

CIPL

Comité International Permanent des Linguistes
Permanent International Committee of Linguists

Annual Report 2015



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Introduction

Over the years, CIPL has developed itself in a continuously changing world. Linguistics itself evolves and embraces different models, ranging from theoretical to more applied approaches.

Linguistic Bibliography

2015 was a busy but very fruitful year for the editorial team during which the basic work was done for greater efficiency in the production of the *Linguistic Bibliography*. The new content management system, BALI2, was officially adopted and a new “self service” feature was developed. It was successfully implemented during the summer of 2015 and immediately used to create partial proofs for the external contributors, and complete proofs of the LB print 2014. Read more about the LB on page 9.

The Bibliography of Slavic Linguistics, 2000-2014

Published at Brill in three volumes, thematically and geographically ordered in the sections General, Slavic, South Slavic, West Slavic and East Slavic: *The Bibliography of Slavic Linguistics, 2000-2014*.

20th International Congress of Linguists

On the 30th of March 2015, the first official meeting took place in Cape Town between the LOC and representatives of CIPL. In July 2015, the president of CIL 20 and the SG met in Leiden and discussed the possibility of a grant for CIL 20, and in November 2015 they met again in Spier, Stellenbosch to have further discussions on the conference.

Workshop on Linguistic Approaches to Endangered Languages

The Linguistics Association of Turkey and the Department of Linguistics of Boğaziçi University organized a three-day workshop on *Linguistic Approaches to Endangered Languages: Theory and Description* in Istanbul on July 28-30, 2015. The workshop was partially supported by CIPL. Read more about this workshop on page 12.

CIPSH XXXII

Prof David Bradley represented CIPL at the Conseil International de Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines XXXII General Assembly in Beijing, China 7-9 December 2015 and the UNESCO Regional Preparatory Meeting of the World Humanities Conference on 10-11 December 2015.

Membership

In 2015, the SG had preliminary discussions about membership with professor Mohammad Anani, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and dr. Marwan El-Wuwalla, president of the University of Petra in Amman, Jordan and with the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Finances

The financial report for 2015 has been approved by the auditor and can be consulted on page 15.

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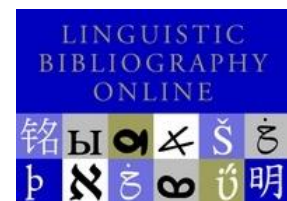
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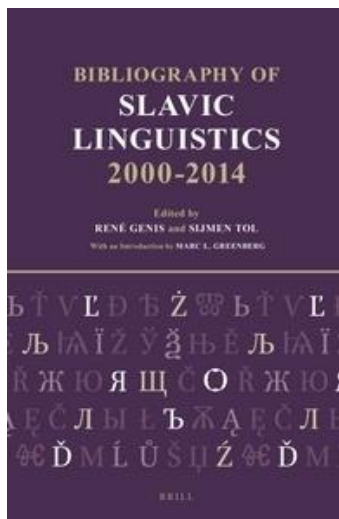
Linguistic Bibliography / Bibliographie Linguistique

The LB team has changed its focus from the print edition to the monthly online updates. This means that they check and correct all new entries monthly before the update. Up until last year the corrections were done during the two months leading up to the publication of the print version, which meant that corrections were often made a month after online publication. Now entries have always been corrected at the time of online publication and a lot of work can be saved later on when the production of the print volume starts.



The online edition also saw some small improvements that will help with enhancing the user experience. These include new search pages for “Publication Type” and “Theory”; a new page with information about setting up free trial access; and a new page for the recruitment of contributors to LB. As of January student-oriented textbooks are added as a new category of publications. This category will be exclusive to the online version.

The Bibliography of Slavic Linguistics



A lot of time was spent on the *Bibliography of Slavic Linguistics* which was published in November in 3 large volumes (the online version is to go live on the 6th of April 2016).

This was the first spin-off publication and some important lessons were learned, especially about the amount of work still needed to get older articles up to standard.

The work has been received quite well in the market in the short period since publication. Slavic languages constitute around 23% of all content in LB and any other spin-offs will be significantly smaller.

20th International Congress of Linguists (CIL20)

On the 30th of March 2015, the first official meeting was held at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). The Local Organising Committee (LOC) met with the President and SG of CIPL.

The following members of the Scientific Committee (SC) were chosen: Prof David Bradley (President) and Prof Mesthrie (President of the Conference). As CIPL-members of the LOC were chosen: Prof van Sterkenburg and Prof Frieda Steurs (especially for fundraising in Europe).

It was decided that it would be good to have an honorary figure to represent the conference as "Ambassador". The suggestion of Ayo Bamgbose of Nigeria (a member and past vice-president of CIPL) was accepted by all present.

The dates of the conference were set from the 2nd till the 6th of July 2018. There was an exchange of ideas on the topics, the invited speakers and the keynote speakers.

It was agreed that the Congress will have 10 paper sessions each with its own focus speaker, up to 30 workshops, and several poster sessions. While speakers and topics are drawn from a wide international pool, ICL 20 will take the additional opportunity of showcasing African language research. It will also cover applied linguistic areas of research of vital importance to the African continent and the 21st century at large, with a special extended session on Multilingualism, Education, Policy and Development.

A visit to the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) made it clear that this location is the ideal one for the congress since it disposes of large and small rooms, a hotel and several hotels nearby. The price for the rent may be a problem; if the financial negotiations with the CTICC are not successful UCT remains an option. However in the meantime this problem was solved. See below.

Cape Town offers a range of accommodation options from luxury hotels to mid-range hotels and guest houses, and lower-range backpacker hostels.

It was agreed that fundraising was a vital aspect of conference organization. Frieda Steurs outlined a comprehensive plan to target European funding for specific aspects of the conference.

The languages of the conference will be English, French, Afrikaans and Zulu. The preface of the congress book and the title page of the conference leaflets should reflect these languages. However, the main texts of the book would be in English.

In July the SG discussed with the President of the congress the possibility to grant a subsidy for the congress. After consultation with the President of CIPL during the conference in Istanbul, this subsidy was granted.

On the 25th of November, a meeting of the LOC took place in Spier (Stellenbosch). On that occasion, the contract was signed between the LSSA and CIPL and handed over to the conference and the venue (CTICC) were confirmed. The keynote speakers to be invited were discussed once again as were the workshops to be organized. It was noted that Gesture and Sign Language were to be kept apart. Finally the dates for the call of papers and workshops were finalized, as well as the timing for the congress book that has to be ready before the start of the congress.

Workshop on Linguistic Approaches to Endangered Languages: Theory and Description

The workshop in Istanbul on July 28-30, 2015 brought together linguists working on linguistic analysis of endangered languages mainly, but not exclusively, of Eurasia. According to the UNESCO website for endangered languages, 43% of living languages are endangered. These statistics underline the significance of linguistic analysis of endangered languages. While the documentation of these languages is crucial in preserving them for posterity, it is undeniable that rigorous analysis of the data will enhance our understanding of the properties of human language, thus providing us with further insight into the nature of the cognitive functions of the human mind.

During the opening session Prof. Taylan Akdoğan, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences of Boğaziçi University, Prof. Didar Akar the vice-chair of the Linguistics Department, Prof. Dr. Ümit Deniz Turan of the Linguistics Association of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Piet van Sterkenburg, SG of CIPL and Prof. Dr. A. Sumru Özsoy of Boğaziçi University, the local organizer of the workshop, gave welcoming comments.



The opening session was immediately followed by the talk of the first keynote speaker: Prof. Peter Austin who spoke about *Language Documentation and Language Revitalisation - partners or just good friends?* Prof. David Bradley, second keynote speaker, spoke about *Language Endangerment and Language Reclamation: Fostering Resilience*.

During the course of the conference, in addition to the two sessions for the keynote speakers, there were seven paper presentation sessions and a poster presentation session where poster presenters were asked to give a brief introduction to their research.

The paper presentation sessions were thematically organized as follows: *Session 1: Endangered Languages: Methodology & Data; Session 2: The Verb and VP; Session 3: Syntax; Session 4: Phonology; Session 5: Morphology/Syntax; Session 6: Language Contact; Session 7: Morphology.*

A large number of language families were represented at the conference. These included Turkic, Caucasian, Sino-Tibetan, Arabic, Khoisan, Yurakaré and Indo-European (Indic, Greek, Romance) among others.

CIPSH General Assembly XXXII and World Humanities Conference

Prof David Bradley represented CIPL at the CIPSH (Conseil International de Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines) General Assembly XXXII in Beijing, China 7-9 December 2015. CIPL is a foundation member of CIPSH and has been a member since 1949.

The CIPSH General Assembly decided to continue publishing its journal, *Diogenes*, and to admit four new member organisations. The major decision was to organise the UNESCO World Conference of the Humanities in Liège, Belgium on 6-12 August 2017. Prof David Bradley and Prof Frieda Steurs were invited to join the Scientific Committee of the conference, representing CIPL.

After the CIPSH General Assembly, the UNESCO Regional Preparatory Meeting of the World Humanities Conference was convened from 10-11 December 2015, on the topic “International Conference on Science and Civilization on the Silk Roads”.

Prof David Bradley presented a paper entitled “Linguistic History of Animals and Crops from the Ancient Silk Road” during this conference, and also launched a new book, David Bradley & Pei Likun (eds.), *山海经世界地理与中国远古文明 / Shanhaijing World Geography and Ancient Chinese Civilization*. Beijing: Beijing Foreign Language Press [in English and Chinese].

Future priorities

Linguistic Bibliography

For the future, the implementation of the new “self service” feature will result both in increased efficiency and in lowering the annual costs for the production of both the online edition (with monthly updates) and the print edition. Apart from some further improvements an important new feature is the DOI field which will allow for a direct link to the original sources.

Linguistic Approaches to Endangered Languages

CIPL will continue to invest in endangered languages by initiating and subsidising summer schools, projects and conferences on endangered languages. Our negotiations with SOAS on a contribution of CIPL for a monograph series on endangered languages has been delayed.

UNESCO has no financial means to prepare a new edition of the atlas of endangered languages. Talks are being held with different organisations about a new concept for this project. The idea is not to limit the project to endangered languages, but to create an atlas for all languages. CIPL is concerned about these developments, and prefers to place the highest priority focus on endangered languages, and is willing to invest in this with people and finances.

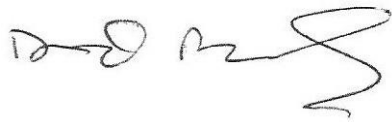
Newsletter

CIPL is negotiating with Brill about a weblog, as the discussions about a contract with LinguistList were not successful.

Finances

Please see enclosed Financial Statements. The 2015 Annual Report was approved.

Leiden, 31 December 2015



Prof. D. Bradley, President CIPL



Prof. P. van Sterkenburg, Secretary-General CIPL