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CONTENTS

I	Events	4
1	Szerdahelyi 100 memorial conference at Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem (University Eötvös Loránd), ELTE, Budapest, 2024-10-18	4
2	Fourth Conference of the Akademio de Esperanto, 2024-12-16/17	4
2.1	Organizers	4
2.2	Venue	4
2.3	Program	4
3	Roundtable discussion on indigenous language rights, 2025-01-28	5
3.1	Organizers	5
3.2	Venue	5
3.3	Description	5
4	Mini-symposium on Jewish languages and literature from Central and Eastern Europe: Yiddish and Esperanto, 2025-03-15	7
4.1	Organizers	7
4.2	Venue	7
4.3	Description	7
4.4	Program	7
5	Lecture on Carlos Gagini and Esperanto, during the round table “Carlos Gagini, linguist”	7
5.1	Organizers	7
5.2	Venue	8
5.3	Description	8
6	110th World Esperanto Congress: Esperanto and technology as bridges of peace and trust between peoples, 2025-07-26 – 08-02	8
6.1	Organizers	8
6.2	Venue	8
6.3	Topic	8
6.4	Description	8
6.5	Call for submissions	9
6.5.1	Possible thought structures	10

7	47th Esperanto studies conference, Brno, 2025-07-31	11
7.1	Organizers	11
7.2	Venue	11
7.3	Call for papers	11
II	Academic and research activity	12
1	Esperanto at the 北京语言大学 (Beijing Language and Culture University), 2025-03-03	12
III	Culture	13
1	Esperanto as a bridge for Chinese translations from Czech literature: Interview with Mirolav Malovec, 2025-01-20	13
IV	People	14
1	Hans-Dieter Quednau, 1930 – 2024	14
1.1	Selected bibliography	15
2	Reinhard Fößmeier, 1955 – 2024	16
3	Claude Gacond, 1931 – 2024	18
3.1	Selected bibliography	19
4	Renato Corsetti, 1941 – 2025	20
4.1	Selected bibliography	21
V	Bibliographic notes	23
1	Dissertations, diploma theses	23
2	Journal articles	23
3	Books	24
4	Book chapters	24
5	Journal issues	24
5.1	Jahrbuch der Gesellschaft für Interlinguistik	24
5.2	Language Problems and Language Planning	24
5.2.1	Language Problems and Language Planning, 48:2 , 2024. ISSN: 0272-2690. E-ISSN: 1569-9889.	24
5.2.1.1	Contents	24

5.2.2	Language Problems and Language Planning, 48:3 , 2024. ISSN: 0272-2690. E-ISSN: 1569-9889.	26
5.2.2.1	Contents	26
5.3	Beletra Almanako	27
5.4	Esperantologio / Esperanto Studies	27
5.5	Investigationes Linguisticae	27
6	Newsletters	27
6.1	Global coalition for language rights (GCLR)	27

I EVENTS

1 SZERDAHELYI 100 MEMORIAL CONFERENCE AT EÖTVÖS LORÁND TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM (UNIVERSITY EÖTVÖS LORÁND), ELTE, BUDAPEST, 2024-10-18

At Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem (ELTE) in Budapest, Hungary, a one day memorial conference was held to honor the centennial of the birth of István Szerdahelyi, the former head of the Esperanto department at ELTE. The conference was opened by the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Judit Bóna, who delivered opening remarks. Twelve lectures in Hungarian followed, on Szerdahely and interlinguistic topics by Vladár Zsuzsa Constantinovitsné, Ilona Koutny, Anna Besenyei, Katalin Horváth, Balázs Wacha, Iván Bujdosó, Éva Tófalvy, József Horváth, Márta Kovács, Zsófia Kóródy and Krisztián Horváth. The transcripts of the lectures can be found [online](#).

Szerdahely was also honored with the editing and publication of the book *Elektitaj artikoloj* (Selected Articles) by Ilona Koutny, which has a collection of articles by Szerdahely. See Ipl 129, pg. 15.

2 4TH CONFERENCE OF THE AKADEMIO DE ESPERANTO, 2024-12-16/17

In honor of Zamenhof Day, the celebration commemorating the birth of L.L. Zamenhof, members of the Akademio de Esperanto, the main governing body for the Esperanto language, held an online conference via Zoom on different topics of interest to both academicians and the general public.

2.1 *Organizers*

Akademio de Esperanto (Academy of Esperanto)

2.2 *Venue*

Online

2.3 *Program*

Monday, 2024-12-06

- Cyril R. Brosch: Pri la traduko de Iliado (Translating the Iliad)

- Simon Davies: Entekstarigaj aventuroj (Adventures in corpus text preparation)
- Aleksandro Shlafer: Kiam kaj kial oni ekuzu novan radikon? (When and how to use a new root?)
- Amri Wandel: Astrobiologia terminaro (Astrobiological terminology)

Tuesday, 2024-12-06

- Brian Moon: Kiel nomiĝas la urbo de la 110a UK? (What to call the host city of 110th Unversala Kongreso in Esperanto?)
- François Lo Jacomo: Kiu povas decidi pri lingva evoluo? (Who can decide on language development?)
- Probal Dasgupta: Kurioze labirintaj: la akuzativo kaj la akordiĝo (Curiously labyrinthine: the accusative and conjugation)
- Carlo Minnaja: Luigi Pirandello, Unu, neniu kaj cent mil (Luigi Pirandello, One, no one, and a hundred thousand)
- Renato Corsetti: Hic sunt leones: esperantistoj kaj afrikaj lingvoj (Esperantists and African languages)

(The last lecture did not occur due to health problems)

All talks can be seen in the [films](#) on the [YouTube chanel of the Academy](#).

3 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE RIGHTS, 2025-01-28

3.1 *Organizers*

NGO Committee on Language and Languages, Conference of non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO).

3.2 *Venue*

Online

3.3 *Description*

In a lively discussion on Zoom on 28 January 2025, upwards of 200 people from over 30 countries around the world, representing many languages, came together for a Roundtable discussion on indigenous language rights, sponsored by the NGO Committee on language and languages, a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO).

The participants represented a wide range of backgrounds, including teachers of indigenous languages, leaders in indigenous communities, university professors, legal experts, community organizers, and representatives of international organizations and NGOs.

The Round Table featured seven principal discussants: Vital Banzanze, of Burundi, member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Leslie Harper of the Ojibwe Nation, program director of the US National Native American Language Resource Center; Hanna-Maret Outakoski, professor at the Sámi University of Applied Sciences; Jaco du Toit, Chief of Universal Access to Information and Digital Inclusion, UNESCO; Anton Treuer, professor at Bemidji State University, USA; Barbara Grudell, senior consultant, SIL Africa Learning and Development, and Hernan Vales, of Argentina, chief, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Chair of the NGO Committee on Language and Languages, professor Francis Hult, presided, and professor Humphrey Tonkin, vice-chair, provided closing remarks.

The wide-ranging 90-minute discussion included the following points:

1. Many languages described as indigenous are used by small populations within larger states whose official languages are different, or by populations that cross national boundaries. Historically, these populations have often been excluded from full political, economic and cultural participation.
2. Convincing national governments to pay attention to these minorities, and to provide them with resources (for education, for cultural preservation, and to preserve and increase economic viability) is difficult. Where national boundaries divide those communities, it is particularly hard to move resources and harmonize policies to address real needs.
3. Such problems are particularly acute in parts of the world with high levels of linguistic and cultural diversity, such as the continent of Africa.
4. While issues of linguistic diversity and language maintenance are deemed important in some areas and countries of the world, in other areas and countries they receive little attention from governments. Accordingly it is difficult to create consensus leading to action around such issues, even in international bodies such as UNESCO and the United Nations.
5. International efforts such as the Decade of indigenous languages declared by UNESCO (2022-2032) help by giving visibility to language issues, enhancing cooperation, and stimulating international and local programming and resources. Such efforts give visibility to language rights, to the overall recognition of language as a human right, and to the imbalance of power among languages for historical, social or political reasons.
6. Language is such a basic human activity that it is often taken for granted. Thus language is largely ignored in the Sustainable development goals (it is mentioned in passing in SDG 4, but not at all in SDG16 – and nowhere else in the SDGs). Yet the reality is that language is utterly basic to human cooperation and hence to the SDGs themselves: it is at once everywhere and nowhere.
7. To put it simply, language is participation – and not just speaking languages but listening in language. Language minorities have important insights to offer in support of cooperation, if we are willing to listen.

8. Workers in the field and language specialists have much to learn by sharing best practices, by examining language policies, and by bringing discourses together in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility. The Decade and other international efforts help stimulate such cooperation, as do events such as the present Round table.

Humphrey Tonkin

4 MINI-SYMPOSIUM ON JEWISH LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: YIDDISH AND ESPERANTO, 2025-03-15

4.1 Organizers

日本スラヴ学研究会 (Japan society for the study of Slavic languages and literatures)

4.2 Venue

専修大学 (Senshū University, Tokyo)

4.3 Description

A mini-symposium part of the research presentation meeting of the Japan Society for the study of Slavic languages and literatures

4.4 Program

- 木村護郎クリストフ(KIMURA Goro Christoph): Linguistic possibilities between Central and Eastern European Jews: Local languages, Yiddish, Hebrew, Esperanto (in Japanese)
- 西成彦(NISHI Masahiko): Poland's multilingual system in the Interwar Period (in Japanese)
- Ulrich Lins: Communism and Esperanto: the case of KURISU Kei (in Esperanto, with Japanese interpretation)

More information: [Japanese society for Slavistics](#)

5 LECTURE ON CARLOS GAGINI AND ESPERANTO, DURING THE ROUND TABLE “CARLOS GAGINI, LINGUIST”

5.1 Organizers

El Ministerio de Cultura y Juventud de Costa Rica in collaboration with Benemérita Biblioteca Nacional, Escuela de Estudios Generales, Escuela de Filología, Lingüística y Literatura, In-

stituto de Investigaciones Lingüísticas, Universidad de Costa Rica, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, and Academia Costarricense de la Lengua

5.2 Venue

Biblioteca Nacional of Costa Rica

5.3 Description

2025-03-18, Jorge Antonio Leioni de León, researcher and professor at the Universidad de Costa Rica, lectured on Carlos Gagini and Esperanto as part of an inauguration of a traveling exhibit “1925-2025, Redescubriendo a Gagini en el centenario de su partida” (1925-2025, Uncovering Carlos Gagini a century after his passing). The lecture dealt with the political and cultural aspects of the Esperanto movement, which in some ways relates to the anti-imperialist stances of Carlos Gagini at the root of his science-fiction novel *La Caída del Águila* (The Fall of the Eagle) where Esperanto plays a role in international communication. Also discussed was his alphabet book, *La Cartilla esperantista*, which remained unpublished until 1993.

The lecture can be found [here](#) and more information on the exhibit [here](#).

6 110TH WORLD ESPERANTO CONGRESS: ESPERANTO AND TECHNOLOGY AS BRIDGES OF PEACE AND TRUST BETWEEN PEOPLES, 2025-07-26 – 08-02

6.1 Organizers

Universala Esperanto-Asocio, directed by Bengt-Arne WICKSTRÖM

6.2 Venue

Brno, Czech republic

6.3 Topic

Esperanto and technology as bridges of peace and trust between peoples

6.4 Description

The United Nations (UN) declared 2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust to promote global unity and to encourage all of us to think about how to confront the many crisis the world is going through now. The Secretary-General of the UN, António Guterres, emphasizes the need of a new beginning, underlining the importance of human rights, unity, and solidarity in constructing a more peaceful and stable future.

That declaration aims to encourage countries and people to work together to solve conflicts, reduce inequality, and promote economic and climate justice. The UN believes that, by strengthening mutual trust and international cooperation, it is possible to create a more harmonious and secure environment for everyone. Considering that Esperanto – a neutral international language spoken in more than 130 countries – has already served for more than 137 years as a tool for international understanding and that recent technologies have become essential to connect people across the world, the 110th *Universala Kongreso de Esperanto* (the World Esperanto Congress) via this topic will explore the role of Esperanto and modern technologies as a means to promote peace and trust between peoples.

The strength of Esperanto is both in the features of the language – neutral, inclusive, easier and less expensive to learn – and in its core values around it and its culture – mutual understanding, honest communication, solidarity, pacifism, and internationalism. Combining this strength with the power of modern technology, we can create new possibilities for international cooperation, mutual understanding, and education for a more peaceful world.

During the Congress, we will explore how technology can help empower individuals and raise their awareness on issues that foster peace and trust. We will discuss how digital platforms, social media, online communities, and a neutral language can help enable people worldwide to connect and collaborate more easily internationally. We will also explore how technology can be used to teach Esperanto and facilitate learning of languages and culture, thereby strengthening the role of Esperanto as a tool for peace.

However, we will also consider the dangers of the misuse of technology. It is necessary to construct and be conscious of the absolute need for ethics in the use of technology, as well as fighting against fake news and the dissemination of hate. We have to be sure that our means of communication are used to construct bridges, not walls, and that they contribute to social inclusivity in a world connected by technology and that no one is left out. The theme also invites us to reflect more broadly on how digital tools can contribute to emancipatory education - so that peace can take root in the minds of people.

Finally, we will get acquainted with concrete examples of projects and initiatives where Esperanto and technology are used to further peace and trust. We will hear from activists and scholars who will share their experiences and success in this area. These stories will inspire us and show how we all can contribute to a more peaceful world with the use of Esperanto and technology.

Fernando Maia Jr., Vice President of the World Esperanto Association (UEA), head of congresses

6.5 Call for submissions

Those interested are invited to contribute to the topic and collaborate via the mailing list on the Congress topic. We invite all those who want to contribute to actively share their ideas, aspirations, and experience so that we can contribute together to a more peaceful and cooperative future.

Proposals may address any aspect of new technologies in relation to interpersonal contact, mutual understanding, and communication – particularly in connection with Esperanto. We have proposed a possible structure to help organize these ideas. However, it is only a proposal on how to structure our exploration and is not mandatory. Alternative ideas and structures are

much welcomed. Please send your proposals as early as possible, at least before the end of May 2025 to the above mailing list.

6.5.1 Possible thought structures

1. New technologies lower communication costs – for example, email, online messengers, online social forums. The main costs of national and global communication are, in practice then, time and the limitation of communication generally taking place between speakers of the same language or English. On the other hand, diaspora communities, such as Esperanto speakers or Yiddish speakers, can now more easily communicate with more people than before the creation of these technological tools. Time is limited, however, and one has to choose with whom they communicate with. An interesting question is which and what kinds of communication networks can develop.
 - (a) The evolution of the environmental landscape can result in more bridges between people or in barriers separating them. Serious global issues such as climate change, achieving peace, guaranteeing human rights, and removing the root causes of refugee crises, need international cooperation for their solutions. It is important to steer societies to the construction of “bridges”, as stated in point i below. However, it often results in point ii.
 - i. New bridges can emerge when people leverage technology to facilitate cross-cultural connections and global communication, making it easier to engage with others who hold different opinions. We can learn from others and question and critically evaluating our own point of view. Direct contact with other people helps us better understand, and as a result, respect them. This strongly depends on what connects us to other people. If the common connection is Esperanto and those communicating with one another generally represent diverse views in other areas, the bridge effect becomes important.
 - ii. We have the creation of new barriers, facilitated by the emergence of human communication networks that are diverse between groups but ideologically homogeneous within groups. We choose who we relate to, those who share our preconceived notions and ideas. We have no way to reexamine our point of view because we associate with those we already agree with. This will lead to social polarization and instability. True social interaction is lacking.
2. New technologies also facilitate the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) which continues to improve. An important application of AI is machine translation. Also here this development can lead us either in the right or wrong direction. Automatic translation reduces the incentive to learn foreign languages. Conversely, it opens the door to simpler global interactions.
 - (a) A reduction in foreign language learning limits access to the cultures these languages convey – provincialization comes to mind here. Direct personal contact nurtures mutual understanding. Machine translation can only rudimentarily enable this kind of contact between people who speak different languages. Thus, the strong incentive not to invest time in time-wasting learning of natural languages due to the existence

of automatic translation strongly necessitates learning of an easy-to-learn, neutral language which can serve bilateral relations between people. That enables the direct personal contact which can contribute to the solution of serious global issues mentioned in point 1a. AI, then, makes an argument for the greater use of Esperanto.

Bengt-Arne Wickström

7 47TH ESPERANTO STUDIES CONFERENCE, BRNO, 2025-07-31

7.1 Organizers

Klaus Schubert and Bengt-Arne Wickström

7.2 Venue

Brno, Czech Republic

7.3 Call for papers

The organizers call all scholars, researchers, and other congress attendees to participate in the 47th Esperanto Studies Conference, under the auspices of the Centre for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems (CED). The arrangement will take place as part of the 110th World Esperanto Congress in Brno, Czech Republic (2025-07-26 to 2025-08-02).

The program will contain multiple twenty-minute presentations selected from those received proposals, with a final roundtable on current research challenges of Esperanto studies in relation to the discussed topics. We welcome proposals of Esperanto-related research topics in areas such as linguistics, history, sociology, economics, law, anthropology, and literature; interdisciplinary proposals are also welcomed. Especially welcome would be proposals which analyze aspects of Esperanto, Esperanto studies, and interlinguistics in relation to the Congress theme: Esperanto and technology. On the basis of the presentations, a few selected texts, edited by the authors for publication, will appear in the journal *Esperantologio/Esperanto Studies*.

We invite all scholars – especially young scholars and first-time participants – to send their proposals for presentation. The proposal, having between 150 and 200 words, should be sent to the email ek47@interlingvistiko.net.

The deadline for proposals is 2025-04-30. To see the programs of previous conference, visit the [website of CED](#).

Klaus Schubert and Bengt-Arne Wickström

II ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

1 ESPERANTO AT THE 北京语言大学 (BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY), 2025-03-03

On 2025-03-03, the elective course on Esperanto officially resumed at the [北京语言大学](#) (Beijing Language and Cultural University), continuing a multi-year tradition. This year, 30 students applied to the course. [陈吉 \(CHÉN Jí\)](#), General Secretary of the Chinese Esperanto League, is responsible for the course as the main instructor.

More information: in [Chinese](#) and in [Esperanto](#).

III CULTURE

1 ESPERANTO AS A BRIDGE FOR CHINESE TRANSLATIONS FROM CZECH LITERATURE: INTERVIEW WITH MIROLAV MALOVEC, 2025-01-20

In an interview for Chinese news channel *China Global Television Network* by Alessandra Madella, the Czech Esperantist, and editor of the Czech Esperanto-language magazine *Starto*, Mirolav Malovec from Brno, discuss, among other topics, Chinese translations of great works of Czech literature done using Esperanto as a bridge or pivot language. Many important Czech literary works were translated by Tomáš Pumpr into Esperanto and LI Lǔjōn (李劳荣, Lǐ Láo róng) translated them into Chinese based on the Esperanto translation.

The interview can be found [here](#).

IV PEOPLE

1 HANS-DIETER QUEDNAU, 1930 – 2024



Photo by Magda Bauschke

Professor Hans-Dieter Quendau passed away 2024-09-03. Since 1982, he was Professor of Biometrics, Econometrics, and Data Processing for the Forestry faculty at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and, after the move of the faculty in 1999 to the Technische Universität München, at that university. He was also active as a professor at AIS (*Akademio internacia de la sciencoj – San Marino*, the International Academy of Sciences San Marino, a scientific association which utilizes Esperanto as an auxiliary language) and as a member and president of the Munich Esperanto club.

Professor Quendau received his doctorate at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn at the Institute of Genetics. Starting in October 1970, he worked there as a full-time scientific assistant in the fields of research, teaching, and scientific consulting on metrics in all areas of the biosciences. Main tasks were the development of biometric analysis methods using symbolic programming, statistical research on biochemical composition of mutations, analysis of nonlinear dose responses in the field of enzyme and mutation kinetics. In 1979, he obtained a teaching position in the department of biometrics.

Quendau was a full-fledged member and – for many years – AIS senator. In AIS, he was responsible for its program of study and archive of course completions and grades and he scrupulously recorded the courses and diplomas of AIS, diligently participating in examination committees, was a regular participant in the Sanmarienca Universitata Sesio (an Esperanto-language science conference and summer course by AIS) where he was also a lecturer.

In addition, he wrote textbooks and other publications in Esperanto for AIS courses.

He was for many years a member and president (1985-1988) of the Munich Esperanto club.

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2 REINHARD FÖßMEIER, 1955 – 2024



Photo by Burkhard Mücke

Reinhard Fößmeier passed away in Munich on 2024-11-05. He was a German Esperantist, mathematician and computer scientist. In 1977, he co-founded the Munich Esperanto-language magazine and, until his passing, was active in the local Esperanto movement. In 2024, he was named an honorary member of the Munich Esperanto club. He studied at Technische Universität München, where he held a teaching position in the faculty of computer science (1980-1982). From 1990 to 2015, he worked as a computer scientist for multiple companies and from 2015 to 2021 acted as an IT consultant.

He was very active in the Akademio internacia de la sciencoj – San Marino (AIS) and for many years worked as its secretary, and created its website. Since 1979 he was the examination commissioner for the *Germana Esperanto-Instituto*, the German Esperanto Institute. He was active on Wikipedia and contributed to the Esperanto-language Wikipedia.

In 2013, he contributed to the Esperanto-language edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Together, with Hans Michael Maitzen, Fößmeier translated into Esperanto multiple works, such as *The roads we take* by O. Henry (winner of the 2014 award *Liro*, a literary contest organized by the Esperanto-magazine *La Ondo de Esperanto*), *La gregoria kalendara reformo kaj ĝiaj postefikoj* (2019) (the Gregorian calendar reform and its effects), *A German professor's trip to El Dorado* by Ludwig Boltzmann (winner of the Pirlot award for scientific works in Esperanto), and, in 2024 the work of Copernicus, *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (nominee for the 2025 Pirlot award).

Amri Wandel

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3 CLAUDE GACOND, 1931 – 2024



Photo by Stefano Keller

Claude Gacond, the founder, longtime director, and archivist of CDELI (*Centre de documentation et d'étude sur la langue internationale*, Center for Documentation and Study about the International Language, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland) passed away 2024-11-17 in a nursing home in La Chaux-de-Fonds. He was born 1931-08-20 in Neuchâtel, in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. At a young age, as he would frequently recount (see for example GACOND, 2015 or the linked video in MORET, 2021), he uncovered Esperanto and almost at the same time its linguistic “enemies” in a group of Swiss Ido or Occidental speakers. Gacond frequently spoke of the “interlinguistic toleration” which made him to consider the international auxiliary language movement as a whole and as a part of world history. As such, in 1954, he decided to systematically conserve documents and archives on the idea of an international auxiliary language, he gradually built a collection (from books, brochures, magazines, archives, posters, photos, objects) not only related to Esperanto but also related to Volapük, Ido, Occidental, and Interlingue, among others. The printed materials (more than 10,000 items) are listed in the on-line library catalog RERO (type “CDELI” in this [search field](#). CDELI also sells used books, with a list of available titles [here](#). CDELI is certainly the most comprehensive interlinguistics (i.e. not solely Esperanto) library in the world. Quoting the words of the Occidentalist Alphonse Matejka (1902-1999) in the Occidental magazine *Cosmoglotta* (MATEJKA, 1974, page 8) it truly was *li providentie del interlinguistes*. The association *Amikoj de CDELI* (Friends of CDELI), who are responsible for the Center, and its president are aware of the value of the collections of CDELI and are doing everything necessary to continue the existence of this important center of interlinguistics research.

Sébastien Moret

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4 RENATO CORSETTI, 1941 – 2025



In 2025-02-01, Renato Corsetti, former president of the World Esperanto Association (2001-2007) and long-time contributor to the interlinguistics literature, among other activities related to Esperanto, passed away in London. His main areas of research were psycholinguistics and language learning, which he taught for two decades at Sapienza – Università di Roma. Being a father of two native Esperanto speakers, he was especially interested in the traits and development of bilingual and trilingual children and wrote several articles on aspects of natively speaking Esperanto, including his observations on “superreguligo” (the tendency for children to generalize linguistic schema in spite of the typical use of language by the parents). That eventually influenced his constant plea for *skemismo* in the development of Esperanto, a position which he argued throughout the years as a member of the *Akademio de Esperanto*. While less represented in his scholarly works, but however very important in his Esperanto career, was the link of Esperanto to political questions, such as human rights, popular democracy, and decolonization. The gamut of his interests and contributions is beautifully mirrored in a book of essays in honor of his 75th birthday, GOBBO (2016), with 29 contributions dealing with language politics, Esperanto studies, and other topics.

Mark Fettes

Literature

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V BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES

1 DISSERTATIONS, DIPLOMA THESES

2 JOURNAL ARTICLES

MALIK-MORALEDA, Saima, Maya TALIAFERRO, Steve SHANNON, Niharika JHINGAN, Sara SWORDS, David J. PETERSON, Paul FROMMER, Marc OKRAND, Jessie SAMS, Ramsey CARDWELL, Cassie FREEMAN, and Evelina FEDORENKO (2025). “Constructed languages are processed by the same brain mechanisms as natural languages”, in: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **122** 12.: e2313473122. DOI: doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2313473122.

What constitutes a language has been of interest to diverse disciplines—from philosophy and linguistics to psychology, anthropology, and sociology. An empirical approach is to test whether the system in question recruits the brain system that processes natural languages. Despite their similarity to natural languages, math and programming languages recruit a distinct brain system. Using fMRI, we test brain responses to constructed languages (conlangs)—which share features with both natural languages and programming languages—and find that they are processed by the same brain network as natural languages. Thus, an ability for a symbolic system to express diverse meanings about the world—but not the recency, manner, and purpose of its creation, or a large user base—is a defining characteristic of a language. What constitutes a language? Natural languages share features with other domains: from math, to music, to gesture. However, the brain mechanisms that process linguistic input are highly specialized, showing little response to diverse nonlinguistic tasks. Here, we examine constructed languages (conlangs) to ask whether they draw on the same neural mechanisms as natural languages or whether they instead pattern with domains like math and programming languages. Using individual-subject fMRI analyses, we show that understanding conlangs recruits the same brain areas as natural language comprehension. This result holds for Esperanto (n = 19 speakers) and four fictional conlangs [Klingon (n = 10), Na’vi (n = 9), High Valyrian (n = 3), and Dothraki (n = 3)]. These findings suggest that conlangs and natural languages share critical features that allow them to draw on the same representations and computations, implemented in the left-lateralized network of brain areas. The features of conlangs that differentiate them from natural languages—including recent creation by a single individual, often for an esoteric purpose, the small number of speakers, and the fact that these languages are typically learned in adulthood—appear to not be consequential for the reliance on the same cognitive and neural mechanisms. We argue that the critical shared feature of conlangs and natural languages is that they are symbolic systems capable of expressing an open-ended range of meanings about our outer and inner worlds.

3 BOOKS

4 BOOK CHAPTERS

5 JOURNAL ISSUES

5.1 *Jahrbuch der Gesellschaft für Interlinguistik*

5.2 *Language Problems and Language Planning*

5.2.1 **Language Problems and Language Planning**, 48:2, 2024. ISSN: 0272-2690. E-ISSN: 1569-9889.

5.2.1.1 *Contents*

- Laure Clément-Wilz: Les «droits fondamentaux linguistiques» existent-ils ? Une réflexion interdisciplinaire

Do “basic linguistic rights” exist? A interdisciplinary deliberation

Beyond law, the register of fundamental linguistic rights straddles many disciplines. This theme issue seeks to show how each discipline brings these rights into existence by adapting their definition. In Maria Margherita Mattioda’s paper, they are treated as a reference in neural automatic translation tools; for Vicent Climent-Ferrando, they justify a call for the greater recognition of regional and minority languages, with the European Union each time presenting itself as a debtor of these rights. Legally speaking, fundamental linguistic rights exist insofar as they are jurisdictionally guaranteed and effective. The case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) shows that this is sometimes the case, testifying to its creative role in this area. This introduction highlights the limitations of the Linguistic Human Rights (LHR) movement, as well as those of the register of fundamental rights with a linguistic dimension mobilized in law. For example, invoking this dimension does not solve the problem of the political trade-offs that a community faces, which harks back to the question of the costs and benefits of language policies, and in his contribution, Bengt-Arne Wickström shows how economics can provide useful measurement tools for their evaluation. In the following pages, we show that the logic of fundamental linguistic rights is based, more or less explicitly, on moral considerations and field realities. As a result, the definition of these rights varies according to the interpretation of the judges, in particular the ECtHR.

- Maria Margherita Mattioda: Intelligence artificielle et diversité linguistique : Quelle gestion équitable pour la garantie des droits linguistiques ?

Artificial intelligence and linguistic diversity: What equitable management will guarantee linguistic rights?

AI has experienced rapid and remarkable growth in recent years. Its widespread adoption across various fields is accompanied by an increasingly urgent need to reflect on its uses and potential misuses, especially when the deployment of intelligent systems can impact

individuals' lives and rights. The emergence of neural machine translation represents a significant improvement in quality compared to previous generations of translation systems, but can it play a fundamental role in the fair management of linguistic diversity and ensure language rights in multilingual societies? In this contribution, we will examine the relationship between language rights and translation, and then explore the impact of neural machine translation on linguistic diversity and the implementation of language rights.

- Vicent Climent-Ferrando: Minority language rights at a deadlock: Assessing the EU's approach to regional or minority languages

This article analyses the European Union's (EU) approach to the protection of regional or minority languages (RMLs) over the decade 2013 to 2023. It starts by providing a succinct overview of minority language rights in the international arena and focuses its analysis on the European Union, more specifically on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. The article notes the downward trend in minority language promotion in Europe and highlights the mismatch between the bottom-up, societal demands claiming more support for RMLs and the top-down approach, which shows increasing reluctance to intervene in minority language protection at EU level, on the grounds that languages remain a competence of Member States.

Keywords:

Minority Language Rights, Regional or Minority Languages, EU, European Parliament, European Commission, European Union, Council of the EU, Council of Europe

- Bengt-Arne Wickström: Approaching language rights and justice for linguistic minorities from the perspective of constitutional economics

Methodological individualism is a central concept in normative economics. As the point of departure of our discussion of linguistic justice, we postulates the equality of all individuals in relation to their first language. Any deviation from this ideal has to be motivated. One such motivation is the impracticability of policy measures, for instance due to cost arguments. A constitutional-economics analysis of the allocation of language rights focuses on this trade-off between equity and efficiency. One can define a scale running from perfect equality combined with extensive inefficiency to perfect efficiency combined with considerable inequalities between different individuals of different mother tongues. "(Linguistic) justice" of public policy is then defined as an "optimal" choice, or trade-off, on this scale. For the analysis, two tools in the tool chest of the economist will be applied in this essay:

1. An intuitive-imaginary analysis, based on a *Gedankenexperiment* involving an imaginary "original position" behind a "veil of ignorance" from which the choice between different societies can be seen as an individual's choice of implicit income distributions under uncertainty about the individual's own position in this distribution. The chosen society is then defined as "just" and the choice is determined by the individuals' attitude towards uncertainty.
2. A formal-axiomatic definition of a (paretian) social-welfare function in implicit incomes (money income plus perceived value of, for instance, language rights) of all

citizens in the society. The definition of “justice” is then found in the formal properties of this welfare function.

Both approaches lead to the same qualitative results.

Keywords:

linguistic justice, language rights, constitutional economics, social contract, social-welfare function, life’s lottery

- Kara Seidel: Review of “Bernard Spolsky. 2021. *Rethinking language policy*”
- Doris Löhr: Review of “Bert van Pinxteren, 2022. *Language and education in Africa: A fresh approach to the debates on language, education, and cultural identity*”

5.2.2 Language Problems and Language Planning, 48:3, 2024. ISSN: 0272-2690. E-ISSN: 1569-9889.

5.2.2.1 *Contents*

- Ahmed Allaithy, Mai Zaki, Boutheina Khaldi & Meis Al-Kais: Linguistic hegemony in academia: The impact of English on Arabic scholarship

This research paper addresses the complex interplay between multilingualism and the pervasive dominance of the English language in academic publishing, particularly focusing on Arabic academic publications in the humanities. This study adopts a comprehensive research methodology, employing both qualitative and quantitative analyses to investigate Arabic research representation in English-dominated academic journals, particularly those indexed in Scopus across various humanities disciplines such as *Language and Linguistics*, *Literature*, *Islamic Studies*, and *Translation*. The analysis utilizes bibliometric data from Scopus, focusing on publications from 1970 to 2023 that feature “Arabic”, “Arab”, or “Islamic” in their titles, abstracts, or keywords. The results indicate a significant underrepresentation of Arabic scholarship, with English accounting for 85% of publications and Arabic barely reaching 1.1%. The discrepancies in publication trends are obvious, on the levels of countries, author affiliations as well as language of publication. Overall, the results highlight the hegemonic nature of academic publishing, the marginalization of valuable Arabic research and the challenges Arabic-speaking scholars face in gaining recognition. Finally, the study addresses the broader implications of linguistic dominance on global knowledge production and advocates for a more inclusive scholarly landscape that values linguistic diversity through specific recommendations.

Keywords:

Arabic scholarship, linguistic hegemony, academia, Scopus, diversity

- John Derks: Language and the demand for self-determination

Language restrictions frequently elicit strong reactions from minority groups. What explains variations in responses to these linguistic policies? Contrary to the expectations of governments that employ restrictive, assimilationist language policies, I find that more severe restrictions on language tend to increase minority demands for self-determination rather than cultivate national unity. Using data from the *All Minorities at Risk* data

set (Birbir et al., 2018), I find support for language's theorized relationship with self-determination demands. The relationship between restrictions and self-determination demands does not appear in the context of religion, underscoring the particular role that language and language restrictions play.

Keywords:

assimilation, language policy, cultural restrictions, self-determination, secession, autonomy, language conflict

- Bipasha Bhattacharyya: Mohandas Gandhi and the uses of Esperanto: Language as a tool for coercive state-making

In the vast literature that deals with Mohandas Gandhi, very little attention has been paid to his opinions on questions of language. This essay studies Gandhi's use of the international auxiliary language, Esperanto, as a negative example of a way to find a common language. Gandhi was willing and able to collaborate with Esperantists. And yet, Esperanto was repeatedly invoked by Gandhi in order to attack it as an utopian ideal irrelevant in Indian contexts. Gandhi's arguments against Esperanto established the rejection of an internationalism of which he perceived Esperanto to be a part. His rejection of Esperanto as an artificially constructed language is integral to his failure to acknowledge Hindi's artificial construction and imposition in South Indian contexts. The Gandhi-led *All Indian Education Conference* at Wardha (1937) is situated in this essay, therefore, within a wider context of linguistic parochialisms.

Keywords:

Basic English, Esperanto, Gandhi, Hindi-Hindustani, language politics, mother tongue, scripts, völkisch movements

- Binji Zao & Huiyu Zhang: Review of "Wine Tisseur, 2021. *Translation as Social Justice: Translation policies and practices in non-governmental organizations*"
- Erin McInerney & Christine Hélot: Review of "Durk Gorter & Jasone Cenoz, 2024. *A panorama of linguistic landscape studies*"
- Nicole Marinaro: Review of "Ilaria Fiorentini, 2022. *Sociolinguistica delle minoranze in Italia: Un'introduzione*"

5.3 *Beletra Almanako*

5.4 *Esperantologio / Esperanto Studies*

5.5 *Investigationes Linguisticae*

6 NEWSLETTERS

6.1 *Global coalition for language rights (GCLR)*

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