

An interdisciplinary working paper series on multilingualism

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Abstract

As a collaboration between two research centers based at the University of Amsterdam, ACLC (Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication) and ARTES (Amsterdam School for Regional, Transnational and European Studies), we are pleased to announce the launch of a new series of working papers *A'dam Multiling*, in October 2014. Contributions are welcomed from across a number of disciplines, including linguistics and its related subfields, but also from economics, political science, international relations, philosophy, law, anthropology, geography and area studies. Although we encourage interdisciplinarity, multilingualism should be the central topic of any proposal. We especially encourage young researchers, including PhD students, to submit their ideas even if they are not yet ready for publication in peer-reviewed journals, and we encourage submissions from beyond the two research centers and indeed also from beyond the University of Amsterdam.



MULTILINGUALISM and Amsterdam

a collaboration between ACLC & ARTES

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1 Motivation

WHEN WE, THE EDITORS OF THE SERIES as well as the authors of this document started to work together on the challenges of multilingualism in the contemporary world, we strongly felt that a working paper series was needed. We both are members of the MIME Consortium¹ and we quickly realised while exchanging ideas with other members of the project, that a venue was needed to share and document ideas coming from the most varied disciplines in order to tackle multilingualism. In other words, we are deeply convinced that only an interdisciplinary approach can give new insights on such a complex phenomenon.² In our societies of information, where Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) produce zettabytes of information, ideas should be spread quickly and effectively and sometimes the academic publication system is too slow to disseminate ideas in a timely manner. For this reason, the Amsterdam Working Series on Multilingualism (*A'dam Multiling*) provides a solution to this problem with its expeditious process of publication – see section 2 for details.

This working series is supported by the two research centers to which the editors belong.³ In particular, as one of us is member of the Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication (ACLC) it is important to underline the difference between this venue and *Linguistics in Amsterdam*, which is another electronic venue informal in character⁴. While we share the same vision – an informal process of revision, special attention paid to young researchers, etc. our respective points of departure on linguistics are different: while *Linguistics in Amsterdam* ‘provide(s) a platform to share new ideas and thoughts in all linguistic subfields’, as stated in its website, *A'dam Multiling* is based on an interdisciplinary approach: contributions should highlight aspects of multilingualism, integrating both linguistic and non-linguistic approaches. To summarise, *Linguistics in Amsterdam* and *A'dam Multiling* are in many ways complementary.

Furthermore, multilingualism is for us not only a topic but also an ongoing practical requirement. All contributions should consider other languages besides English⁵, so we have therefore decided to publish abstracts in other languages, essentially those considered in the paper itself as well as Esperanto.⁶ In practice, the English abstract will be on the front page of the paper, while the other abstracts will appear at the end, on a single A4 page, contributors being free to choose up to three more languages of their own choice.⁷ Full contributions in languages others than English are possible but we cannot guarantee to have papers in other languages on every issue since the academic market forces many of us to publish mainly in English – a pertinent issue in multilingualism itself.⁸ It is for this reason that we have decided to implement multilingualism for the most part with the abstracts. Since abstracts are an integral part of any proposal, they should be prepared by the contributors themselves.⁹ Another matter concerns the evaluation of all proposals: there is no strict peer-review system here, nor Editorial Boards.

¹Mobility and Inclusion in a Multilingual Europe (MIME), a project funded under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union. See the position paper by Grin et al. [2014] for more details.

²From an institutional point of view, our Rector Magnificus Dymph van den Boom has said that there are two priorities for our University: on external of greater internationalization; one internal of more active collaboration between research centers. This working series is our contribution to the realization of this vision.

³See <http://aclc.uva.nl/> and <http://artes.uva.nl/> for details about the research centers supporting this initiative.

⁴See <http://www.linguisticsinamsterdam.nl> for details.

⁵We prefer neither of British nor American spelling but whatever convention is adopted, the text of the proposals should always be internally consistent.

⁶The present document is in a sense an exception, because it is not itself a multilingualism case study: we decided to publish abstracts in Dutch, Esperanto, Hungarian and Italian besides English in accordance with our research interests. One of the editors currently holds the Special Chair in Interlinguistics and Esperanto at the University of Amsterdam, and the Esperanto community is sensitive to the topic of multilingualism, often having a different perspective compared to other communities. The Esperanto-inclusive language policy is not new, as a similar language policy has also been adopted by the peer-reviewed journal *Language Problems & Language Planning* (John Benjamins).

⁷For example, if the paper deals with the language policy of Belgium, the additional languages could be: Dutch (Flemish), French, and perhaps German, plus Esperanto by default.

⁸We suggest that in case of proposals written in languages others than English the most effective approach would be for the contributors to contact us before submitting them.

⁹The exception here again is Esperanto: the series editors will provide this translation if required by the contributor.



2 How to submit a proposal

THE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE is quite straightforward. The contributor simply drafts a proposal they consider to be relevant and emails it to both series editors – see email addresses at the top of this document. As already stated, **contributors do not need to belong to the University of Amsterdam**; all scholarly work is welcomed, whatever its source.

We plan to publish three issues per year, in March, July and November. We publish exclusively in electronic form – no paper edition is contemplated. Issues will be published via the Content Management System of the University of Amsterdam, and then everybody will be able to download them for free with a unique web address.¹⁰ All materials should be the contributor's own work. Any and all forms of plagiarism will be severely condemned. Contributors will retain their respective copyrights. *A'dam Multiling* is an open access publication, and it has been launched during the International Open Access Week (20-26 October, 2014). For this reason, all contributions are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.¹¹

You may have noticed that this paper was not produced with a word processor, but with the LaTeX document preparation system.¹² Why? Essentially, for three reasons. First, for beauty: documents generated with \LaTeX are aesthetically more pleasing than those produced with any word processor. Second, scholars coming from hard sciences usually use \LaTeX to submit papers to peer-reviewed journals because it is far more powerful in the typesetting of maths and formulæ. Third, support for non-Latin alphabets and writing systems – including the International Phonetic Alphabet – is strong with the XeLaTeX (\XeLaTeX) extension which has been used here.

For the interested reader, we use Linux Libertine fonts¹³ and standard packages such as natbib for the bibliography. You can download the source files of this document through the website devoted to Multilingualism at the University of Amsterdam.¹⁴

However, it is important to underline the fact that **for submissions the use of the stylesheet is not mandatory**. Above all, we are looking for good ideas on multilingualism worthy of publication.

3 Can I publish a revision of my paper elsewhere?

THIS IS THE MOST COMMON QUESTION we have been asked so far about this series and so it is important to answer it clearly. The short answer is: **yes, you can**. In general, to be considered an original contribution, the text of each paper should contain at least 70% of unpublished material. We encourage our contributors to develop their contributions for publication in peer-review journals. A reference of the paper published here as a preliminary work is more than welcome. However, it is important to know that some journals are more strict than others: therefore, we cannot offer guarantees about possible reactions by other journal Committees.

¹⁰We plan to obtain an electronic ISSN number (E-ISSN) and a unique Digital Object Identifier (DOI) as soon as possible.

¹¹The University of Amsterdam has organized a symposium on this topic: *Open access, the new beginning?*. See details here: <http://uba.uva.nl/en/news/news/content/2014/08/oasymposium.html>.

¹²See <http://www.latex-project.org/> for LaTeX and the resources on <http://www.xelatex.org/> for XeLaTeX.

¹³See <http://www.linuxlibertine.org> for details.

¹⁴See <http://multilingualism.humanities.uva.nl> for further details on our activities, besides the working paper series.



Abstracts in other languages

Abstract

In oktober 2014 is de Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA), in samenwerking met de aan de UvA verbonden onderzoeksinstituten Amsterdam School for Regional, Transnational and European Studies (ARTES) en de Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication (ACLCL) een nieuwe serie ‘working papers’ gestart; *A’dam Multiling*. In dit document wordt ingegaan op de motivatie om dit initiatief te beginnen en wordt verdere praktische informatie gepresenteerd. De working paper series heeft een sterk interdisciplinair karakter. Bijdragen zullen o.a. komen vanuit de taalkunde, maar ook vanuit de economie, politicologie, internationale betrekkingen, filosofie, rechtswetenschap, antropologie, geografie en regio studies. Hoewel het disciplinaire karakter van de bijdragen dus zal verschillen, dient in elk paper wel het thema ‘meertaligheid’ centraal te staan. Deze working paper series is een informele mogelijkheid voor jonge onderzoekers, in het bijzonder PhD kandidaten, om hun ideeën te presenteren, ook als deze nog niet klaar zijn voor publicatie in peer-reviewed tijdschriften. Ook bijdragen van buiten de twee onderzoeksinstituten en de Universiteit van Amsterdam worden verwelkomd.

Resumo

Ni ĝojas anonci, ke en Oktobro 2014 okazis lanĉo de nova serio de fakartikoloj, *A’dam Multiling*, danke al la kunlaboro de du esplorcentroj, ACLCL (Amsterdama Centro pri Lingvo kaj Komunikado) kaj ARTES (Amsterdama Lernejo por Regiona, Transnacia kaj Eŭropaj Studoj), kadre de la Universitato de Amsterdamo. Kontribuojn ni bonvenas de diversaj disciplinoj, kiel ekzemple lingvistiko kaj ĝiaj subfakoj, sed ankaŭ ekonomiko, politikaj sciencoj, internaciaj rilatoj, filozofio, juro, antropologio, geografio kaj areaj studoj. Eĉ se ni instigas interdisciplinecon, multlingvismo nepre estu la kerna temo de ĉiu manuskripto. Ni instigas aparte junajn esploristojn, inkluzive doktorajn studentojn, sendi ideojn eĉ se la entekstaj ideoj ankoraŭ ne pretas por publikigo en samrangula fakĵurnalo. Kontribuoj povas veni de ekster la du esplorcentroj kaj eĉ preter la Universitato de Amsterdamo.

Kivonat

Az Amszterdami Egyetemen működő két kutatóintézetének, ti. ACLCL-nek, ARTES-nek együttműködéséből jött létre egy új digitális munkafüzetsorozat 2014 októberében. Nemcsak nyelvészeti jellegű, a nyelvészet különböző területeiről jelentünk meg tanulmányokat, hanem más szakterületekről is, mint közgazdaságtan, politológia, nemzetközi kapcsolatok, filozófia, jog, antropológia, földrajz, régió tanulmányok stb. Attól eltekintve, hogy az interdisziplináris kutatást szorgalmazzuk minden javaslat központi témája a többnyelvűség. Külön felkérünk kezdő kutatókat, főleg PhD-jelölteket, hogy küldjék be publikálásra szánt ötleteiket, még akkor is, ha indexen szereplő szaklapoknak nem felelnének meg. Továbbá fontos tudnivaló, hogy a szerzők nem szükségesek, hogy tagok legyenek ACLCL-nek, ARTES-nek vagy egyéb Amszterdami Egyetemi Intézeteknek.

Riassunto

Siamo lieti di annunciare il lancio di una nuova serie di ‘working papers’, *A’dam Multiling*, avvenuto nell’Ottobre 2014, come collaborazione tra due centri di ricerca dell’Università di Amsterdam, ACLCL (Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication) e ARTES (Amsterdam School for Regional, Transnational and European Studies). Sono benvenuti i contributi da diverse discipline, tra cui la linguistica e le sue specializzazioni, ma anche le scienze politiche ed economiche, la filosofia, le relazioni internazionali, il diritto, l’antropologia, e la geografia. Gli approcci interdisciplinari vengono incoraggiati, ma nel contempo il tema centrale deve essere sempre il multilinguismo. In special modo, sono invitati a mandare le loro proposte i giovani ricercatori e gli studenti di dottorato in particolare, qualora avessero idee di ricerca anche non ancora raffinate al punto tale da poter essere proposte a riviste *peer-review*. Incoraggiamo inoltre proposte non solo dai due centri di ricerca ma anche fuori dall’Università di Amsterdam.



References

François Grin, László Marác, Nike Pokorn, and Peter A. Kraus. Mobility and Inclusion in Multilingual Europe: A Position Paper on the MIME Project, March 2014. Version presented at the MIME Kick-Off Conference, University of Geneva.

