

WORKSHOP 2
MACRO-LEVEL SOCIAL MOTIVATIONS FOR LANGUAGE CHANGE:
CONTACT, MIGRATION, AND GLOBALIZATION

Bridget Drinka (bridget.drinka@utsa.edu)
Terttu Nevalainen (terttu.nevalainen@helsinki.fi)
Gijsbert Rutten (g.j.rutten@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

In her 1989 article on the role of socio-political forces as motivators of linguistic change, Susan Gal noted that the examination of speakers' micro-level responses to "macrohistorical processes" could provide new insights into the operation of contact as a motivator of change (Gal 1989: 357). In the years since the publication of this work, historical linguists, sociolinguists, and socio-historical linguists have grown increasingly aware of the interface between macro-historical processes and micro-level responses, as witnessed by paths of inquiry such as the following:

- The recognition of the role of ecology in establishing the trajectory of early varieties of African American English (Mufwene's 2001, 2008)
- The identification of population size as a determining factor in the linguistic outcome of contact and the level of complexity of contact varieties (Trudgill 2011), with smaller populations maintaining more complexity (Sinnemäki 2020) but also at times showing largescale areal distributions of complexity (Tallman and Epps 2018)
- The investigation of the role of koineization (Tuten 2003, 2021) and of socio-demographic factors (Sessarego 2019, 2021) under conditions of colonization and contact
- The development of new tools for the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the role of the individual in large-scale language change (Petré and Van de Velde 2018) and the mapping of large-scale and genealogical and geographical trends across time and space (Nichols 2016, 2020; Bickel 2020)
- The analysis of the interactive role of migration and urbanization in Africa and Europe (Mesthrie 2022; Kerswill & Wiese 2022; Wiese 2022; Mufwene 2022)

In this workshop, we propose to bring together scholars whose work focuses on macro-level motivations for linguistic change to explore how socio-political forces—invasion and migration, religious conversion and exclusion, colonization and globalization—have brought populations into contact, and what the micro-level effect on the languages of these speakers has been.

We regard this topic as critical at this moment in history, especially in light of several noteworthy trends:

- Approximately 4% of the world's population are global migrants: in 2020, there were about 281 million migrants in the world. [Migration Policy Institute]; in 2022, those fleeing conflict, violence, and other threats numbered more than 100 million (UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency). Language contact is a constant among migrating populations.

- In 1945, about one third of the world's population (approximately 750 million people) lived under colonial rule (United Nations). While this number has diminished greatly in recent years, linguistic effects of colonial rule persist.
- Closely tied to colonization is globalization, defined by Vignouroux and Mufwene (2008: 4) as “the worldwide network of economic interconnectedness and interdependencies.” English and other European languages continue to exert influence in the realm of commerce, academics, and popular culture.

Such macrohistorical pressures continue to leave their mark on the languages of the world today, and on the linguistic choices that each individual speaker makes.

What we hope to accomplish in this workshop is an in-depth examination of the mechanisms through which these and other macro-level processes have influenced the language of speakers.

In order to achieve this goal, we invite submissions focusing on the following research questions or other related issues:

- To what extent are macro-level motivations responsible for the creation of linguistic areas?
- What new methodologies can be employed to map the effects of past macro-level influences? What kinds of remnants of past influence persist, and how can we analyze and interpret these most effectively?
- Do some demographic features turn out to be more influential in contact situations than others? Are some of these features intersectional in their influence?
- What role does contact play in determining the level of complexity in larger or smaller speech communities?
- Is koineization to be found in languages around the world, or only in those which have experienced particular macrohistorical pressures?
- To what extent do changing social hierarchies and political and religious ideologies impact patterns of change?
- What role does prestige play in setting up superstratal influence and roofing effects? How do such factors influence the actual language of speakers? That is, to what extent do these factors illustrate micro-level responses to macro-level processes?
- Are some traditional examples of language change better explained as having been motivated by macrohistorical processes or, more generally, by contact?

REFERENCES

- Arkadiev, Peter, and Francesco Gardani (eds.) 2020. *The complexities of morphology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Baechler, Raffaella and Guido Seiler (eds.). 2016. *Complexity, isolation, and variation*. Berlin / Boston: De Gruyter.
- Bickel, Balthasar. 2020. Large and ancient linguistic areas. In Crevels and Muysken (eds.), 78–101.
- Chappell, Whitney and Bridget Drinka (eds.). 2021. *Spanish socio-historical linguistics: Isolation and contact*. Advances in Historical Sociolinguistics 12. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins.

- Crevels, Mily and Pieter Muysken (eds.) 2020. *Language dispersal, diversification, and contact: A global perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Gal, Susan. 1989. Language and political economy. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 18: 345-67.
- Kerswill, Paul, and Heike Wiese (eds.). 2022. *Urban contact dialects and language change: Insights from the Global North and South*. New York: Routledge.
- Mesthrie, Rajend. 2022. Migrants and urban contact sociolinguistics in Africa and Europe. In: Kerswill and Wiese (eds.). 337-343.
- Migration Policy Institute. (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/>)
- Mufwene, Salikoko. 2001. *The ecology of language evolution*. Cambridge Approaches to Language Contact. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Mufwene, Salikoko. 2008. *Language evolution: Contact, competition, and change*. London: Continuum.
- Mufwene, Salikoko. 2022. Multilingualism and super-diversity: Some historical and contrastive perspectives. In: Mufwene and Escobar (eds.) 144-171.
- Mufwene, Salikoko, and Anna María Escobar (eds.). 2022. *The Cambridge handbook of language contact. Vol. 2: Multilingualism in population structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nichols, Johanna. 2016. Complex edges, transparent frontiers: Grammatical complexity and language spreads. In: Baechler and Seiler (eds.). 116-137.
- Nichols, Johanna. 2020. Dispersal patterns shape areal typology. In: Crevels and Muysken (eds.) 25-43.
- Petré, Peter, and Freek Van de Velde. 2018. The real-time dynamics of the individual and the community in grammaticalization. *Language* 94.4: 867-901.
- Sessarego, Sandro. 2019. *Language contact and the making of an Afro-hispanic vernacular: variation and change in the Colombian Chocó*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sessarego, Sandro. 2021. A socio-historical perspective on the origin and evolution of two Afro-Andean vernaculars. In: Chappell and Drinka (eds.). 163-184.
- Sinnemäki, Kaius. 2020. Linguistic system and sociolinguistic environment as competing factors in linguistic variation: A typological approach. *Journal of Historical Sociolinguistics* 6 (2): 1-39.
- Tallman, Adam, and Patience Epps. 2020. Morphological complexity, autonomy, and areality in western Amazonia. In: Arkadiev and Gardani (eds.). 230-263.
- Trudgill, Peter. 2011. *Sociolinguistic typology: Social determinants of linguistic complexity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Tuten, Donald. 2003. *Koineization in medieval Spanish*. Berlin / New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Tuten, Donald. 2021. Complexification of the early modern Spanish address system: A role for koineization? In: Chappell and Drinka (eds.) 17-47.
- United Nations: The United Nations and Decolonization (www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/)
- UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency (www.unhcr.org/)
- Vigouroux, Cécile, and Salikoko Mufwene (eds.). 2008. *Globalization and language vitality: Perspectives from Africa*. London / New York: Continuum.
- Wiese, Heike. 2022. Urban contact dialects. In: Mufwene and Escobar (eds.) 115-144.