

About the authors

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/bct.1.01abo>

Pages vii–viii of

Letter Writing

Edited by Terttu Nevalainen and Sanna-Kaisa Tanskanen

[Benjamins Current Topics, 1] 2007. viii, 160 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights



About the authors

Alexander Bergs is professor and chair of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Osnabrück. His main areas of research include historical (socio-) linguistics, language change theory, new media language, and the morphosyntax of present-day English and its varieties. He is the author of *Social Networks and Historical Sociolinguistics* (Mouton de Gruyter, 2005), *Modern Scots* (2nd ed., Lincom Europa, 2005), and the editor of *Constructions and Language Change* (to appear with Mouton de Gruyter). After having finished a project on “The expression of futurity in contemporary English”, he now concentrates on the preparation of a digital corpus of authentic, informal Late Modern English.

Annemieke Bijkerk obtained an MA in English Language and Literature from the University of Leiden in 2001. Her thesis was about politeness strategies in the opening and closing formulas of Jonathan Swift’s letters and those of his correspondents. In 2002, she spent some time at the Research Unit for Variation and Change in English of the University of Helsinki, Finland, where she obtained the data used in this article.

Monika Fludernik teaches at the University of Freiburg in Germany. She is the author of *The Fictions of Language and the Languages of Fiction* (Routledge, 1993) and *Towards a ‘Natural’ Narratology* (Routledge, 1996), and has edited and co-edited special issues of *Style* (“Second-Person Narrative” 1994; “German Narratology” 2004), *EJES* (“Language and Literature” 1998), and *Poetics Today* (“Metaphor and Beyond: New Cognitive Developments” 1999). She has also published in the areas of postcolonial theory, the sublime, and prison texts.

Minna Nevala, PhD, is a researcher at the Research Unit for Variation, Contacts and Change in English, University of Helsinki. She is currently working on her post-doctoral project “We and others: The socio-pragmatics of referential terms and expressions in Early and Late Modern English, 1500–1900”, funded by the Academy of Finland. She is also one of the compilers of the Corpus of Early English Correspondence (CEEC) and published her doctoral dissertation *Address in Early English Correspondence: Its Forms and Socio-Pragmatic Functions* in 2004. Her research interests include historical socio-pragmatics, text analysis, and editing of letter material.

Terttu Nevalainen is Professor of English Philology at the University of Helsinki and the director of the Research Unit for Variation, Contacts and Change in English (VARIENG) funded by the Academy of Finland and the University of Helsinki. Her current research focuses on historical sociolinguistics, Renaissance English and the socio-pragmatics of letter writing. She is the author of “Early Modern English Lexis and Semantics”, in Volume 3 of *The Cambridge History of the English Language* (CUP 1999), *Historical Sociolinguistics; Language Change in Tudor and Stuart England* (Longman 2003; with H. Raumolin-Brunberg) and *An Introduction to Early Modern English* (EUP 2006).

Sanna-Kaisa Tanskanen is Senior Research Fellow at the Department of English, University of Turku, Finland. Her major fields of interest are discourse linguistics and pragmatics, applied to both historical and present-day material. She is the author of *Collaborating towards Coherence: Lexical Cohesion in English Discourse* (John Benjamins, 2006). Her current research deals with mediated interaction in English from carriers and snailmail to the internet and e-mail.

Seija Tiisala, University Lecturer *Emerita* at the Department of Scandinavian Languages and Literature at the University of Helsinki, specializes in lexicography and Old Swedish morphology.

Ellen Valle is Senior Lecturer at the Department of English, University of Turku, Finland. Her main research interest is in academic and scientific writing, particularly from a historical perspective. Currently her primary research focus is on the writing of natural history in the eighteenth century, especially in a trans-Atlantic context (between Europe and North America).

Johanna L. Wood is associate professor in English linguistics at the Department of English, University of Aarhus. Her main areas of interest are in historical linguistics; syntactic theory; variation, change and standardisation in English; and theories of language change. She is currently researching the structure of nominals in the history of English.