

Linguistic Ethnography Forum

**CONVENOR'S REPORT
to
BAAL Executive Committee
July 2006- July 2007**

1. Aims

The UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum (LEF) was set up in March 2001, and we aim

- * to bring together researchers conducting linguistic ethnography here and abroad, and
- * to explore a range of past and current work, to identify key issues, and to engage in methodologically and theoretically well-tuned debate.

2. Organisation

During 2006-2007, we've been delighted to have two new officers on the Coordinating Committee – Theresa Lillis has taken on the role of Treasurer, and Jeff Bezemer is the new Communications Secretary. So during the year, the committee has been:

Convenor:	Prof Ben Rampton (ben.rampton@kcl.ac.uk) 2005-07
Treasurer:	Dr Theresa Lillis (t.m.lillis@open.ac.uk) 2006-08
Communications secretary:	Dr Jeff Bezemer (j.bezemer@ioe.ac.uk) 2006-08
Meetings coordinator:	Prof Angela Creese (a.creese@bham.ac.uk) 2006-08
Ordinary members:	Dr Janet Maybin (j.maybin@open.ac.uk) 2006-08 Dr Vally Lytra (vally.lytra@pobox.com) 2005-07

3. Email list and membership

Our email list (ling-ethnog@jiscmail.ac.uk) is counted as our membership, and members are asked every year if they want to continue on the list. Membership currently stands at 202, with members coming from 21 countries (about half from the UK, c. 25% from North America and c. 15% from mainland Europe). There were 173 members in July 2006, 160 in July 2005, 146 in July 2004, and 129 in July 2003.

4. Web-site

We continue to maintain a website, which we regularly update with news of forthcoming events and details and papers from recent ones. See <http://www.ling-ethnog.org.uk>

5. Finance

As of 31/05/07, our balance stands at £1,126.02.

6. Activity during 2006-07

6.1 Publications

Following the discussion document we published in 2005 (*UK Linguistic Ethnography: A Discussion Paper*, at <http://www.ling-ethnog.org.uk>), two publications will be appearing this year:

6.1.1 *Special issue of Journal of Sociolinguistics entitled 'Linguistic ethnography: Links, problems & possibilities' (Vol 11/5, November 2007):* This contains:

- an introduction by Karin Tusting & Janet Maybin
- 5 papers: 'Neo-Hymesian linguistic ethnography in the UK' (Ben Rampton), 'Nexus analysis: Refocusing ethnography on action' (Ron Scollon & Suzie Wong Scollon), 'Relationality in sociolinguistics: A dialogue with linguistic ethnography' (Lukas Tsitsipis), 'Linguistic

ethnography in realist perspective' (Alison Sealey), 'A step to far?: Discursive psychology, linguistic ethnography and questions of identity' (Margaret Wetherell)

- 2 discussant commentaries: 'On the scope and depth of linguistic ethnography' (Jan Blommaert), 'Reflections on linguistic ethnography' (Martyn Hammersley)

6.1.2 *Contribution to The Encyclopaedia of Language & Education*: Volume 10 of *The Encyclopaedia of Language & Education* (Springer/Kluwer), which focuses on methodology and is being edited by Nancy Hornberger is carrying a paper by Angela Creese entitled 'Linguistic Ethnography'.

6.1.3 *Conference papers at www.ling.ethnog.org.uk*: During the year, more than a dozen texts and papers presented at conferences and seminars have been posted at our website. These include;

- papers from the LEF seminar on 'Bakhtin, language & discourse' (King's College London, September 2005): "Journeying with Bakhtin on the path of linguistic anthropology" (Lukas Tsitsipis); "'Speech genres' and 'evaluation' in socialisation and identity: Older children's language practices" (Janet Maybin); "Bakhtin in sociolinguistics/discourse studies: Readings and open issues" (Alexandra Georgakopoulou)
- papers from the LEF seminar on 'Methodological issues in linguistic ethnography' (Open University, March 2006): 'Love, hate and indifference: The impact of talk about relationships on the interpretation of talk in relationships' (Keith Richards); 'Macro social theory and linguistic ethnography: a bridge (too far)?' (Maira Inghilleri); 'Dilemmas of translation and identity: ethnographic research in multilingual homes' (Khadeegha Albouzei and Kate Pahl); 'Writing a linguistic ethnography: a different kind of journey' (Ellen van Praet); "'Big" stories and "small" stories: reflections on methodological / theoretical issues in narrative research' (Alexandra Georgakopoulou and Mike Baynham); Standards of evidence, ethnographic methods and analysis (Alexandra Jaffe)
- papers from the SS16 Colloquium on 'Ethnographic challenges and opportunities in language research' (July 2006): 'Researching academic literacy as a social practice: Developing a text-oriented ethnography' (Theresa Lillis); 'Liminal (linguistic) ethnography in the attempt to study segregated organisations' (Francesca Bargiela); 'Ethnography and forensic linguistics' (Frances Rock); 'Comments on the colloquium' (Jürgen Jaspers).
- a paper on a seminar organised by the ESRC Identities & Social Action Programme: "The Meanings of Ethnicity in Discursive Interaction: Some Data and Interpretations from Linguistic Ethnography" (Ben Rampton, Roxy Harris & Lauren Small)

6.2 *Meetings*

LEF has now organised or been closely involved in 17 academic meetings since inception in 2001. So far, 2006-07 has seen the following:

6.2.1 *LEF SIG track at the BAAL Annual Meeting* (University College Cork, 7 September 2006): At the BAAL Annual Meeting 2006, papers in an LEF SIG track addressed issues around youth, multilingualism and citizenship (Julie Byrd Clark), English National Literacy Strategy (Adam Lefstein), and professional roles and identities of bilingual primary teachers (Jean Conteh).

6.2.2 *Linguistic ethnographies of children and youth* (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 14 April 2007): About 25 researchers from different disciplines and continents attended this one-day seminar, organized by David Poveda, Marta Casla and Ana María Relano-Pastor. There were 8 presentations: Peer culture, identity, and language at a Korean language school' (Jinhee Kim); "'She'll tell": dilemmas of doing longitudinal linguistic ethnography with young immigrant children' (Shoshana Blum-Kulka); 'Developing a linguistic ethnographic analysis of children's conversational narratives' (Janet Maybin); 'A multimodal approach to sign language interpreter's role in storytelling events' (Laura Pulido); 'Interaction of ethnographic and other methods in investigating language change among Australian indigenous children' (Patrick McConvell & Carmel O'Shannessy); 'A critical sociolinguistic ethnography in high schools: When transcribing hideous students' voices' (Esther Alcalá and Luisa Martín Rojo); 'Eso no es español!', constructing legitimate language in a bilingual school' (María Dolores Pérez Murillo); 'The development of the grammar of emotion' (Jaya Nagpal).

6.2.3 *Bourdieu and linguistic ethnography* (University of Birmingham, 16 June 2007): Organised by Adrian Blackledge, this was attended by 27 researchers, and there were 4 presentations: 'Bourdieu,

Linguistics and Ethnography' (Michael Grenfell); 'Translation, politics and the ethics of communication: A Bourdieusian perspective' (Moirá Inghilleri); 'Researching Post-Compulsory Education and Training: social narratives, habitus and recursive methodology' (Simon Warren); 'Negotiating identities in complementary schools: Multilingual habitus in contemporary social spaces' (Adrian Blackledge and Shahela Hamid).

6.2.4 *Upcoming and future meetings*: Coming up we have an LEF colloquium on 'Negotiating multilingual identities in educational settings' at the BAAL Annual Meeting in Edinburgh on 6-8 September 2007, with contributions from Adrian Blackledge (convenor), Shahela Hamid, Chao-Jung Wu and Li Wei; Barbara Majer; Sian Preece; and Sjaak Kroon and Max Spotti.

Ongoing discussions about future events include a joint meeting with the Multimodality SIG in 2008 on linguistic ethnography and multimodality, and more generally, we very much welcome your ideas and proposals for seminars and workshops.

6.3 *ESRC-funded training programme* (www.rdi-elc.org.uk)

Following discussion within LEF, a number of colleagues at King's and the Institution of Education - Ben Rampton, Adam Lefstein, Celia Roberts (KCL), Jan Blommaert, Jeff Bezemer, Carey Jewitt (IoE) – applied to the ESRC-RDI scheme for £100,000 to run an advanced methods training course on 'Ethnography, Language & Communication' for doctoral and post-doctoral social science researchers UK-wide. The bid was successful and the programme (which consists of c 20 days of activity spread over 3 years) began in March 2007, with 60+ researchers applying for 25 places on the first 5-day course on 'Concepts & methods' running in 2007. During 2008 and 2009, there will be follow-up sessions, a 5-day summer school, a conference on teaching linguistic ethnography, themed workshops (on education, health, migration & new media), and two masterclasses (with Ray McDermott and the Goodwins). The advisory board consists of Julia Bailey, Mike Baynham, Gunther Kress, Marilyn Martin-Jones, Janet Maybin, Andrew Pollard, Brian Street, Karin Tusting, Margie Wetherell and Helen Wood, and there is a website which provides much fuller information – www.rdi-elc.org.uk.

7. BAAL

LEF is now looking rather well-established – 200+ researchers on our mailing list, nearly 20 events over six years (some now held on mainland Europe), more than 20 papers at www.ling-ethnog.org.uk, a special issue in a leading journal, an encyclopaedia entry, and £100,000 from the ESRC for a closely related training programme. As ever, our identity as a BAAL Special Interest Group continues to be of enormous value, and we would like to thank the BAAL Executive for its ongoing support.

Ben Rampton (Convenor)
on behalf of the UK LEF Coordinating Committee
9 July 2007