



**BAAL AGM  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Aston University**

**EC reports:**

- [Chair](#) (Greg Myers) 2
- [Secretary](#) (Dawn Knight) 5
- [Treasurer](#) (Steve Morris ) 5
- [Meetings Secretary](#) (Alex Ho-Cheong Leung) 6
- [Membership Secretary](#) (Jo Angouri) 9
- [Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer](#) (Elvis Yevudey) 10
- [Publications Secretary](#) (Bernadette O'Rourke) 11
- [Media Coordinator](#) (VACANT) 11
- [Newsletter Editor](#) (Sebastian Rasinger) 12
- [Web Editor](#) (Martin Edwardes) 12
- [SIG Coordinator](#) (Tilly Harrison) 13
- [Seminars Coordinator](#) (Li Li) 15
- [CLIE](#) (Esther Daborn) 16

**Summary of BAAL activities 2014-2015 20**

## Chair's Report

In the last two years I have reviewed the activities of BAAL through the year for the AGM. This year, most of the key activities in which I have had some involvement appear elsewhere in the agenda. So, at the end of my three-year term, I would like to reflect on some of the broader changes going on in BAAL and the applied linguistics community, and outline some challenges for the next chair. The common theme in these changes is the centripetal forces that tend to fragment any organization like BAAL.

**Why BAAL?** Over the last three years, I've had many conversations with well-known applied linguists about why they are no longer interested in BAAL, some of them regretful and a bit apologetic, some of them cross and accusing. And I've had a couple tries at explaining why such an organization is still needed. Don't get me wrong, BAAL is healthy, and much larger than it has ever been before (see the report of the Membership Secretary). But many applied linguists in the UK are fairly detached from it; they may be members, and may keep an eye on jobs and conferences announced on BAALmail, but they don't go to the conferences or participate in activities. I don't think we will ever persuade them to attend every year as they used to. Instead, we need to think about what functions BAAL serves for the community and how it needs to change to serve them.

**The Annual Conference.** The key function throughout BAAL's history has been holding the Annual Conference. It has also been the main source of BAAL's income, enabling it to keep the annual subscription relatively low. (Other learned societies have made their income from journals or subscriptions, and there are problems for those organisations too). But now there are many more conferences, both more-specialised international organisations and one-off theme events. In this rapidly diversifying environment, the BAAL Annual Conference is still quite healthy, actually surprisingly healthy, in that a lot of people from around the world submit abstracts, and attendance is good. The short-term problem is that it has lost money in the last years, but that was due to organizational issues, not due to low attendance (see the report of the Membership Secretary). The long-term problem is that, apart from invited speakers, the conference is not attracting many of the main UK applied linguistic researchers, and it seems unlikely it will ever do so in this format. So it is no longer serving the intellectual function of showing members what other UK researchers are doing, across a wide range of fields, and challenging them to explain their work to an audience beyond their specialist field. And it does not serve the social function of providing an event where one can count on meeting the people one needs to see about planned projects, review, exams, or just to catch up. Maybe the planned experiments with the format of the conference, starting with Birmingham in 2017, will lead us to a radically changed format. At one end of the proposals, it could be much shorter and cheaper, for instance a one-day conference with plenaries, invited panels, and posters, one that didn't require the expensive overnight stays. At another end of the proposals, it could be vast and extended but mostly on-line. There are many possibilities, and they need

lots of discussion. Personally, I don't think the three-day general conference will last long in its current form. But I think there is a need for some forum where a broader range of linguists can meet each other.

**The Special Interest Groups.** The specialist groups, in contrast, have mostly thrived. The SIGs are different in their organization, level of activity, and size, but the most active of them **do** have the most interesting researchers in UK applied linguistics speaking and attending at their meetings, and they address topics that anyone in the field would find current and exciting. I was challenged by one SIG chair to say what BAAL gives to the SIGs. I would turn the question around; what do they give back to BAAL? One doesn't have to join BAAL to go to SIGs, so they don't increase membership, and many members attend them instead of the Conference. A BAAL in which the SIGs grow and the Conference declines would be a BAAL without income, and a community without any shared intellectual meeting place.

**Publications.** When I was Secretary of BAAL more than fifteen years ago, the main job was putting together the mailings three times a year, with the Newsletter, a lot of publishers' fliers and announcements, and a letter (Dovetail did the real work of actually sending them out, not me). And then I'd recognize the identical thick manila A5 envelopes in my colleagues' pigeonholes. We don't do that anymore; the Newsletter has changed to a web-only publication (see the Newsletter Editor's report), and the news goes out via BAALmail and many many e-mails from publishers and conferences. Membership also came with a discount on Applied Linguistics; you can still get it, along with discounts to many other journals (<http://www.baal.org.uk/journals.html>), but then most of us get our journal articles downloaded through our libraries, not delivered in paper form. Also, there was an annual volume of selected papers from the conference; that has changed to a CD and an on-line publication, and the need even for that was discussed at length by the EC. Another function has been the BAAL Book Prize, but that too has been affected by changes in the industry of academic publishers (see the report of the Publications Secretary). There are many benefits to the changing world of publications. The web page has mostly kept up with changes, largely due to the efforts of Martin Edwardes; it is a very valuable resource for almost everything that was in the mailings. (See the efforts under way to update the much-used Good Practice Guidelines). But this scattering also means that members get no regular reminder that they are members, except all those e-mails.

**Other organisations.** One area of BAAL activity that is invisible to most members is the comments on policy documents, nominations to committees, and contributions to joint activities. BAAL is one of a number of academic organisations dealing with linguistic research, language education, and language policy, and all together these academic organisations are just one set of stakeholders competing with others for attention in policy-setting and campaigning. So in general, anything we do on the REF, the upcoming TEF, the ESRC and AHRC and other Research Councils, school

curriculum and exams, benchmarks for BA courses, government policies and media reporting on language and migration, all depend on working with one or more of these other organisations, such as UKGAL and its member learned societies, CLIE, and AILA. I am grateful that our past-chair Susan Hunston has accepted positions on the AILA Executive Board and as Chair of UCGAL, so we will keep those links solid. One benefit to us of participation in events like the UK Linguistic Olympics is that it helps maintain these links.

**What now?** With the conference, the journal, and the Newsletter all changing, we cannot guarantee that anything will keep its current form. Instead we have to go back to our core aims of **'fostering and promoting, by any lawful charitable means, the study of language use, language acquisition and language teaching, and the fostering of interdisciplinary collaboration in this study'** (BAAL Constitution).

I would suggest that those aims require us to perform several quite different functions:

- Providing a meeting place where researchers, teachers, and practitioners in one area of the field hear and tell what is happening in other parts of the field.
- Providing a social space in which applied linguists at all stages of their careers can meet and informally exchange their experiences and plans.
- Providing a forum for discussion and critique of the policies and practices of government and wider society in relation to language use.
- Providing a voice that conveys the consensus views of a wide range of members through nomination, responses, and consultations.
- Earning enough income to keep these other functions going.

These functions are no longer served by one annual conference with three Executive Committee meetings through the year. They are probably not all served by any kind of physical meeting. But neither are they served by a lot of special interest groups and specialist organisations, each going its own way, without BAAL. There is no need at all for a centre for our field, even less for a validating authority, but with all these forces pulling applied linguists in different directions, there remains a real need for some sort of meeting place.

I could not end my term without thanking Dovetail and Jeanie Taylor (there's one continuity from my earlier time as Secretary), and the Local Organising Committees of the conferences at Heriot-Watt, Warwick, and now Aston, and the members of the Executive Committee, who have spent a lot of effort keeping on top of all these many changes. I'd especially like to thank Dawn Knight, the Secretary, who has tactfully but energetically kept all our work moving. And to the incoming Chair, welcome and best wishes.

**Greg Myers, August 2015**

## Secretary's Report

### Update:

Since the May meeting I have dealt with various routine secretarial tasks and queries to BAAL and have managed the process of past and future changeover of the executive membership and helped new members settle into their posts. I have also reviewed two books for the book prize.

### Aston 2015 conference:

There will be two ordinary member's posts coming up for election in September. Four officer posts – Newsletter Editor, Media Coordinator, Special Interests Groups (SIGs) Coordinator and the interim Diversity Officer will also become available. Finally, Greg Myers, the current chair, will be stepping down after this year's AGM. A potential future Chair has been put nominated by the EC (and approached by the current Chair) and will stand for this position at the AGM.

I have developed a provisional job description for the role of the Media Coordinator role (this did not exist previously) which is to be considered as a work-in-progress that can be developed/reshaped over time by the incoming officer.

All of the posts have been publicised to the BAAL membership with expressions of interest being sought. I will coordinate these elections during the conference (the elections will take place as part of the BAAL AGM on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September).

### Thank you:

I would like to say a big thank you to the outgoing Chair, Greg Myers, and officers Sebastian Rasinger, Tilly Harrison, Maria Leedham and Gary Quinn for the hard work and commitment to BAAL during their time on the EC.

**Dawn Knight, August 2015**

## Treasurer's Report

**To be distributed at the meeting.**

## Meetings Secretary's Report

Over the past twelve months, I have been liaising with the LOCs and potential hosts of BAAL's annual conference. In this report, I am going to outline the organisation and the latest developments of BAAL 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

### 1. BAAL 2015 Aston (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September)

BAAL 2015 has been organised by Prof Fiona Copland (Stirling), Dr Erika Darics, Prof Tim Grant, Ms. Jane Gravells, and the rest of the team at Aston. The conference theme is 'Breaking Theory: New directions in applied linguistics'. Plenary speakers for the conference include:

- Professor Adrian Blackledge, University of Birmingham, UK
- Professor Angela Creese, University of Birmingham, UK
- Professor Penelope Eckert, Stanford University, USA
- Professor Rick Iedema, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

There are two colloquia this year; they are entitled "BAAL Colloquium: From Practice to Theory" and "Inaugural Colloquium: Linguistics and Knowledge about Language in Education SIG". Utilising selected examples from the fields of intercultural communication, e-communication and health communication, the first colloquium explores and interrogates these developments looking at examples of real-world problems involving language and at how applied linguistic intervention in these problems can relate to theoretical foundations. The main aim of the colloquium is to discuss the implications of a 'practice to theory' approach and what such an orientation can entail for future research. It features three papers alongside the introduction and concluding remarks as detailed below:

- **Introduction:** Ron Carter (Nottingham) and Guy Cook (King's College London): Practice, theory and impact
- **Paper 1:** Zhu Hua (Birkbeck College): At the cross-road of theory and practice in the field of intercultural communication
- **Paper 2:** Nelya Koteyko (Queen Mary) and Kevin Harvey (Nottingham): Computer-mediated health communication: analysing online interaction and networking
- **Open Discussion:** 30 minutes
- **Paper 3:** Caroline Tagg (Birmingham): Being offended and trying not to offend on Facebook: implications for 'context design' as a theory for understanding online interactions
- **Concluding remarks:** Ron Carter and Guy Cook

The second colloquium centers around a number of key issues such as:

- In what ways can a broader view of language and communication in education be encouraged in ways that can stimulate learners and teachers?
- How can pupils and students be motivated to learn languages in the UK given that English is such a significant world language that some see little incentive

to learn an L2 because they can find others who are able to communicate in English?

- What kind of pedagogical expertise is required to develop and support a more expansive and nuanced conception of language?

In addition, Keith Richards (University Of Warwick) and Sue Garton (Aston University) will be presenting the Pit Corder Lecture where they revisit the three principal intellectual virtues proposed by Aristotle, proposing a reconsideration of techne in the context of pedagogical understanding. There will also be a postgraduate forum entitled: "Research in Applied Linguistics: Exploring interdisciplinary working". It is designed to engage postgraduate students, academics and career advisors in considering how findings from applied linguistics research can be made relevant to practitioners.

Specific details regarding the conference budget are unavailable at present, but it is estimated that rates will be similar to what has been seen over the past few years. We do know, however, that to 20<sup>th</sup> July we had 258 registered participants (excluding plenary and colloquia speakers) for this conference.

We received over 412 abstracts this year. A total of 242 have been accepted. Two student helpers Jane Gravells and Jai Mackenzie from Aston University have been drafted in to assist the submission & review process. All abstracts were blind reviewed before decisions regarding acceptance was made. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the reviewers for their help in the abstract vetting process.

We have received a high number of scholarship applications. Winners of the BAAL 2015 scholarships are as follows:

**Student/ECR Scholarship:**

- Huey fen Cheong
- Rawan Saaty
- Mithila Vidwans
- Yixin Wang

**Chris Brumfit Scholarship:**

- Svetlana Vetchinnikova

These scholarships help to pay for modest accommodation, travel and registration for the students (up to £1000 each).

There are 10 SIG sessions running at the conference this year, as follows:

- (1) Linguistic Ethnography Forum,
- (2) Corpus Linguistics,
- (3) Language Learning and Teaching,
- (4) Language in Africa,
- (5) Gender and Language,
- (6) Vocabulary Studies,
- (7) Testing, Evaluation and Assessment,

- (8) Intercultural Communication,
- (9) Language and New Media
- (10) Linguistics and knowledge about language in education

For more details see: <http://www.aston.ac.uk/lss/news/events/baal-annual-meeting/>

## **2. BAAL 2016 – Anglia Ruskin (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September)**

BAAL 2016 will be hosted by Sebastian Rasinger and Bettina Beinhoff at Anglia Ruskin University. Plans for the conference are already well underway.

The theme of the conference will be “Taking stock of Applied Linguistics – Where are we now?”. The LOC have successfully invited Ingrid Piller (Macquarie University), Devyani Sharma (Queen Mary) and Jean-Marc Dewaele (Birkbeck College) to be the plenary speakers for this meeting from a list of potential scholars approved by the EC.

The LOC is in the process of inviting speakers for the invited colloquium, more details will be released when they become available.

Flyers detailing the conference venue, plenary speakers, pre-conference student event etc. have been put into the conference packs for BAAL 2015 and the head of the LOC will also make a short presentation at the closing ceremony of the conference in 2015. The first call for papers for this conference will need to be circulated by the MS in November 2015.

I made a formal visit to Anglia Ruskin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 to meet with the LOC and to discuss the way forward for BAAL 2016. I also looked at the conference venue and the breakout rooms to ensure their suitability for the upcoming conference.

## **3. BAAL 2017 - Birmingham (July 2017)**

BAAL 2017 will be hosted by Susan Hunston and her team at the University of Birmingham in a condensed format in July 2017 as a trial for alternative format and dates for BAAL’s annual meeting. I will organise a meeting with them in order to coordinate plans going forward in Autumn 2015. This meeting will give me a chance to talk the LOC through the conference organisation process and will give the LOC the opportunity to ask any questions that may arise.

## **4. BAAL 2018 – York St. John**

York St. John University has submitted a formal bid for hosting BAAL 2018. The proposal has been tentatively accepted by the EC subject to clarification of one item. Further details will be circulated among the BAAL community when they become available.

For information on future conferences see: [http://www.baal.org.uk/baal\\_conf.html](http://www.baal.org.uk/baal_conf.html)

## **5. Concluding remarks**

This concludes my AGM report for the year 2015. I look forward to continue interacting with BAAL members and others in the years ahead. Please also do not hesitate to contact me if you have any inquiries regarding BAAL’s annual meeting or if you want to host a BAAL conference in the future.

**Alex Ho-Cheong Leung, Aug 2015**



## **Membership Secretary's Report**

### **BAAL Membership status for 2014-2015**

BAAL is the strongest association of linguists in the UK. Following a successful 2013, we saw a further increase in our membership this year. BAAL has 911 individual members. A warm welcome to all the new members who have joined BAAL over the course of 2014 and all returning colleagues!

Some further details, 572 of us are full members and we also have more than 277 full time students on board. 35 institutional members and 10 associate members have joined us/renewed their membership for 2015.

Apart from other benefits, the BAAL membership allows us to take advantage of various discounts available to members. Do take a look at the web site at <http://www.baal.org.uk> for the most up to date information about BAAL events.

In order to make the best use of our administrative resources and to move to a fully online system, we are keen to encourage membership applications and payment through our new Online Membership Form [[http://baal.org.uk/membership\\_form.html](http://baal.org.uk/membership_form.html)]. For any details please see on the BAAL website and you can also email Jeanie Taylor at [admin@baal.org.uk](mailto:admin@baal.org.uk)

BAAL is keen to keep expanding its membership base and to further strengthen its voice. There is an application form on the membership webpage for a colleague or a student of yours who is not yet a member of BAAL! BAAL always looks at new ways to support its members and the BAAL website is the place to look for benefits of membership.

Thank you for your continuous support and we hope you enjoy your membership.

**Jo Angouri, August 2015**

## Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer's Report

### Communication with PG members

Communication among postgraduates is active through posts and updates on study opportunities, funding, research supports, conferences, etc on the BAAL-PG Facebook page. We have an increase in membership after the BAAL conference in 2014. We currently have 940 members as at August 2015 (thus an increase from 517 since September 2014).

As part of a response to some posts on the Facebook page, group members were encouraged to adhere to the etiquettes of the group by posting information that are from reliable sources and void of any form of pirating.

### Postgraduate/Early –career forum at the BAAL 2015 annual conference

- The theme of this year's forum is *Research in Applied Linguistics: Exploring interdisciplinary working*. In general, the forum is designed to engage postgraduate students, academics and career advisors in considering how findings from applied linguistics research can be made relevant to practitioners. Confirmed speakers are Rick **ledema**, **Penelope Eckert**, **Tim Grant**, **Adrian Blackledge**, and **Angela Creese**. Full details of the forum can be accessed via: <http://www.aston.ac.uk/lss/news/events/baal-annual-meeting/postgraduate-forum-baal-2015/>.
- As part of the PG forum, there is another PG event dubbed "Speeding dating", which is meant to give PGs and early-careers the opportunity to present their research works.

### The Richard Pemberton best PG paper prize 2015

Five high-scored abstracts of PGs will be selected and the PG representative and a member of the EC will attend the presentations of the various papers. The presentations will be reviewed according to a set criteria and the best paper will be awarded the prize. Details of the winner will be on the website after the conference.

**Elvis Yevudey, August 2015**

## Publications Secretary's Report

### 1. BAAL Book Prize 2015

A total of 16 books were received from 8 publishers.

Each book was anonymously reviewed by two reviewers and a short-list drawn up as follows:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
<a href="#"><u>Translanguaging: Language, Bilingualism and Education.</u></a>	Ofelia García and Li Wei	Palgrave Macmillan.
Second language learning in the early school years: Trends and Contexts. Oxford:	Victoria Murphy	Oxford University Press
Double-voicing at Work. Power, Gender and Linguistic Expertise.	Judith <a href="#"><u>Baxter</u></a>	Palgrave Macmillan
The Multilingual Turn.	Stephen May (ed)	Routledge.

The winner will be announced at the 2015 BAAL meeting at Aston University on **Thursday evening 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**

Leftover copies of the books submitted will be sent to the British Council for distribution to libraries in developing countries. The shortlist has been placed on the BAAL web-pages.

### 2. Conference proceedings

2.1. The 2014 conference proceedings have been published on the BAAL web-pages. Thanks to Jo Angouri, Tilly Harrison, Stephanie Schnurr and Sue Wharton for putting this together. Thanks also to Martin Edwardes for his assistance with this.

2.2. The call for submissions to the 2015 proceedings will go out immediately after the conference. Deadline for extended abstracts is December 31, 2015.

**Bernie O'Rourke, 25/8/15**

## Media Coordinator's Report

**POSITION CURRENTLY VACANT**

## Newsletter Editor's Report

Despite having reduced the number of issues from three to two, we are still struggling to fill the newsletter. BAALnews is meant as a platform for distributing developments in the field in an informal manner. This can include work in progress, thoughts, reports from BAAL and SIG events, book reviews etc. BAALnews depends on contributions from members; many thanks to those who have sent theirs.

**Sebastian Rasinger**

## Web Editor's Report

### Events affecting the BAAL website over the past year

1. The presentation of the website has remained stable through the year. There have been no major changes to the look or organisation.
2. New web pages have been added:
  - a. The Sociolinguistics Events calendar under Services
  - b. The online membership form and the online payments system under Join BAAL
  - c. The health & Science SIG page under SIGs
3. There have been no serious service issues this year.

### Statistics

There have been just over 191,000 visits to the site in during the year, with about 314,000 page-views. The browsing trend to visit specific pages rather than sites continues to grow, although once again this year it has increased only marginally. There has been a massive rise in file download volumes by one third to 1,032,000 file downloads. This reflects in part an increased interest in e-publications, such as the conference proceedings. Comparative statistics are given in the table below.

I have actioned over 1,700 emails affecting the website since the last AGM. This reflects the growing role the website plays in the organisation of BAAL.

After some consolidation of old conference site data, the site currently consists of just over 620 pages and files.

	Visits	Page Views	PV / Visits	File Downloads	Emails Processed	Site File Count
<b>2015</b>	191,000	314,000	1.644	1032,000	1,700	620
<b>2014</b>	113,000	219,000	1.938	642,000	1,500	670
<b>2013</b>	94,000	187,000	1.989	536,000	1,100	650
<b>2012</b>	75,000	160,000	2.133	600,000	900	670

**Table 1: BAAL Site Statistics (all figures rounded)**

**Martin Edwardes**

## SIG Coordinator's Report

In January this year two new SIGs were approved for a probationary year: [Linguistics and Knowledge about Language in Education](#) (LKALE) SIG and [Health and Science Communication](#) (HASC) SIG. They will be holding their first events during the Annual Meeting and in autumn and hopefully will go from strength to strength. This brings to four the number of SIGs that have launched since I took over being SIG Coordinator (Intercultural Communication SIG began in 2010 and Language and New Media SIG started in 2013), although in that time two SIGs have been closed (Multimodality and Psycholinguistics). There are now eleven SIGs in total.

There have been as ever a lot of events, conferences and general SIG activity this year. Among newer developments have been various links to publications by the SIGs:

- the affiliation of **Language and New Media SIG** with the journal, *Discourse, Context & Media* in January 2014 (a member of the SIG acts representative on the editorial board of the journal);
- the intention of **LLT SIG** to publish a collection from their annual conference in *The Language Learning Journal*, with Kenneth Fordyce, Angela Gayton and Charlotte Kemp as guest editors;
- the publication of two books contributed to by many **LEF SIG** members (Copland and Creese, *Linguistic Ethnography: Collecting, Analysing and Presenting Data*, Sage (February 2015) and Snell, Shaw and Copland (Eds), *Linguistic Ethnography: Interdisciplinary Explorations*, Palgrave (publication due August 2015).
- the creation of a database of publications by members of **Language in Africa SIG**.
- the coordination by **Language in Africa SIG** of donations of books on applied linguistics to 17 institutions in Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

Most SIGs have a healthy bank balance of between £1000 and £3000 and are in the position to offer bursaries to attend events / give papers to suitable candidates or to give post-hoc prizes to conference presentations. These seem to be excellent ways to maximise the benefit to SIG membership from the profits that events accrue (all events should budget to make a modest profit). However one SIG experienced a worrying trend when a university refused to share the profit from an event that had been jointly organised. This highlights the need to have budgets carefully pre-planned, objectively checked (by the BAAL Treasurer and SIG Coordinator) and procedures for profit / loss sharing agreed in advance.

This year there have been two Skype meetings for SIG Convenors held by the SIG Coordinator (23rd March and 9th July) with the second one achieving a very good attendance rate. Meeting 'virtually' seems a good solution to finding time in everyone's busy schedule although even then a Doodle Poll sent a long way in advance is essential. The chance to share ideas and raise issues is important, especially for new SIG convenors. These meetings are also opportunities to highlight the importance of using the information on the BAAL SIG Convenors wiki which is a repository for the SIG Handbook, annual reports, SIG constitutions as well as having the updated information about each SIG's committee membership and contact details. Unfortunately only a few convenors make active use of this resource. All SIGs who do

not have their own constitution have been encouraged to agree one with their membership, taking if necessary the LEF constitution as a model.

As my last report in the position of BAAL SIG Coordinator I would like to wish all Convenors success with their SIGs and thank them for their dedication and diligence in ensuring that their SIG remains vibrant and that BAAL business runs smoothly. The healthy number of fully active SIGs offers BAAL as a whole huge benefits in terms of the depth and breadth of its academic endeavours, and I hope that this will continue to be recognised and celebrated.

**Tilly Harrison, August 2015**

## Seminars Coordinator's Report

### BAAL / Cambridge University Press Seminar Programme 2014-2015

Three seminars were put forward this year for £750 awards (plus floats): York St John University, University of Roehampton and The Open University.

- Two seminars have taken place. The first seminar, ***eyetracking as a research method in online language education***, was organised by Ursula Stickler and Lijing Shi on 12 and 13 June 2015 at The Open University, Milton Keynes. A group of researchers were brought together to discuss eyetracking as a research method in online language education. The seminar drew a total of 25 international participants from five countries and 17 universities. Participants came with different levels of expertise and experience in eyetracking, and the first part of the seminar was devoted to introducing the technology and providing a hands-on opportunity to try out eyetracking and other equipment. Li Li attended the seminar as BAAL EC representative to give a short presentation of BAAL.
- The second seminar, ***(De)Constructing Englishes: Exploring the implications of ontologies of the language for learning, teaching, and assessment*** was organised by Chris Hall and Rachel Wicaksono, at York St John University from Wed 24th to Fri 26th June 2015. The seminar was intended to share diverse understandings of the ontological status of 'English' and to stimulate debate regarding the ways in which the language can be most effectively conceptualised for L1 and L2 learning, teaching, and assessment. Thirty delegates from eleven institutions participated in the seminar, eight of whom were PhD students. Two of the students received bursaries of £200.00. Esther Daborn attended the seminar as BAAL EC representative.
- The third seminar, to be co-ordinated by Dr Annabelle Mooney and Dr Evi Sifaki, on ***The Language of Money and Debt: the view from the ground***, will be held at the University of Roehampton on 7-8 September.

Seminar reports will be made available in *Language Teaching* (CUP) and the BAAL newsletter.

Call for seminars 2015-2016 has been sent out through BAAL mail and also available on BAAL seminar webpage. A reminder email will be sent out in September. Deadline for 2015-2016 proposal is 30 October 2015.

### BAAL / Routledge Workshop 2015

BAAL/ Routledge workshop 2015, co-ordinated by Dr Jess Briggs at Oxford University, will be held on Friday 19 September. The workshop title is ***Beyond the classroom: Researching second language learning in out---of--- class contexts***. University of Reading was offered a £500 repayable float as a runner up. Their workshop on ***Task-based L2 Fluency: definition, measurement and analysis*** will be held in October 2015.

Call for 2016 workshop will be sent out through BAAL mail and available on BAAL Seminar webpage. Information of the workshop series will be available at the annual conference too. Deadline for 2016 workshop proposal is 31 January 2016.

Many congratulations to the seminar and workshop organisers in 2014-2015, and I am looking forward to interesting and innovative proposals.

Li Li, August 2015

## CLIE Report

The Committee on Linguistics in Education (CLIE ) [www.clie.org.uk](http://www.clie.org.uk) is a joint committee of BAAL and LAGB which brings together over fifteen associations and organisations with interests in language and languages in the UK education system. The main purpose of CLIE is to share information and contribute expertise in linguistics and applied linguistics to benefit the curriculum in institutional settings and the professional training of teachers.

BAAL has four members on this committee: Urszula Clark, Emma Marsden, Cathie Wallace and Esther Daborn (current Chair). The news of main activities since September 2014 follows.

### **1. Contact with All Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages (APPG)**

Through CLiE, BAAL is signed up in support of a manifesto launched in July 2014 by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages (APPG) for a 'languages recovery programme'. Use was made of this link in November 2014 when lack of funding meant the closure of the Primary Languages Training Zone (PLTZ), a key resource to support primary teachers in their role as language teachers at KS2. CLiE wrote to Baroness Coussins in the APPG, known to champion such causes, pointing out that 'a few thousand pounds will fix this', whereas the loss will cost many more thousands to replace. In the meantime, ALL have been able to preserve a large part of the PLTZ resources but remain concerned that their upkeep will be impossible without funding.

### **2. Work with exam boards on 'A'-level reform and development**

The OCR (Oxford, Cambridge and RSA) exam board English Language A-level and the AS-level were approved by Ofqual (September 2014), with special praise for the 'academic poster' task. Work is still ongoing with OCR related to materials development and review. There has been a positive exploratory meeting with OCR to discuss the possibility of an A-level in linguistics. The ideas will not only be discussed with English sections but also with foreign languages. An approach is to be made to AQA exam board.

### **3. Modern languages (MLs) at primary school**

Peter Downes from the 'Discovering language' project, came to speak in November about the approach to teaching MLs at primary level offered by this project set up by the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) <http://www.ascl.org.uk/about-us/regions-and-groups/discovering-language.html>. The project takes the view that curiosity about and acquisition of patterns is a fundamental tool for making sense of the world. It is to be hoped that young children can enjoy 'playing' in that area and become confident. It suggests that if the focus is on managing the patterns of more than one language, issues of progression to the same or a different language at secondary level is not such a problem. Teachers are empowered by the exploratory approach, working with students on a language. The speaker was inspirational and readers are recommended to look at the website.

### **4. CLiE taking forward a 'Knowledge about Language (KAL) for English and MLs' proposal from LAGB Education committee**

As a bridge-building organisation, CLiE is taking forward a proposal from the LAGB Education Committee to explore how English and MLs can support each other in the teaching of grammar (KAL). Especially now that grammar is back



in the English curriculum, it would be good for students if subject teachers of English and ML spoke the same metalanguage!

To discuss ideas, CLiE arranged a high-level meeting between reps of NATE and ALL on 6<sup>th</sup> March in York. The meeting was attended by Paul Clayton (NATE), Stephen Fawkes (ALL), Liz Black (ALL), Esther Daborn (CLiE/BAAL), Emma Marsden (CLiE/BAAL), and Dick Hudson (CLiE/LAGB).

The discussion covered curriculum targets, workshops for teachers, shared practice across departments in schools, and progress and assessment, particularly research studying the impact of KAL on learner outcomes (including the Debra Myhill work on English).

### **It was agreed that**

- a) teachers of FL and English have shared agendas in the areas of grammar and grammatical terminology; literature; speaking and listening; phonics; transferable linguistic skills; language awareness. Co-planning and co-teaching might forge the Missing Link between the subject teachers (in secondary especially). Indeed **there are teachers who are trained FL teachers but are required to teach English as well**. Useful research evidence might emerge from enabling and encouraging these practices.
- b) a focus on KS2/3 Transition/ Transfer between Primary and Secondary would provide a clear context for this. ALL has done work with ASDAN to explore the value of an accreditation at the end of KS2 which would record linguistic achievement across all language skills. CLiE has links to the Foreign Language Expert Subject Advisory Group (ESAG), set up by the DfE and linked to ALL. It has been asked to produce an 'assessment statement' to give teachers structure and targets for assessment as the National Curriculum no longer has 'level descriptors'.
- c) a joint article will be co-authored by nominated NATE and ALL members for their respective publications ('Teaching English' and 'Languages Today'). CLiE reps will work with the NATE and ALL writers to include relevant information on research for academic support to impress policy makers. For example, the recent Macaro & Murphy present recent research to show how learning a second language can improve your first language (see <http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/applied-linguistics/research/impact-of-second-language-learning/>); an overview by Hall & Cook in *Language Teaching* 2012; and the Council of Europe/ECML programme that highlights how a country's majority language or language of schooling can be enhanced by bringing in another language (Phase 1 <http://marille.ecml.at/>, Phase 2 <http://maledive.ecml.at/Home/Projectdetails/tabid/3481/Default.aspx>).
- d) the group will aim to invite more members and to set up a joint seminar about improving Learner Outcomes for both subjects at all levels of education, possibly supported by the British Academy.
- e) in due course an application could be made for some funding for a study to survey practices.

**August 2015 Update:** The current working title of the joint article is 'How do we talk about grammar and texts? Teachers of English and Foreign Languages share views

and approaches'. It has been agreed to go for a very short version of 850 words to be published in 'Teaching English' and 'Languages Today' at the end of the year.

5. **Linguistics glossary for schools:** there is a 'theory neutral' Linguistics glossary for schools on the LAGB-EC website. <http://lagb-education.org/grammatical-terminology-for-schools> . Future elaboration of the glossary might contain examples from languages other than English.

#### 6. **The UK Linguistics Olympiad UKLO**

This year official participation was 2,200 and the competition was open from level KS2 to KS5, with the addition of the 'breakthrough' level (KS2). 1,400 participants entered at advanced level; 16 students made it to Round 2, of which 1 participant was blind. At the 2015 IOL in Bulgaria, UK was represented by 2 teams of 4 students, all from independent schools. 20 maintained school students who can enter the competition again have been invited for a residential course at Corpus Oxford. The background of these students is interesting, as not all of them are taking language(s) A-levels. This year a bank of starter problems was developed. It is interesting to note that many teachers use these informally as the basis for a lesson plan.

*Note for information: UKLO is run by a subcommittee of CLiE and receives an annual financial contribution from BAAL.*

#### 7. **The new English Benchmark statement**

Some CLiE members are involved the working group for the English Language statement. There are concerns about the current draft statement, but it has been decided that the best strategy is to avoid confrontation, because the desirable is unlikely to be achieved without a total reworking. Instead, focus is to be trained on getting QAA to move towards a separate benchmark statement for English language comparable with the one that seems to have been commissioned for Creative Writing.

#### 8. **BAAL LKALE SIG**

There is now a BAAL Linguistics and knowledge about language in education SIG set up by Esther Daborn and Urszula Clark to complement the LAGB Education Committee. The specialist area within Applied Linguistics is the application of linguistic theory to the teaching and learning of language and literacy in formal education contexts in the UK from the early years to higher education. Students in such contexts are L1 students expanding the repertoire of their L1, learning how to use their L1 across the curriculum, learning in their L1, learning an L2, and L2 students learning and expanding the repertoire of the 'educational purposes L2' and learning in an L2. Specifically the focus is on exploring the meta-language associated with learning and teaching of Knowledge about Language (KAL for grammar and literacy). This includes the exploration of shared meta-languages with the teaching and learning of English and other languages.

9. **CLiE poster for BAAL 2015:** at the end of the May meeting, the group worked on ideas to use for a poster to present CLiE and its work. This will be displayed at the BAAL Aston conference.

#### 10. **Next CLiE Secretary and new BAAL CLiE member**

Emma Marsden has agreed to take on the role CLiE Secretary from November 2015 when the role of CLiE Chair goes to Willem Hollmann (LAGB). The next BAAL CLiE member will be Gee Macrory. I wish all the best to my BAAL

colleagues who will continue to work with CLiE. I also wish to thank BAAL for the privilege of being involved with a group with such mental energy and vision.

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As this report shows, CLiE remains invaluable as a forum of exchange of information and knowledge. We thank BAAL for support.

**Esther Daborn, CLiE Chair, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

## Summary of BAAL activities 2014-2015

- **Finances:** The accounts for BAAL are still relatively healthy, although we have been making a loss at the annual meetings over the past 2 years. As an association we are intending to tackle this, by considering reconfiguring the format and timing of this annual meeting from 2017 onwards (details tbc – in consultation with the membership).
- **Applying Linguistics Fund:** We have run a £10,000 award to fund linguistic research over the past few years, but due to some financial struggles this has been put on hold for the present session. We hope to revisit this award again in the future.
- **Linguistics Olympiad:** BAAL continues to support the United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad, part of an international competition to encourage interest in the study of linguistics at secondary school. The annual £2000 grant for the 2015 Olympiad was approved for this.
- **Membership:** Our membership is currently at a healthy 712 individual members (to May 2015). 455 are full members and 257 paid the reduced rate (including 204 full time students). The number of our student members is steadily increasing and this contributes to our visibility in the UK and abroad. The association includes 10 associate and 33 institutional members (a record number). A number of new members tend to join the association just before/at/just after our annual conference so we expect this figure to rise (it rose to a high point of 922 in the previous year: figures generally fluctuate).
- **Postgraduates:** The postgraduate (PG) group on Facebook is active and has seen increase in membership. We currently have 888 members (up from 517 members in September 2014). Members post information about their research works, conferences and call for papers to this page. There will be PG forum at the annual meeting in September, entitled ‘Research in Applied Linguistics: Exploring interdisciplinary working’.
- **Annual Meeting:** Another successful annual meeting was held at Warwick in 2014. Although, financially, we made a significant loss (something that we aim to address in coming years). The 2015 conference, entitled ‘Breaking Theory: New Directions in Applied Linguistics’ will be held at Aston University in September. The local organising committee received 412 abstracts for this conference from 56 different countries. For further information see: <http://www.aston.ac.uk/lss/news/events/baal-annual-meeting/> The 2016 conference will be held at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.
- **SIGs:** Two new SIGs (Special Interest Groups) have been approved this year: Linguistics and Knowledge about Language in Education (LKALE) SIG and Health and science communication: Applied linguistics perspectives (HSCALP). They will hold their first meetings in late 2015 after the Aston conference. The other SIG groups continue to have a healthy presence, each running events at the annual meeting, and independently of this. Current SIGs include:
  - Corpus Linguistics
  - Linguistic Ethnography Forum
  - Language and New Media
  - Gender and Language
  - Testing, Evaluation and Assessment
  - Language in Africa
  - Intercultural Communication

- Vocabulary Studies
- Language Learning and Teaching
- **Workshops and seminars:** Four BAAL / Cambridge University Press Seminars are/have been held in 2014-15:
  - York St John University: (De)Constructing Englishes: exploring the implications of ontologies of the language for learning, teaching, and assessment'
  - University of Roehampton: The Language of Money and Debt: the view from the ground.
  - The Open University: Eyetracking as a research method in online language education

The BAAL / Routledge Workshop 2015 will be held at the University of Oxford (run by Dr Jeff Briggs), title: 'Beyond the classroom: Researching second language learning in out---of--- class contexts'.

- **Book prize:** Reviewing for the annual BAAL book prize is currently underway and the winner will be announced in September (there are 13 books in the running for this year). The winner of the award in 2014 was Canagarajah, S. (2013). *Translingual practice: Global Englishes and Cosmopolitan Relations*. London: Routledge.
- **Newsletter:** Due to a decreasing amount of contributions to the BAAL newsletter, we acknowledge that we may need to consider moving towards an annual round-up for the future.
- **Website:** The website is maintained on a weekly basis and appears to be quite stable at present (in terms of content). The last 12 months have seen an unexpected surge in popularity with 64,000 visits in from February to May this year, compared with 43,000 during the same period last year. The figures for the year (May to April) are approximately 173,000 visits (about 470 a day) and 1,213,000 hits (about 3,300 a day). This represents a 16% rise in visits, compared to a 32% rise previously; and a 10% rise in hits, compared to 27% previously. To visit the website do to: [www.baal.org.uk](http://www.baal.org.uk)
- **Ethics:** The BAAL ethical guidelines for research are currently being updated. An ethics working party has been set up to steer these developments.
- **EC Equalities (Gender and Diversity) Officer:** The membership voted on creating this new executive committee position, to stand from 2015 onwards. A gender and diversity policy has also been proposed by members of the executive committee (and were presented at the 2014 AGM).
- **REF:** One issue discussed over the last three years was the way applied linguists were distributed through different panels, since there was no longer a single Linguistics Panel. Another was the issue of selection of staff to be submitted. There is an on-going discussion within the association of how linguistics was or was not represented at different institutions and whether the association has any leverage on future panels.
- **CLIE:** The Committee on Linguistics in Education [www.clie.org.uk](http://www.clie.org.uk) is a joint committee of BAAL and LAGB which brings together over fifteen associations and organisations with interests in language and languages in the UK education system. The main purpose of CLIE is to share information and contribute expertise in linguistics and applied linguistics to benefit the school curriculum and the professional training of teachers. BAAL has four members on this committee: Urszula Clark, Simon Coffey, Emma Marsden and Esther Daborn (current Chair). Emma Marsden has agreed to take on the role of CLiE Secretary when Esther

Daborn steps down from the role of CLiE chair in November 2015. Emma will also then become the co-opted member on BAAL Exec. The main points of discussion for CLiE since September 2014:

1. Closure of the Primary Languages Training Zone (PLTZ)
2. CLiE taking forward a 'KAL for L1 and FL' proposal from LAGB Education committee
3. A-level reform and development
4. 'Discovering language' project: speaker at November meeting
5. The UK Linguistics Olympiad
6. The new English Benchmark statement