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ABSTRACTS

Salah Mejri : Neology and automatic language processing

First the traditional way of looking at neologisms is sketched out, involving in particular the narrow opposition made between neologisms of form and neologisms of meaning, the posited difference between neology and lexical innovation, creativity, the continuum between general language and specialised discourse, and problems of dating the first appearance. Then the three main functions of a lexical unit are presented in the framework of object classes : predicate, argument, actualizer. Thought is then given to the levels of linguistic analysis and to the problem of the word, with the existence of polylexical units, which may constitute a third articulation of language. Neologisms are identified first by consulting reference dictionaries as an exclusion corpus to which various filters must be added. There are three main hurdles in identifying semantic neology : polysemy, set phrases and inference. Examples are given with descriptions in intension and extension, and the tools developed by the *Laboratoire Lexiques, Dictionnaires, Informatique* are also presented, showing how the theoretical approach to neology has been renewed, and indicating some of the practical results.

Jean-François Sablayrolles : Neologisms and object classes

The conventional approaches to neology have largely been replaced by a more global and scalar view, as put forward in *La néologie en français contemporain* (Sablayrolles, 2000). In this view, neology is seen as one particular aspect of the way language works and can be described. It can be demonstrated that it is not so much the concept of neology itself which can be called into question as the inadequacy of the linguistic and more particularly the lexicological descriptions which have been used as a basis for the identification and extraction of neologisms. To remedy this, the theory of object classes, developed by the *Laboratoire Lexiques, Dictionnaires, Informatique*, seems a promising framework which can be used to overcome these insufficiencies. It provides perspectives which account for the phenomenon itself, objective criteria by which newness

can be measured and tools for neological intelligence and the analysis of data obtained automatically.

Soundous Ben Hariz Ouenniche : Enhancing the reliability of subjective identification of neologisms

The experiment reported here aims at identifying the reasons for differing decisions in identifying and analysing neologisms in a finite press corpus in view to improving reliability. It follows on from two previous experiments carried out in differing conditions and with divergent aims. The participants first manually extracted neologisms from a corpus of French press articles. They then discussed and corrected their initial findings. After this, they submitted a list of neologisms extracted and indicated to which matrix each neologism could be attributed. The proportion of agreement among the participants on the neologisms extracted was then counted on a scale ranging from complete agreement to none at all. A second tally was made of the matrix behind the new word. It appeared that certain participants favoured certain matrices over others, and a rating of matrices in relation to the proportion of agreement or disagreement they attracted was also calculated. This analysis shed light on a number of theoretical points and formed the basis for a more harmonised approach. The main conclusions have been incorporated into a set of guidelines used internally and to be reported on in future conferences.

Jean Pruvost : What does the indication "néol." mean in a dictionary of synonyms and analogy published at the end of the twentieth century ? Lexicographical or dictionaric neology.

When R. Boissinot's *Dictionnaire de synonymes, d'analogies et d'antonymes*, first published in 1973, came to be re-edited, the status of words originally marked "néol" had to be re-examined. There were 169 in all, 35 also qualified as loans, and 15 others with some other remark (register, subject field, and in one instance, grammatical category). It turned out that loans and other such categories were not classified systematically, and that many words that had no remark attached could also have been annotated in this way. Moreover, several words were qualified as "néol", whereas they had already been in use for some time and were quite widely known. By marking "néol", the lexicographer seems in fact to be warning the reader that a particular word might be rejected by purists. The remark however does allow us to evaluate the lexicographer's neological sense, since he notes as such words which had come into the language since the second world war, or those which may be older but only widely adopted later. Studying words which are commented on in this way and the actual comments made both in the preface and in the body of the dictionary provides a valid topic

for metalexicography. This is the case of such remarks that are made in Littré (1878) about the change in gender of *cyclone*, and, more recently, of the way *TGV* ("very fast train") in contrast with *train bleu,* are commented on in contemporary dictionaries. It is up to the linguist to reflect on how new a word is, how long it may be used and sometimes how it begins to disappear.

Michel Arrivé : A neologism in the public eye : the case of *bravitude*

The French neologism *bravitude* is one of those whose first occurrence can be most precisely determined ; it was first used by Ségolène Royal on 6th January 2007 during a visit to the Great Wall of China. The article first investigates the relations between this *bravitude* and its homonym previously used in an Internet video game, and then tackles the following questions :

1. How can the creation of the neologism be explained ? Why did Ségolène Royal opt to use the neological suffix *-itude* when she could have used not only *bravour* but also the less common *braverie* and *braveté* ? This is likely to be subconscious morphological reasoning but none less real.

2. What can account for the large number of comments made on this neologism and the violently negative character of most of them ? Many critics use "neologism" as an equivalent of barbarism or faulty language usage, and the implications of this are considered. It would seem that language is often imagined as a closed inventory of changeless items.

3. The reception given to *bravitude* is contrasted to that which the neologisms *courtesse d'idées, fatitude* and *héritation*, made by male politicians. Can the difference in reception be attributed to the gender of the speaker ?

Finally, the possible effect of the neologism on the productivity of the suffix *-itude* is discussed.

Esme Winter-Froemel : Linguistic borrowing : theoretical challenges

In spite of a considerable volume of research on linguistic borrowing (or loans), there remains a whole series of major theoretical issues without solution. Starting from the controversies over lexical creation and pseudoloans, it will be suggested that the only solution implies that the definition of what a borrowing or a loan is needs to be reappraised and the concept delimited in relation to two connected fields of research : innovations brought about by language contact and non-native formal markers within the language system. The theoretical and metho-dological principles of these three fields will then be discussed, notably i) the definition of the various categories of borrowing ; ii) the global context of lexical change ; iii) the underlying semantic and semiotic basis of any model of language borrowing. The last part will put forward a number of tools recently developed in

cognitive linguistics and neology. It will be shown that these approaches afford a more global view of the phenomena under study and thus pave the way for a serious study of borrowing.

Olivia Guérin : *"Boubou : a sort of Muslim poncho"* : glosses on borrowings in travel writing and shifts in meaning

Borrowing is studied here from a discursive viewpoint, before it is incorporated into the language or in its initial stages of incorporation. From a corpus of French travel writing – the genre itself being an important vehicle conveying foreign words – an analysis is made of the way in which the writers provide access to the many foreign words which they call upon in their writing to refer to exotic realities. Focus is put on the glosses in which the writers reformulate the meaning of the borrowings with the ensuing semantic shifts and the representations thereby constructed. The main semantic processes used for this are approximation, singling out one possible meaning of the word cited and axiologisation. These semantic processes which take place when a word is taken from one cultural context and placed in another may be highlighted in this way, giving a new perspective to the phenomenon of neology by borrowing, in stressing the way that the meaning of the borrowings are constructed just before they completely integrate into the receptor language.

Julie Pelletier et Andy Van Drom : Neoterminology and the sociopolitical discourse and exchange : reflections of Quebec society.

Neologisms culled from Quebec newspapers and magazines on reported sociopolitical writing can be profitably analysed using the theory of polyphony, showing how neological creation, exploiting different ways of forming new terms, is part and parcel of the development of Quebec society. The neologisms studied here will be measured against language policy in Quebec. Can self-regulation be attested in the socio-political sphere ? What can be said of words used as instruments of power in society ? The new terms used (e.g. *péquiste*, *bloquiste*, *adéquiste*, *plquiste*) show in the first instance a lessening of political ideology in favour of the naming of supporters of various Quebec political parties and secondly (e.g. *PPP* and *réingénierie*) the principles of inter-domain circularity and the self-regulatory power of socio-political words. This article is intended as an exploratory study investigating the combined potential of polyphony and socioterminology. It is hoped that this will stimulate the debate and further studies on the polyphonic nature of discourse as a social practice.

Catherine Bilodeau and Benoît Leblanc : Epiterminological discourse : an indication of the acceptance rate of French terminology

The speed at which technological innovation takes place, particularly in information technology, is a vexed question for language planning bodies which are overwhelmed by the task of creating and disseminating French terminology adapted to users' actual life and needs. There are unfortunately very few means by which the acceptance rate of these French terms can be measured. This study, which is part of a larger research project, entitled *Adapting French IT terminology in Canada (L'aménagement de la terminologie française de l'informatique au Canada* (CRSHC–2004-2006), examines how a sample of these day-to-day terminologies is adopted and actually used in oral exchanges through analysing the epiterminological discourse of the subjects studied. Epiterminological discourse is inspired by the concept of epilinguistics, i.e. the way ordinary speakers talk about language, languages, verbal behaviour, style and sociolinguistic registers (Laurendeau 2004). It is applied here to language for special purposes and seems to offer significant insight into the attitude that speakers have to the terms they use and consequently their acceptance rate. For example, does the way a speaker rate a term indicate whether it is liable to be more generally accepted, and if so to what extent ? Our findings are drawn from the corpus mentioned above.

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