

Foreword

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.284.01for>

Pages vii–viii of

Historical Linguistics 2005: Selected papers from the 17th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Madison, Wisconsin, 31 July - 5 August 2005

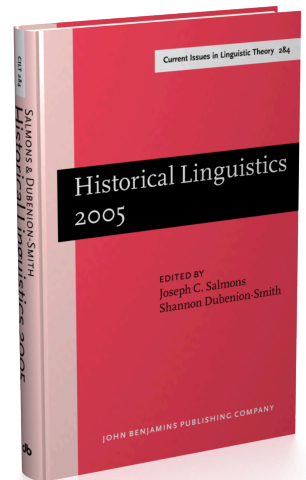
Edited by Joseph C. Salmons and Shannon Dubenion-Smith
[Current Issues in Linguistic Theory, 284]

2007. viii, 413 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



Foreword

The papers contained in the volume all grew and evolved from presentations given at the 17th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL 17), held 31 July–5 August 2005 on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Between the general sessions and the workshops, over 170 papers were presented. From those, we had almost 60 submissions. A rigorous and lengthy review process led to often extensive revisions by the authors, and resulted in the papers you see before you.

We sought to draw people to Madison who represented the full range of current work in comparative and historical linguistics in the international scene, across languages and language families, theories, and subfields. To the extent possible, we have worked to carry that breadth into this volume. We have struggled to make the fairest decisions we could, relying on an array of outside specialists and sometimes repeated readings, in an effort to choose the papers that would best advance the study of language change and comparative linguistics in a broad sense. Many other papers from the conference are already on their way to publication in various journals and volumes.

In the papers contained here, some traditional ICHL topics are prominent, such as grammaticalization. That area of research is represented in two distinct senses, first from the perspective of two of the leading lights in traditional grammaticalization, Brinton and Traugott, but also from a ‘mentalist’ perspective by Faarlund, in addition to the more critical standpoint explored by Juge. In the realm of syntax and semantics, we were conscious of the range of fine papers from both what were traditionally thought of as ‘formal’ and ‘functionalist’ approaches. Kempson & Cann and Bouzouita reconcile both these approaches in their papers, written in the framework of Dynamic Syntax. Other papers examine historical data through the lens of modern syntactic theory (Wood and Madariga), or look at an old problem from a new perspective (Sundquist). Real-time data comes into play to verify language change in progress (Nambu & Matsuda) and offer insight into a change that took place centuries ago (Ritz). In morphology, we see classic topics in the history of European languages, like case loss (Smith & Ashdowne) as well as more recent changes in derivational morphology (Scherer). At the same time, Conradie, Dench and Fassberg shed new light on an array of topics, ranging from deflection and paradigm splitting to infinitival forms. In phonology too, languages treated range from Asia (Ahn & Iverson) to the Americas (Dakin), alongside important work in prosodic change in European languages from three distinct but related perspectives (Loporcaro, Page, and Smith). Variation is represented by innovative approaches to early modern Europe (Spencer) and an American immigrant community (van Reenen).

A conference of this size was only possible thanks to the work of a large group of people. But one person was almost single-handedly responsible for the smooth run-up to Madison and the week we spent here: We all owe Andrea Menz profuse thanks. She took on more work than was ever planned or intended for her, from designing our logo to working on the website to being apparently omnipresent during the conference to deal with registration, equipment, and virtually everything else. Given how much Andrea did to make the conference – and thus this volume – possible, it is right and proper that she did the last crucial piece of the work on this book, namely the core work on the indexes.

Our organizing committee consisted of Tom Cravens, Ray Harris, Rob Howell, Mark Loudon, Monica Macaulay, Cynthia Miller, and Jorge Porcel from Madison, as well as Greg Iverson from UW-Milwaukee. They advised and helped on every aspect of planning and did the bulk of the work in reviewing abstracts. The International Society for Historical Linguistics was a vital help, especially in planning, and in particular Laurel Brinton, Dorothy Disterheft, Lene Schøsler, and above all J. C. Smith. John Cook, Diana Elgersma, Felecia Lucht, Mike Olson, Helena Ruf, Nicola Schmerbeck, and others helped with registration and a range of other details. Behind the scenes, we relied heavily on Joan Leffler from the German Department, Kevin Kurdylo and Ruth Olson from the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures and, naturally, the staff of the Pyle Center where the conference was held. We are very grateful to the College of Letters & Science for support from the Anonymous Fund, as well as Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures and the Department of German, plus moral and material support from a whole set of other departments and units across campus. Finally, we owe our gratitude to the editor of this series, E. F. Konrad Koerner, and to Anke de Looper of John Benjamins Publishing for a smooth process.

On to Montreal!
Madison, January 2007

Joseph Salmons and
Shannon Dubenion-Smith