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Raúl Aranovich (University of California, Davis)
Angelo de Gubernatis and the Whitney-Müller debate

Towards the end of their rancorous debate, F. M. Müller challenged W. D. Whitney to choose a tribunal of scholars to settle their dispute. The tribunal never convened, but an unsuspecting judge emerged in the figure of Angelo de Gubernatis, Italian Indologist and director of the Rivista Europea. In this paper, I will examine Gubernatis's objective opinions on the debate, and how he reached the conclusion that Müller was indeed the winner.

David Boe (Northern Michigan University)
Merleau-Ponty's course in general linguistics

The French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908-1961), while lecturing at the University of Paris, taught a linguistics-oriented course entitled "Consciousness and the Acquisition of Language" (1949-1950 academic year). Following a practice at the university, notes from these lectures were compiled by students and distributed in a published bulletin. This presentation will consider Merleau-Ponty's overview of linguistic ideas, and will then contrast his notes-derived text with Saussure's *Course in General Linguistics* (1916), also based on notes from lectures (delivered between 1906 and 1911). That Merleau-Ponty's linguistic turn appears to have been influenced by Saussure makes for an interesting textual comparison.

Hope C. Dawson (The Ohio State University)
Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University)
The demographics of LSA leadership over the years (Part 2)

Earlier work (Dawson & Joseph 2022) on the demographics of LSA officers and editors, compared to membership trends over the Society's history, showed that the last fifteen years have the largest proportion of student memberships ever, whereas the average age of LSA leaders is the highest. This work, however, was incomplete, lacking a consideration of other relevant leaders. Thus we examine here the demographics of the Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee, and those honored as LSA "Fellows", attending also to the diversity of representation in these bodies over time and within certain time periods, regarding institutional affiliation, age, and gender.

Jared Desjardins (University of Colorado, Boulder)
Revolutionary fervor in linguistics: Some concepts and consequences of the Chomskyan revolution

There is common agreement among language scientists that our linguistic theories should be sufficiently descriptive, explanatorily adequate, and enhance our understanding of the cognitive foundations of language -- specifically, the 'creativity' that allows us to infinitely express thought using an apparently finite system like language. This paper provides a critical assessment of the notion *linguistic creativity*, how it is handled across different approaches to language science, and the claims such theories make about the human language faculty. It concludes by discussing alternative formal means of explaining linguistic creativity and its cognitive basis, beyond the current methods of the generative enterprise.

Zygmunt Frajzyngier (University of Colorado, Boulder)
The appeal and the traps of typological approach to language description: A view from (almost) sixty years of work on African languages

The study draws on almost 60 years of experience of working on hitherto-undescribed languages. Two independent sources have been providing researchers with explicit or implicit guidance with respect to how conduct the fieldwork and how to couch the description. The help with respect to how to conduct the fieldwork consists of helping researchers work through lists of major issues that should be discovered and discussed. The theoretical literature provides guidance as to what are the most important issues of the time. I demonstrate that both types of literature in the past have inadvertently promoted unjustified theoretical assumptions and have used a methodology that sometimes prevented the discovery of the grammatical system in the language.

Joshua M. Griffiths (Northeastern University)
Marc Pierce (University of Texas at Austin)
Tracing the history of paradigm uniformity

In this paper, we discuss the cyclical rise and fall of the notion of paradigm uniformity in the phonological literature. We first briefly recap the status of paradigm uniformity in pre-generative phonology, before turning to its history in generative phonology. We suggest that the main issue contributing to this regular rise and fall is the link between paradigm uniformity and analogy, and the debate surrounding the formalization of diachronic sound change as synchronic processes. The status of paradigm uniformity thus bears on other long-standing debates in generative phonology and in historical linguistics.

Richard D. Janda (Indiana University Bloomington)
Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University)
Drift *as a centenarian vagabond: Initially floated in 1921 but still an unmoored concept*

Sapir's *drift* (1921) covers many changes whose distinctness is obscured by his invoking (p. 144) "intuitions" and "deep controlling impulses". Consequently, later scholars generally recognize just one *drift* out of Sapir's panoply. We argue that Sapir's various *drifts* all essentially signal *continuing trends of linguistic development in some direction*, so that *drift* is not an indispensable term. Drawing on 36 post-1921 historical-linguistic works, we demonstrate that the dominant interpretation of *drift* as basically *CO-DRIFT* -- related languages independently undergoing parallel changes -- has reduced the number of works invoking typology and discouraged attempts to locate the source of such parallelism as proto-language inheritance.

Marcin Kilarski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)
"[F]acts and reasons must take the place of authorities": J.N.B. Hewitt contra D.G. Brinton on polysynthesis

This paper examines an exchange between John Napoleon Brinton Hewitt (1857-1937) and Daniel Garrison Brinton (1837-1899) which dealt with two common features of North American languages, i.e., polysynthesis and noun incorporation. As shown by four papers (Brinton 1886, 1894; Hewitt 1893, 1896), the debate illustrates theoretical and methodological contrasts in their opposing approaches to these phenomena as well as their different status and background, and provides a starting point for a discussion of developments in late-19th century American linguistics, including its growing professionalisation as well as the approaches to fieldwork and the diversity of North American languages.

Frederick J. Newmeyer (University of Washington)
How the change in leadership of the LSA around 1940 shaped the future of American linguistics

The two most important elected offices in the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) have traditionally been the Secretary-Treasurer and the Editor of *Language*. In 1939 Bernard Bloch replaced George Bolling as Editor, and in 1941 J Milton Cowan replaced Roland Kent as Secretary-Treasurer. The consequences for the LSA were profound: The change in leadership was instrumental in transforming the Society from a broad umbrella group dominated by philologists to a combat organization fighting for structural approaches to grammar and grammatical change. The paper discusses the factors in choosing Bloch and Cowan, as well as the consequences of those choices.

Marc Pierce (University of Texas at Austin)
Eduard Prokosch's place in the history of linguistics

Eduard Prokosch (1876-1938) was one of the most prominent American linguists of the first half of the 20th century. Several assessments of Prokosch's position in the history of linguistics exist, but these assessments are all either outdated or colored by the author's personal friendship with Prokosch. As such, an updated assessment is necessary. Here I offer such an assessment, arguing that Prokosch's impact on the field can be measured largely from (1) his publication record, (2) his mentoring of students, and (3) his service in professional organizations.

Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute for Human Science)
William Dwight Whitney's theory of first language acquisition: A reflection of the general influences on his scientific method

William Dwight Whitney (1827-1894) began *The Life and Growth of the Science of Language: An Outline of Linguistic Science* (1875) with a chapter on first language acquisition. He contended that it provided the basis for linguistics. He argued that language evolved to serve the speakers' social and personal needs and that it was not perfectly created and is in continuous decline. His study of first language acquisition demonstrated his intention to demystify the science of language by grounding it in direct observation.

Margaret Thomas (Boston College)
Language and race in one 19th-century American family on the eve of scientific racism

Mineralogist, ethnographer, and explorer of the upper Midwest Henry Schoolcraft (1793–1864) wrote extensively about the Algonquian language Ojibwa. Schoolcraft's life, together with the lives of others in his milieu, illustrate the complex dynamics of race and language in America before the mid-1800s advent of scientific racism. In addition to Schoolcraft himself, these people include Lewis Cass, architect of Indian removal policies and Schoolcraft's supervisor in his position as US Indian Agent to Sault Ste. Marie; Jane Johnson, his métis first wife and prominent Ojibwa poet; and Mary Howard, his slave-owning second wife, author of a virulently anti-abolition, pro-slavery, novel.