Cognitive Linguistics in the Year 2025

Language Contact in a Cognitive Perspective

International Conference, organized by:

Institute of English Studies, UKEN, Krakow & The Polish Cognitive Linguistics Association

17-19 September 2025, Kraków, Poland

Conference website: https://ptjk2025.uken.krakow.pl/

Call for Papers

Language contact is omnipresent, extensive, constant; it has far-reaching social, political and linguistic effects. Language contact is a norm, not an exception (Sarah Thomason 2001).

Language contact, its outcomes and the diffusion of the cultures of the speech communities in contact have received much scholarly attention since the late 19th century (e.g. Whitney 1881). Traditionally, the focus has been on a quantitative and lexicographic documentation of contact-induced phenomena, facilitated recently by technological advances, word-processing tools and large electronic corpora that make the examination of large bodies of authentic data possible and that guarantee sociolinguistic variation. Recently developed theoretical frameworks in contact linguistics, drawing on late-20th-century developments in the fields of pragmatics, sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, corpus linguistics and psychology, have been a welcome shift. They advocate mind- and concept-oriented research on the outcomes of language contact, which allows to investigate those areas that were previously underresearched or neglected. Little attention has been paid to the perception and evaluation of language contact outcomes by recipient language (RL) speakers or to the semantics and pragmatics of contact-induced phenomena that occur at the post-borrowing stage and are related to the RL speakers' creative use of language. Studying contact phenomena from a cognitive perspective coupled with a functional usage-based methodology offers new research possibilities and likely sheds light on the RL speakers' lexical choices in real-life communication. Borrowing seen as a word-finding process or a naming strategy calls for onomasiologically-oriented research that acknowledges the RL speakers' active role in the borrowing and integration processes as a response to their communicative needs.

We welcome papers that look for the interrelation between two or more of the following: the RL speakers' cognitive abilities, the contact-induced need to name non-lexicalized concepts or rename familiar concepts, speakers' pragmatic needs in authentic communicative acts, speakers'/translators' motivations for choosing particular linguistic means, social and

idiosyncratic (synchronic) uses of contact phenomena, code switching and code mixing, cultural influences, social history, language variation and (diachronic) language change.

The term "language" in "language contact" is understood broadly to include natural, invented, national, standard and regional languages, creoles, dialects, language varieties, specialized languages, sociolects, professiolects, ethnolects, idiolects, bilingual mixed languages, non-standard uses, sign languages and other forms of human communication. We welcome various research methodologies ranging from corpus linguistics and digital humanities across usage-based approaches, survey-based, experimental set-ups, thematic and content analysis, eye-tracking, keystroke logging, mixed methodology and other.

The conference theme allows for a broad range of topics, including but not limited to:

- Language contact as a cognitive process
- Contact-induced language change through the prism of cognitive linguistics
- Metaphors as contact phenomena
- Cultural models in contact
- Bilingualism, multilingualism and cognition
- Bilingualism and association overlapping
- Code-switching, code alternation and code-mixing in a cognitive perspective
- Contact-induced language variation, formal variance, semantic change, pragmatic borrowing
- Perception and evaluation of contact-induced innovations
- RL speakers' motivations behind the use of contact-induced phenomena
- Translation as language contact and intercultural communication
- Cognitive imagery across languages
- Construction grammar and language contact
- Contact-induced language change, language attrition and death
- Stable and unstable language contact

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
Ad Backus, Tilburg University
Peter Bakker, Aarhus University
Maciej Eder, Polish Academy of Sciences
Elżbieta Muskat-Tabakowska, Jagiellonian University Kraków
Alexander Onysko, Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt
Eline Zenner, KU Leuven

Please, send **a 250-350-word abstract** (in English or Polish) that meets the conference Abstract requirements by **February 28th, 2025 via Abstract Submission** at the conference website available at: https://ptjk2025.uken.krakow.pl/.

We welcome proposals for **theme sessions**, which should be sent directly to the organisers at: ptjk2025@uken.krakow.pl **by February 28th, 2025**. The proposal must include: the name and affiliation of the organiser, the theme of the session, a 500-word proposal, and a list of participants with their affiliations.

We welcome proposals for **posters** that present research in progress. Depending on the number of poster proposals, a separate poster session is planned during the conference. Please submit your poster proposal by **February 28th, 2025 via Abstract Submission** at the conference website available at: https://ptjk2025.uken.krakow.pl/.

The languages of the conference are **English and Polish**.

For more information, please visit the conference website at: https://ptjk2025.uken.krakow.pl/.

We look forward to welcoming you to Krakow in September 2025.

Conference Organisers

CfP Selected References:

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Zenner, Eline and Gitte Kristiansen (eds.). 2015. *New Perspectives on Lexical Borrowing. Onomasiological, Methodological and Phraseological Innovations*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter.

Zenner, Eline, Backus Ad and Esme Winter-Froemel (eds.). 2019. *Cognitive Contact Linguistics*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter.