

2003 Annual Report

Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication

School of Languages
University of Melbourne

1. Introduction

Since its establishment in 2001, the Research Unit has developed a research culture involving academic staff from a number of departments, RUMACCC research staff, PhD students, and visiting scholars from all over the world. This has been greatly facilitated by the amenable open space work area on the 7th Floor of the Arts Centre provided by the University. Another feature of the RUMACCC has been the interaction between basic and applied research on language contact, community links, and policy advice to government and to communities, especially in the educational field. There has been a close interaction between the activities of RUMACCC and those of the University's Language Reference Group, which provides expert advice on language policy issues within the University. The outcomes cannot be gauged solely by grants and publications. It is the quality of the interactions that have taken place between all these people that may have the more lasting effect.

1.1 Community Languages in Secondary Schools:

This project, conducted with funding from the ARC in collaboration with industry partners, the Victorian Department of Education and Training and the Catholic Education Office was completed in April 2004.

The aim of developing models to cater for the diversity of the student population in the Arabic, Chinese, Greek, and Spanish programs and utilizing community resources in the languages has been realized in a number of ways including the development of activities for students with different degrees and types of background and those with no prior knowledge of the language. Among the activities are the collaborative production of electronic newsletters in Spanish, visits to and interactions in day care centres for elderly Spanish speakers, transactional interactions in Mandarin and Greek in shopping centres, and discussions with visiting speakers in Modern Standard Arabic. The development of resources has been explored to help speakers of Cantonese and Lebanese varieties to learn Mandarin and Modern Standard Arabic respectively. Attention has been paid to the development of biliteracy and the value of LOTE study for those with English problems. A special study has been conducted on the advantages of bilinguals learning a L3 and the value of L3 in the maintenance of bilingualism and developing beyond this. Three information booklets have been produced for schools: Some Common Fallacies about multilingualism and Second Language Acquisition; Catering for Linguistic Diversity and Utilizing Community Resources in Language Programs; and More Languages, More benefits. The project team was comprised of Tina Isaakidis, Irene Liem, Claudia Rossi Hunt, Germaine Youssef, and Michael Clyne.

1.2 Community Languages in Early 21st Australia

This ARC-funded project project encompasses several sub-projects, all of which have made significant progress during the past year. The research relating to community languages resources in the media, libraries, public services and education has concluded, resulting in two published journal articles and one forthcoming one. The Hungarian sub-project is in its final stages, with preliminary findings to be presented at a focus group meeting in late November. The Tamil sub-project is underway, commencing with a focus group meeting in May; data collection consisting of interviews with Tamil families from a range of backgrounds has

commenced and will continue into 2005. Researchers in the Hungarian and Tamil studies are Michael Clyne and Sue Fernandez, with additional research assistance from Tibor Endrody and Judy Hajdu for Hungarian, and Anusha Premarajah for Tamil.

1.3 Address in some Western European Languages

This ARC-funded project concerns changes in the address systems (pronouns, first names/titles/surnames, letter heads) in three languages, French, German and Swedish and to what extent the existing address paradigms reflect sociopolitical change. Address is an integral part of interpersonal communication as it both reflects and influences social relations and hierarchies. The study of address systems thus has significance for linguistics and others researching social structures and social change.

The present project is the first large-scale study of address pronoun use covering three important European languages and two major language groups (Germanic and Romance). Furthermore, it constitutes the first cross-linguistic study of address pronouns with a focus on regional contiguity, specifically in an area of Europe that has, since World War II, been moving towards political, social and economic integration, but where identification with local cultures still remains strong. The three languages, given the different local cultures, provide an extremely useful context for comparative research within a clearly defined region of the world. In addition, the project will provide a new and innovative model for the sociolinguistic analysis of address pronoun use in European languages.

The project will lead to a deeper understanding of important cultural values that can benefit the increasing cross-cultural communication between Australians and people in other countries, especially in Europe. In addition, the project will be of direct benefit to language teaching in Australia. Although correct use of address pronouns is critical to the mastery of a language and it is notoriously difficult, at present very little time is spent on the appropriate learning of their use by Australian students. This situation partly reflects the lack of detailed information about their use available to teachers and educators. It is expected that the results of this project will assist substantially in correcting this problem.

Within the domain of address, the project focuses on such issues as regional, national, social, generational and gender variation, language contact, and political factors. A range of data collection techniques are being used in the project, including: participant observation, focus groups, social network interviews, an internet survey of companies on address in the workplace and language specific chat groups on address forms. The researchers are Leo Kretzenbacher, Catrin Norrby, Jane Warren, and Michael Clyne. The local RAs are mentioned under 1, and there are in-country RAs in Göteborg, Leipzig, Mannheim, Montpellier, Paris, Va(alsa, and Vienna. The project has progressed well throughout 2004. Most of the in-country RAs have finished their focus groups and are well on the way to finishing the network interviews. Members of the research team have met with each of the in-country RAs at various stages throughout the year to monitor their progress and have also conducted participant observations in the countries concerned. Data is being processed and analysed as it is received by the local RAs. Several journal publications based on the first wave of data received have been or are in the process of being published (see publications* below).

1.4 Scandinavian Languages in Australia

This project, run by Catrin Norrby, with the assistance of Belinda Ross and supported by grants-in-aid from the School of Languages SOL is largely completed. Data collection, questionnaires with Swedish LOTE students, took place over 2 years, 2003 and 2004, although one more interview will take place in late 2004. The preliminary results have been presented at a conference and Catrin plans to write up the results in article in late 2004.

A further plan is to expand the project to include other parts of Scandinavian / Swedish life in Melbourne, focusing on the Swedish church as the hub of much of the Scandinavian activities.

1.5 Evaluation of the Network Languages Plans

RUMACCC was approached by the Department of Education and Training (DET) to conduct an evaluation of the Network Languages Plans, which had been compiled by school Networks across Victoria as a result of recommendations in the report *Languages for Victoria's Future*. The evaluation was conducted over a nine-week period, resulting in a report to DET. The researchers, Sue Fernandez and Michael Clyne, presented their findings to a meeting of MACLEM (Ministerial Advisory Committee on Languages, ESL and Multicultural Education) on August 9th 2004.

1.6 Raising Children in more than one language

RUMACCC conducted two workshops for parents this year, organized by Community Languages Australia and funded by the Victorian Multicultural Commission. One in October was held at the University of Melbourne and attended by about 120 parents. Speakers were Susanne Döpke, Robert Debski and Michael Clyne. The other took place in Adelaide, attended by about 90 parents, and with Döpke and Clyne as the speakers. There are plans to hold a workshop in Geelong early in the new year.

Meredith Bartlett and Sandra Leane have now completed work on the Deafness Council of Victoria funded information booklet *Raising Deaf Children Bilingually* in Australia. The booklet focuses on raising children bilingually in Auslan and English and is aimed primarily at hearing parents. The booklet was launched by the University of Melbourne Vice Chancellor Kwong Lee Dow in February 2003 and has been widely distributed to organizations and individuals. Workshops based on the booklet have now been planned for three different rural locations in 2005.

Supplementary funding has also been received from Deaf Children Australia to caption the video *Growing Up with English Plus*, which presents a number of ways to raise children bilingually.

1.7 Victorian government LOTE reports

The Department of Education and Training has approached Yvette Slaughter to write the 2003 and 2004 governmental LOTE reports. The reports present a comprehensive overview of language study in Victorian government schools and will be undertaken through RUMACCC.

1.8 Facilitating Chinese for all: Teaching Mandarin in a mixed background class

The project, which is being undertaken by Irene Liem, follows on from findings in the SPIRT research project which undertook to investigate the language background of students in four community language programs, namely, Arabic, Chinese, Greek and Spanish. The project explored the effect of diversity of student backgrounds in LOTE programs. This follow up project focuses on Chinese students and aims to gain a better understanding of the issues that arise in mixed background classes in Chinese independent schools at the lower secondary school level.

The first stage of the project has been funded by the School of Languages at the University of Melbourne and was conducted in November 2004. The project involved a sociolinguistic survey and a diagnostic test for students at two Melbourne schools. Funding for the second stage of the project is being sought from the AISV (Association of Independent Schools in Victoria) and will be undertaken in 2005. In the second stage, a module of activities with differentiated and collaborative tasks will be developed and implemented in classes with the aim of providing a seminar and publication on this issue in late 2005.

1.9 Bilingualism Club

This group, based on PhD students working in the area of multilingualism, has been meeting regularly in the RUMACCC area, to discuss research issues.

2. Visitors

RUMACCC has hosted a number of eminent visitors in 2004, who presented a number of interesting lectures and workshops.

- Professor Ulrich Ammon (University of Duisburg) gave a lecture on European Union language policy and interacted with staff and students within RUMACCC.
- Professor Victor Friedman (University of Chicago, visiting La Trobe University's Research Centre for Linguistic Typology) spoke on *Language planning and Status in the Republic of Macedonia and in Kosovo since 1991*. This provided a good opportunity for interaction between RUMACCC and the local Macedonian-speaking community.
- Professor Beat Glauser (University of Heidelberg) is currently visiting and will be at the university until March 2005. He will give a departmental seminar in February 2005.
- Professor Paul Kerswill (University of Reading and University of Lancaster) gave a talk on *The levelling of English in Britain: some new theoretical perspectives* and discussed research projects with staff and students.
- Professor Li Wei (University of Newcastle-on-Tyne) gave a talk on *Lexical development of bilingual children: A longitudinal group study of French-English bilinguals* and discussed research projects with staff and students.
- Professor Wolfgang Lörcher (University of Leipzig) visited the Unit to discuss speech processing of bilinguals.
- Professor Pieter Muysken (University of Nijmegen) gave talks on *The fate of functional elements in language contact, Modelling Language Contact, Endangerment and Language Maintenance in Bolivia*, as well as public lecture on *Language in South America: A Rainbow Continent*. He advised staff and PhD students on their research and took part in the one-day workshop in his honour (see below).
- Professor Kerstin Nordenstam (University of Göteborg) gave a talk entitled *Invisible girls, visible boys: Young immigrants in a Swedish high-school environment* and discussed research with staff and PhD students.
- Professor Mauro Tosco (University of Oriental Studies, Naples) gave a public lecture on *The African Languages in a Changing World: Challenges and Opportunities* and took part in numerous discussions within RUMACCC.
- Dr Ghil'ad Zukerman (Churchill College, Oxford, visiting Latrobe University's Research Centre for Linguistic Typology) gave a talk on *Israeli: A Twentieth-Century Semito-European Hybrid Language* and interacted with staff and students within RUMACCC.

All visitors contributed substantially to the RUMACCC research culture, sharing their ideas and providing valuable advice to staff, research assistants, and PhD students.

3. Dissemination of research findings

Conferences:

Contact-Induced Change in Immigrant Languages in Australia, organised by Jovana Dimitrijević with the help of Sandra Kipp to coincide with Professor Pieter Muysken's visit, included 11 papers, in addition to responses by Professor Muysken. Papers were presented by staff and PhD students from the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Victorian University of Technology, providing a valuable forum for exploring language change in Australia.

Publications 2004

- Bartlett, M. 2004. Another view of minority languages: Australian Sign language (Auslan)" pp1-7 in Nelde, P.H. Nelde (ed) 2004, *Multilingualism, Minorities and Language Change*, St Augustin: Asgard Verlag.
- Bartlett, M. and Leane, S. 2004. *Raising Deaf Children Bilingually in Australia*. RUMACCC.
- Clyne, M. 2004. Stirbt die deutsche Sprache in Australien aus? In H.Heinze and C. Weller (eds.), *Die Lektüre der Welt: Zur Theorie, Soziologie und Praxis kultureller Praxis*. Frankfurt; Lang, 63-68.
- Clyne, M. 2004. Trapped in a monolingual mindset? *Prime Focus* 37, 40-42. (Reprinted in *Principal Matters* 59, 18-20.)

- Clyne, M., S. Fernandez and F. Grey. 2004. Languages spoken in the community, languages taken at school – a comparative dimension. *Australian Review of Applied Linguistics* 27, 1-27.
- Clyne, M., and F. Grey. 2004. Community language media and Australia's changing language demography. *People and Place* 12, 24-34.
- Clyne, M., T. Isaakidis, I. Liem and C. Rossi Hunt, Developing and sharing community languages through secondary school programs. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism* 7, 255-278.
- Clyne, M., Kretzenbacher, L., Norrby C & Warren, J. 2004. Address in Some Western European Languages. Moskovsky, C. (ed.) *Proceedings of the 2003 Conference of the Australian Linguistic Society*.
- Clyne, M., Kretzenbacher, L. and Schüpbach, D. 2004. "Der größte Schritt, den man manchmal tun könnte": Zur Anrede im Deutschen im internationalen Vergleich. *Sprachreport* 4/2004.
- Clyne, M., C. Rossi Hunt and T. Isaakidis. 2004. Learning a Community language as a Third Language. *International Journal of Multilingualism*.1, 33-52.
- Hajek, J. & N. Nicholas. 2004. The Rise & Fall of Modern Greek in Australia's Universities: What can a Quantitative Analysis Tell Us?, *Arts and Humanities in Higher Education*. 3: 197-211.
- Huang, D.L.J. 2004. Language choice and language use in emails. In P. Nelde (ed.), *Multilingualism, minorities and language change*, pp.49-58. St. Augustin: Asgard.
- Huang, D.L.J. 2004. Switching between Chinese and English in emails. *MPLAL* 4(1):13-22.
- Norrby, C. 2004/1996. *Samtalsanalys*. (2nd edition). Lund: Studentlitteratur.
- Norrby, C. & Håkansson, G. 2004. 'Kan jag hjälpa dig med något?' Om tilltal i en servicesituation. *Språk & Stil* 13. 5–34.
- Parkinson, A. and J. Hajek. 2004. Lei, Tu and Voi: Keeping it all in the Family. *Australian Review of Applied Linguistics*. 18: 99-114.
- Woods, A. 2004. *Medium or Message: Language and Faith in Ethnic Churches*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.

In press

- Clyne, M. Pluricentric languages. In U. Ammon, K.Mattheier and P. Trudgill (eds.), *Sociolinguistics*. 2. De Gruyter, Berlin.
- Clyne, M. The history of language contact research. In U. Ammon, K.Mattheier and P. Trudgill (eds.), *Sociolinguistics*. 2. De Gruyter, Berlin.
- Clyne, M. Empowerment through community languages – does it work? In M. Pütz, J.A.Fishman and M. Neff (eds.), *Along the Road to Power? Explorations of the Empowerment of the Language*. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin.
- Clyne, M. Greek in Australia. In R. Tsokalidou and P. Pappas (eds.), *Themata Thetoftotitas stin elliniki diaspora*. Athens.
- Clyne, M. Sharing community languages – utopian dream or realistic vision? In P. Bruthiaux (ed), *Directions in Applied Linguistics*. Multilingual Matters, Clevedon.
- Clyne, M. Some exploratory comments relating sociolinguistic typology to language shift. In a festschrift. Lang, Frankfurt.
- Clyne, M. Sprachdemographie und Sprachpolitik in Australien: Das wechselhafte Schicksal von Einwanderersprachen. *IMIS-Beträge*
- Clyne, M. Towards an agenda for developing multilingual communication within a community base. In J. House and J. Rehbein (eds.), *Multilingual Communication*. Benjamins, Amsterdam.
- Clyne, M. The use of exclusionary language to manipulate opinion – John Howard, asylum seekers and the re-emergence of political incorrectness in Australia. *Journal of Language and Politics* 5 (2)
- Clyne, M., F. Grey and S. Kipp, Matching policy with language demography. *Language Policy*.
- Debski, R. (forthcoming, 2004). The Internet in support of community languages: Web sites created by Poles living abroad. *Information Technology, Education and Society* 5 (1).
- Håkansson, G, Norrby, C. & Bruzaeus, L. Svenska i och utanför Sverige. Grammatiska och pragmatiska mönster i inlärarspråket. *Proceedings of Nordens språk som andraspråk* (Nordand), Lund.
- Lee-Wong, S. 'Raising awareness of hedging in Chinese business letters: linguistic symbol of precision or politeness?' *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication*.

Norrby, Catrin. Du eller ni? In *Språkvård* 4/2004.

Norrby, C., Debski, R & Nicholas, N. Saving Small Languages – Swedish Goes Online. Submitted to: proceedings of the Marking Our Difference conference, Melbourne, Oct. 2003.

Shu, L. & Lee-Wong, S. 'A study on Singaporeans' perception of sexual harassment from a cross-cultural perspective' *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*.

Slaughter, Y. Public perceptions of Asian languages in Australia. Language, Education and Diversity Conference Proceedings. Hamilton, New Zealand Nov. 2004.

Seminars and conference (other than those given above) presentations:

Meredith Bartlett and Sandra Leane

May

- Sandra and Meredith addressed a meeting for parents and staff at the Furlong Park School for Deaf Children, on Raising Deaf Children Bilingually, and what is bilingualism. 05/05/04

June

- Meredith Bartlett addressed a working group of staff at Furlong Park School for Deaf Children on Bilingual Programs in Schools, and some ideas for assessment of language skills in each language. 01/06/04

September

- Meredith Bartlett presented a paper at the SMYLE professional development day (Sunshine Middle Years Learning Experience) at Sunshine Secondary College. The presentation was on Definitions of Bilingualism, the Booklet 'Raising Deaf Children Bilingually in Australia' and the Video 'Growing up with English Plus'. 13/09/04

October

- Meredith Bartlett presented a paper about the booklet 'Raising Deaf Children Bilingually in Australia' and the video 'Growing up with English Plus', at the Deafness Expo at Melbourne Town Hall. 30/10/04

Michael Clyne:

April to June

- Empowering through community languages – Does it work? (Keynote) LAUD conference, University of Landau
- Address in German: Some international comparisons: University of Bonn (in German)
- Language demography and language policy in Australia - The changing fate of immigrant languages in Australia: Universities of Gothenburg and Uppsala (in English), Leipzig (in German) –
- How abuse of language is excluding asylum seekers from Australia (in English) – University of Stockholm
- Who owns the English language? (In English) – University of Leipzig
- Community languages in secondary schools– some Australian experiences (in English) – Free University of Berlin
- Contact-induced language change – Some comparative data from immigrant languages in Australia (In English) – University of Uppsala
- Critical assessment of projects presented at a workshop on second language acquisition and bilingualism, featuring talks by two staff members and five PhD students.

July

- Developing children's language potential to the fullest – (keynote) Conference of LOTE coordinators in independent schools, Melbourne

October

- Fostering and transmitting multilingualism. National conference of ethnic school teachers, National conference of ethnic school teachers, Sydney

November

- From bilingual to linguist, Conference Translated Lives, Curtin University.
- Developing children's language potential and beating the monolingual mindset. Bilingual Families Network, Perth.

December

- Recognizing and valuing multilingualism. (Keynote) VSL teachers' conference, Melbourne.

Brigitte Lambert:**August**

- The Risky Business of Raising Bilingual Children; Arts Faculty Colloquium 20/8/2004. Published in online journal, Anthithesis Forum, 4/11/2004
- Relocation, Relationships and Language. Linguistic Dept. Workshop (Peter Muysken) 28/8/2004
- Acts of Identity in the context of family language transmission; Open Book Conference University of Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand 31/8-1/9/2004

November

- School of Languages conference; Identities in Interaction: an analysis of the identity factor in family language transmission. 14/11/2004.

Catrin Norrby:**Address project**

- Address project workshop, Göteborg, 8-10 Oct.
- Seminar in Vaasa, Dept of Nordic Languages, 27 Oct.
- Seminar in Uppsala, Dept of Nordic Languages, 10 Nov.

Community languages in practice – the case of Swedish

- A seminar for SWEA (Swedish Women's Association) in Sydney on raising children bilingually, 2 June 04.

Swedish inside and outside Sweden (with G. Håkansson)

- Conference paper at Svenskans beskrivning, Växjö University, Sweden, 15 May, 2004.
- Conference paper at EUROSLA (European conference for Second Language Acquisition) in San Sebastian 10 Sept.
- Conference paper at OFTI (discourse and grammar) in Linköping, 24 Sept.
- Seminar in Vaasa, 28 Oct.

Address project

- Seminar (with Jane Warren) in Göteborg, Dept of Swedish 1 Nov.

Media presentations**Michael Clyne**

- March - DRS 2, German-language Swiss cultural network – Address in Europe
- May – 2 broadcasts on Swedish radio programs – Multilingualism in Australia and Sweden
- October – 3AW breakfast show – Bilingualism
- October – 774 Drive – Bilingualism
- October – 3ZZZ – Bilingualism
- Several interviews on SBS Radio.
- Also a number of newspaper interviews (Education Age, Neos Kosmos (one for Greek, one for English supplement), one for Mothers and Babies.

Catrin Norrby

- Interviewed for Vasabladet (29 Oct 04) with regard to the address project.

Doris Schüpbach

- Interviewed for SBS, 05/01/04. *Worldview* on 'Language of the Swiss.'

RUMACCC Staff

Professor Michael Clyne AM, MA, PhD, Dr Phil. h.c., FASSA, FAHA (Director)

Dr Jane Warren (March - June) Acting Director BA Hons, DPhil.

Dr Leo Kretzenbacher – Deputy Director Dr Phil.

Other research staff

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Dr Lesley Lee-Wong
Dr Anya Woods

RUMACCC Advisory Committee:

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Dr Michèle de Courcy (Department of Language and Literacy Education)
Associate Professor John Hajek (French and Italian)
Associate Professor Lesleyanne Hawthorne (Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, & Health Sciences)
Dr Leo Kretzenbacher (Deputy Director)
Wendy Morris (DET)
Professor Colin Nettelbeck (Chair)
Stefan Romaniw (Community Languages Australia)

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Professor Michael Clyne (Chair)
Associate Professor Robert Debski
Suzanne Fernandez
Assoc. Professor John Hajek
Dr Sandra Kipp
Dr Catrin Norrby
Dr Jane Warren

Visitors for 2005