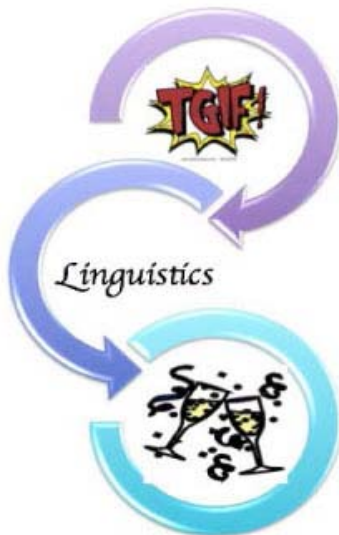


TGIF: The NTU Linguist Chatroom

Join us!
Friday, 30 October 2015, 2.30pm
@ HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)



“What do you want to study?... Communications and Irish. Really? That’s cute.” : Attitudes towards the Irish Language

Since the early days of research into bilingualism, a definition has been widely debated from the well known “native-like control of two languages” (Bloomfield, 1933, p. 56) to the ability to “produce complete meaningful utterances in the other language” (Haugen, 1953, p. 7). Seminal works on the topic of bilingualism (Weinrich, 1953; Appel and Muysken, 1987; Grosjean, 1982; Romaine, 1995) generally focus on the primary causes of bilingualism, the bilingual brain, and types of bilingualism, while summarising the various methods to determine the levels of bilingualism. There is very little research (Pujolar and Puigdevall, 2015; Woolard, 2011; Grosjean 2010) that has been based on a longitudinal study of a bilingual speaker, mapping the changes in language use. The socio-contextual circumstances and levels of language production can be understood to combine felicitously to initiate or create a peak of language usage. For example, Pujolar and Puigdevall (2015, p. 168) use the term ‘linguistic mudes’ to describe ‘changes in language behaviour ... at different stages of life’.

This paper seeks to examine more fluid and speaker-specific patterns of language use and trace the relationship between internal and external factors to assess and understand the pattern. In particular I will look at the attitudes and motivations shaping Irish language use, and in turn explore how they determine national and individual patterns of use.

SPEAKER



Previously Guinevere worked with the Carmichael Watson Project based in the Centre for Research Collections at Edinburgh University Library. The collection has since been added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme due to its invaluable contribution to Gaelic folklore, language and history. Her research interests include bilingualism and sociolinguistics as well as Celtic languages, literature and folklore. She is currently preparing areas of her PhD for publication, relating primarily to the topics of code-mixing and language ideology.

The TGIF seminar series is organised by
the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, HSS

