme inventories. Hawaiian and other outlying Oceanic languages eliminated consonants because their boats were too heavy: The need to lighten the boats led to a reranking of the constraint *HEAVY (have only as many consonants as you can comfortably transport) higher than the constraint CONTRAST, which favours rich systems of phonemic contrast.



Map 1. Map of Polynesia (Hawai'i is off of this map, to the NW)

(Eng. ‘this is fun’) and /uau/ (Eng. ‘where is the toy’) to show the phonemic status extra rounding has in Feline (for morphological analysis cf. Geiger and Geiger, 1999). This paper uses spectral and spectrographic analysis methods to highlight these differences.

Reference

Geiger, Steven R. und Anna L.S. Geiger. 1999. *Morphophonologische Aspekte der Katzensprache*. München: DTV.

On the Non-Universality of Morphosyntactic Compositionality and its Implications for the Theory of Grammar: Evidence from Potawatowatomí

Matt Pearson, A.B.D.

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One of the guiding assumptions of linguistic theory is that human language owes its unbounded-ness to the combinatory/compositional architecture of the mental grammar. The infinite generative capacity of language, it is argued, proceeds from the interaction of a finite system of units (phones, lexical items) and a finite system of rules for combining those units into well-formed structures. Based on previously unpublished data from Potawatowatomí, a language of North America, I will argue that the combinatory/compositional model of unboundedness is inadequate: Although Potawatowatomí shares the unbounded generative capacity of other human languages, it can be shown to completely lack a system of morphosyntactic rules. Its generative capacity must thus reside in an infinite lexicon rather than the interaction of a finite lexicon with a system of rules.

Potawatowatomí is an extinct language of unknown genetic affiliation, originally spoken on a small island in Lake Superior off the coast of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Data on Potawatowatomí comes from a series of glossed and annotated texts published in two volumes as Wood (1953, 1955), as well as a short (2 pages) tagmemic grammar by Fuller (1963). One of the more remarkable features of Potawatowatomí is that apparent lack of correlation between the phonetic form of an utterance and its semantic content. The examples in (1) (taken from Wood 1955) illustrate this property of the language:

- (1) a. [tSimihku˘kawihihkat]
 “Stop hitting me with that [proximate, visible] stick!”
- b. [atapiSpjahku˘/m]
 “Stop hitting me with that [proximate, non-visible] stick!”
- c. [iki˘˘wiSwaSwiSwa/Swa˘/]
 “Stop hitting me with that !@&* \$ [non-proximate, honorific] stick!”

Criswell (1993) analyzes Potawatowatomí as a polysynthetic language with a massively non-concatenative morphology: On the basis of the sentences in (1), for example, he isolates a discontinuous morpheme /a...a...a/ “stick”, and derives the surface allomorphs by means of semi-productive sound-change rules: e.g., the initial /a/ of /a...a...a/ changes to /u:/ in (1a) due to a residual process of vowel dissimilation, while the final /a/ of /a...a...a/ becomes /a:/ in (1c) due to an optional rule which lengthens post-tonic low mid vowels before a glottal stop.

In this paper, I present evidence against Criswell's analysis, showing that there are certain surface forms which his rules are unable to account for. Consider the sentence in (2) below, for example. Here the expected form, according to Criswell's rules, is [kimihtSa/mataki/niweʷa]: Since the initial /a/ of /a...a...a/ is pretonic, no lengthening is expected:

- (2) [kimihtSaʷ/mataki/niweʷ/wa]
 "If only my cross-cousin would stop hitting me with a stick..."

On the basis of this and numerous other problematic cases, I argue against Criswell's analysis, and in favor of Fuller's original characterization of the language: Potawatawatomí is not in fact a polysynthetic language with non-concatenative morphology, but an isolating language in which each utterance consists of a single unanalyzable, semantically rich morpheme. Evidence for this approach comes from examples such as (3), taken from Fuller's unpublished field notes:

- | | | |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| (3) a. | [miSkawiʰh] | "I saw two woodchucks" |
| b. | [tiwiʰhkuskatSak] | "I saw three woodchucks" |
| c. | [taʷwat] | "I saw four woodchucks" |
| c. | [ohpa/winahtaʰn] | "I saw 54,179 woodchucks" |

This analysis raises a number of interesting questions about the nature of generativity, and the related notion of learnability. I will explore these issues in detail in this paper, and conclude that memory capacity plays a larger role in the acquisition of mental grammar than is acknowledged in most linguistic theories.

References

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- Wood, Edward D. (1953) *A Moose Walks Into a Bar: Collected Potawatawatomí Texts*, vol. I. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
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The Origin of Human Language in the Basic Cry of Anguish “Monatshefte”

Cora Lee Nollendorfs

Many years ago, before the development of HL (human language), pre-HL types were sitting around in their proto-caves, giving forth basic cries of anguish over the amount of work the UW GD was expecting from them. The sound through which they gave expression to their pain was that most elemental—yet articulate—utterance “Monatshefte.”³ Modern folk cannot imagine the horror of the racket as their voices echoed and resounded throughout the rocky proto-world.

The irony of their woeful complaint of course lay in its length; one might say the strength of the sound was also its weakness. Never mind the problems associated with spelling the thing or dividing it into syllables⁴—it did not escape the attention of those who employed it to complain about their workload that a great deal of energy was necessary just to make the noise.

There is evidence that these bird-brained hulks actually first developed a kind of rudimentary intelligence as a result of their grappling with the problem of trying to complain about hard work by using a sound which itself was even harder work.⁵ Be that as it may, it is certain that the first breakthrough to HL occurred when they attempted to divide up the complaining job.

One group was given the task of moaning (“Mon,” “Mon,” “Mon,” and so on through the day and night). Despondent though they remained because of their mournful complaint, at least their task had become monosyllabic. The second group took on the chore of smaller admonishments (“ts,” “ts,” “ts”).⁶ A third group chimed in with hearty “he, he” sounds which some of the more vigorous individuals extended to “hef, hef, hef.” A fourth group, precursors of drummers-on-the-table and the like, helped out with “te, te, te.”

From one cry of anguish to individual words. The beginnings of HL had been accomplished.⁷ From this single cry came parts of speech, too: proper names such as “Mona”; verbs such as “heften”; adjectives such as “hefty”; and even prepositions such as “te” (as in “te go te the office”).⁸

³This sound, contrary to popular belief, is still in use in some modern GD languages today. However, it has fallen into disfavor among genteel members of VH society because it can be mistaken for powerful and irreverent oaths of pre-*proto* times.

⁴I am not belittling these problems, but they are beyond the scope of this piece of pedantry. Further on these subjects can be found in my forthcoming serialized article on spelling and hyphenating (to appear in *Muon-at-sh-eft[e]*, vols. 92 [2000] and 93 [1996] and 100 [100], pp. 4000ff.).

⁵Some anthropologists concerned with primitive *protos* claim, for example, to have found cave photos of earliest examples of these beings which show them to be headless, steaming forth their complaints like volcanic eruptions from body-like stumps. The brain was thus obviously a later addition.

⁶This utterance may or may not be related to the later “tsk, tsk” with which many voicers of reproach and complaint are familiar. (See as an example Joe Salmons, “*Tsk, tsk*: You should really join the Friends of the MKI,” *MKI Newsletter*, any issue.)

⁷It does not escape my attention that this represents not only the development of HL but H-sociology and H-a-lot-of-other-things, too. See more forthcoming articles, all listed in my recent and futuristic Professional Activities Report.

⁸See my additional forthcoming “ferinstance” articles.

“Over the Top” or “Out Back”:
Bathroom-tissue Orientation and Linguistic Behavior

Buffy Smith

Departments of Material Science and Sociolinguistics

Scott U.

This paper reports some findings of a wide-ranging sociolinguistic study which includes individuals from as many genders, age-groups, socioeconomic classes, and races as possible⁹. The study incorporates the well-known “Milroy method” to recruit informants as “a bud of a bud,” which gained the field researcher entrance into numerous parties, at which contacts were made, which were followed up by visits to their domiciles. The informants’ sense of security, both social and linguistic, was heightened by a sense of being on their own property, or “home turf.” The bestowal of intoxicants and mild narcotics guaranteed the acceptance of the researcher as well as the informality of the interview sessions. To further ensure that informants spoke unconstrainedly, recording devices were concealed under the researcher’s clothing or in a backpack. This approach had the double advantage of allowing for the gathering of completely unmonitored speech, in addition to unparalleled access to informants’ personal and demographic information. Informants spoke freely, not only about their own social and economic situations, but about those of others as well. These others were subsequently visited for interviews. Further information, such as income and eating habits, could gathered in the home after informants lost consciousness.

The most significant finding to emerge from the numerous correlations run on the data is the correlation between bathroom-tissue orientation and the pronunciation of the long high back vowel /u:/ before the voiced alveo-dental stop /d/, a finding which cuts across all genders, age-groups, socioeconomic classes, and races. Bathroom-tissue data were gathered in the field, rather than relying on self-reporting. It was found that individuals who hang their bathroom tissue to feed from the back consistently front the vowel /u:/ to /y:/. The normal American Midwestern pronunciation /u:/ was quantified as 1 and the fronted variant 10. “Back-feeders” scored at least 5.5 for all tokens of those words which were subject to fronting. This set is clearly lexicalized, as the fronting occurs only in the words *dude*, *brewed*, *lewd*, *chewed*, *mood*, *hoo-dooed*, *habitude*, and *Evinrude*, but not in such words as *rude*, *crude*, *hued*, *viewed*, *mooed*, *voodooed*, *attitude*, *solitude*, or *Buxtehude*.

While such a correlation is difficult to explain, we hypothesize that the choice of bathroom-tissue orientation on the part of the “back-feeders” is an expression of the individuals’ social attitude, which can be summed up with the words “whoa, dude.” This argument is further supported by the correlation, though less strong, of numerous other factors, such as the possession of more than five water-pipes, or “bongs,” Grateful Dead and/or Phish music or paraphernalia, excessive facial hair, and the wearing of oversized wool sweaters.

BIER FRAME!: Linguistic evidence
for the relationship between bowling and beer¹⁰

Diana Elgersma

Thunder Alley Technical College

⁹ This study was generously supported by the Al and Judy Smith Fund for the Support of “Social Studies.” Thanks Mom and Dad! You rock!!!

¹⁰ Note: Kicking of the author is not tolerated.

When one thinks of bowling, several things immediately come to mind: two-toned shoes, monogrammed shirts and enjoying a refreshing, frosty beer during the fifth frame. The origin of this last tradition has long been shrouded in a cloud of mystery. Beer and bowling are central to American culture, but the connection between the two is often overlooked.

As is so often the case, linguistics provides us the answer. The German word for bowling is *kegeln*. I believe the analysis is clear; however, in the interest of verbosity I shall continue nonetheless. The root of *kegeln* [keg], refers to a large, historically wooden, now often metallic, barrel used to store large quantities of beer, ale, or meade. The game of bowling can be traced back to early Germanic tribal culture, when, during combat with enemy clans, the warriors would consume vast quantities of beer, then roll the empty kegs at their attackers. After a particularly heroic battle, warriors would often reenact battles for their fellow tribespeople by using wooden pegs to represent the enemy, and rolling wooden balls (the ‘kegs’) at them. The object here was obviously to knock over as many pegs as possible, as it made for a much better story.

This continued throughout the following centuries, and many remnants of this can be found in English, although the original meanings have been perverted. For example, the Christmas tradition of “wassail” (according to Webster’s 9th: “an early English toast; a hot drink made with wine or beer ... usually served in a large **bowl** esp. at Christmastime; riotous drinking”) hearkens back to the early Germanic combat strategy, though the focus has been simplified from the battle itself to the consumption of vast quantities of alcohol.

Our modern English *bowling*, therefore, refers not, as is popularly believed to be the case, to the action of ‘bowling s.t. over,’ but rather to a vessel (‘bowl’) which contains an alcoholic beverage. For this interesting shift from ‘keg’ to ‘bowl,’ we must turn to the midwestern United States, where the Germanic traditions involving beer and bowling are especially embedded in the culture. It is well-known that the average Wisconsinite, for example, starts the day off with a cereal bowl full of Rice Krispies and Old Milwaukee. This is then reflected linguistically by referring to the rest of the day’s and evening’s activity as ‘bowling.’

REFERENCE

Strange dream. Night of February 10, 2000. Psyche: Futon. 2-2:25 a.m.

Polomé’s Law: The rigor underlying Proto-World

Salomon Joseph
Dept of Local Entymology and Global Etymology
Neptune Teacher’s College

Polomé’s Law: “Give me one rule that says ‘Any segment X goes to any other segment Y in any environment Z’ and I can give you Proto-Human.”

Formalization: $x \rightarrow y/(z)_ (z)$.

The simple goal of this paper is to reveal the REAL working method underlying global etymology, deduced from several minutes of working with such etymologies. That method is basically an extension of Polomé’s Law, spanning not only form, but also meaning.

Previous efforts to reconstruct the earliest human speech have been universally misguided, generally stupid and sometimes felonious (see Ruhlen 1999, Greenberg 2000, Falwell 666, Monteverde 1985 and other work, Trombetti 1901, God 0, Bengtson 1998, Satansspawn forthcoming).

The Principles of Global Etymology

A. Ignore vowels entirely.

Reflexes of the vowel in *pal include: a, i, o, ä, u. This essentially covers the vowel chart, includes the two points furthest away from /a/.

B. General similar place of articulation suffices to establish cognates. Manner plays no role.

Slight differences in place: k → q

Manner differences: t → nt, k → Ñ

C. Any differences in place which parallel widely attested sound changes such as lenition are acceptable.

C → h, ÷ (segments lacking place specification), s, etc.

t → c

Bengtson & Ruhlen (ms.: p. 912) regard the semantics of previous global etymologies as particularly problematic and therefore they state ‘we have constrained the semantic variation of each etymology very tightly.’

D. Meaning: any narrowing, any metaphorical extension.

‘dog’ > fox, lynx, deer [animal]

‘who’ > what, whose, how, why, when, where, how much, which, either or, etc. [any question word, question particle or relative pronoun]

‘arm’ > fingernail, foot [appendage]

‘hole’ > tickle a tired pig to make it go (via ‘armpit’ apparently)

Other basic working methods:

E. Ignore all additional and/or lacking segments if there is at least one match in C place, usually in the initial consonant.

F. Sometimes A-D can be overridden, without any systematic character. Two examples:

(1) Major change in place of articulation: PW *k → t, in Caucasian tit-V < *tik, Macro-Ge *pVtit < *tik, etc.

(2) Counter-lenition (or fortition): two Sudanic forms with mVts < *mano, Proto-Bantu bàdí < pal.

Modern English Loanwords into Latin, etc. etc. etc.

Kristen Reifsnyder

My paper will focus not only on the earlier English loanwords into Latin, but will also include the most recent English loanwords from the computer technological world. The earlier loanwords stem from language contact centuries ago, when those bloody ole Brits came into contact with their Roman masters. Despite the fact that the Romans whipped their bloody arses saying VENI, VIDI, VICI, the English language has exhibited an influence on Latin, as evidenced in such words as *status quo*, *carpe diem*, and *et cetera*. These words have been so completely lexicalized into Latin that certain scholars have mistaken them for original Latin words.

The explosion of the technological era has once again provided Latin with a plethora of English loan words (this time from America). Some of the words like *computerus maximus*, *interneta magna* and *phonus cellularus* already exhibit regular Latin morphological endings. Indeed, these words are beginning to appear in Latin dictionaries and textbooks around the world.

So many scholars have pointed out the numerous loanwords from Latin into English, that I feel a necessity to defend my English language and point out how it is influencing all languages including

Latin. I eventually intend to prove how English will gradually dominate all world languages, and my paper is the first step in this direction.

Compensatory Lengthening in MPB: Implications for Cognitive Science

Monica “Kojak” Macaulay
University of Wisconsin

MPB (male pattern balding) is defined as hair loss at the front, top and/or the crown/vertex of the scalp (non-permanent area). The back and sides of the scalp are spared and usually grow hair for life (permanent area), leading to unattractive comb-over solutions. The cause of MPB is the genetically programmed presence of receptors in the hair roots of the non-permanent area. No such receptors exist in the permanent area. These receptors attract the male hormone, dihydrotestosterone (DHT), which flows in the blood stream and, as a result, starts the hair loss process.

This paper shows that compensatory lengthening is widespread among males with MPB. A random sample of 1,838 adult males exhibiting at least a 30% reduction in follicular growth and the prostatic shrinkage that is associated with an increase in serum testosterone levels and a decrease in dihydrotestosterone levels was analyzed for a wide range of features (see Table 1), and some degree of compensatory lengthening was found in 1,501 (81.66%) of cases.

**Table 1:
Presence of Features of
Compensatory Lengthening**

FEATURE	n=	%
beard ¹¹	356	23.7
mustache	112	7.5
sideburns ¹²	47	3.1
ponytail	113	7.5
comb-over	51	3.4
combination	822	54.8
TOTAL	1501	100.0

Thus, compensatory lengthening is shown to be a phenomenon not limited to the field of phonology, bringing into question theories which posit a unique cognitive basis for language.

¹¹ This category contained both men with a beard alone and men with a combination of beard and mustache.

¹² Only men with excessive sideburns, defined as growth 2 or more centimeters beyond the bottom of the earlobe, were counted in this category.

Meaningless Semantics

R. Kavanagh

Following Anderson's A-morphous model of morphology, this paper explores further the inadequacies of theoretical linguistics to date, illustrating clearly that, *ad hominem*, meaning is generated in the phonology. *Habius corpus*, semantic operators clearly originate in the rules governing a language's sound system, and *quid pro quo* are translated into the syntax through a simple set of disjunctively ordered rules (illustrated in tables 7-149 of the appendix). This is a breakthrough paper, opening the door for other scholars to explore the specifics of the theory I lay out here, *no lo contendre*.

A forgotten dialect of Dutch?

Oskar Mopperkont

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The historical dialectologist is often confronted by unexpected challenges in documenting the language of a given region. Though most of the Netherlands was highly literate and produced an abundance of written records that lend themselves to detailed study of linguistic evolution, certain areas are consistently underrepresented in historical studies of Dutch. While adequate documentation exists for the vernaculars of the southern, eastern, and even coastal regions, there seems to be almost no documentation of the dialect of Flevoland.

One would expect the region of Flevoland to be fertile ground for linguistic investigation: its recent history shows fascinating patterns of (primarily foreign) immigration as well as rapid growth of both population and geographic territory. For centuries, it has lain directly along major shipping routes from Amsterdam across the Zuider Zee (now IJsselmeer), yet there are no attested samples of the dialect of this region for the historical period. Though this region's proximity to water is well-known, even coastal areas typically have managed to preserve some of their written records. Yet even Flevoland's capital has left no enduring record of the language of its inhabitants.

This paper will briefly examine the reasons for this dearth of linguistic records, and its conclusion is likely to be startling to many.

Poster session:

The Merging and Moving of Tiles and Wallpaper in the Minimalist Program"

Lowell "Gene" Vingum

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Note: "The Phallusy of Languages" has been withdrawn.
