11th Newcastle upon Tyne Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics

Presented by: Newcastle University and Northumbria University

The 11th Newcastle upon Tyne Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics was held in the Herschel Building at Newcastle University on Friday 18th March, 2016. 65 delegates, including students from the UK and abroad and staff from Newcastle and Northumbria students attended the conference.

A total of 23 oral presentations and 3 poster presentations were given by PhD students studying in the UK, Japan, Poland and Israel. These presentations were selected from 60 abstract submissions, following double-blind review by academic staff at Northumbria, Bangor and Newcastle Universities.

As well as enjoying the students' presentations, delegates were inspired by the three plenary talks. Prof. Anders Holmberg from Newcastle University opened the conference with a paper entitled: ‘The Syntax of Questions and Answers’. Prof. Penelope Gardner-Cloros from the Birkbeck, University of London gave a paper called ‘The Challenges of Code-Switching’. In the final plenary session, Prof. Paul Kerswill from the University of York gave a paper on ‘Expressing Identity in London and Paris: Ethnicity, Class and Youth’. The day finished with further informal discussions at a dinner at Zaza Bazar (the Gate). A total of 13 people headed to the dinner venue (two plenary speakers: Prof. Anders Holmberg and Prof. Paul Kerswill. Five presenters and a delegate: Gerrit Kotzur, Hui Sun, Shuo Yu, Anna Hollingsworth, Hanna Danbolt Ajer and Julio Song. Four committee members and a volunteer: Thamer Marzouq, Bashayer Alotaibi, Natalia Pavlovskaya, Samawal Jarad and Ekhas Mohsen).

The conference was made possible with generous support from Northumbria University (Graduate School), Newcastle University (School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences, School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics) and the Centre for Research in Linguistics and Language Sciences. The conference was organized by a team of PhD students from Newcastle University and Northumbria: Thamer Marzouq, Bashayer Alotaibi, Natalia Pavlovskaya, Abdulkareem Ahmed, Yiling Chen, Ali Alsaawi, Theng Theng Ong, Dhiaa Janaby, Hadi Alsamdani, Eleni Janko, Samawal Jarad, Nimet Copur and Qianwen Cheng. The committee wish to extend particular thanks to Dr. Rachelle Vessey for setting up the committee and initial meeting, and Ms. Sheila Heppel for her tremendous assistance in the run up to the conference. Our thanks is also due to Dr. Nick Riches for chairing the conference on the day, inaugurating and closing the conference and introducing the plenary talks.

On the day of the conference, a team of energetic volunteers (Yoojoo Cho, Ruxue Yang and Şaziye Savaşkan) helped to ensure the smooth running of the day. The organisation process was an invaluable development opportunity for committee members, and strengthened their team-working, problem-solving and event management skills. Students interested in organizing next year’s conference are strongly encouraged to do so; it offers the chance to contribute to an exciting and important event, develop skills and meet other linguistics students.

Qianwen Cheng and Thamer Marzouq

(Conference Chairs)

On behalf of the Organising Committee