

## Linguistic Ethnography Forum

# CONVENOR'S REPORT to BAAL Executive Committee July 2003- July 2004

### 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

From September 2001 (when we were first accepted as a BAAL SIG) until April 2004, we have operated with a *ad hoc* steering group, then with an Acting Coordinating Committee, and a draft constitution. But at our AGM in April 2004, the constitution was formally ratified, and the following Coordinating Committee was elected:

Convenor:	Prof Ben Rampton (ben.rampton@kcl.ac.uk)
Treasurer:	Dr Richard Barwell (richard.barwell@bristol.ac.uk)
Communications secretary:	Dr Karin Tusting (k.tusting@lancaster.ac.uk)
Meetings coordinator:	Dr Angela Creese (a.creese@bham.ac.uk)
Ordinary members:	Dr Janet Maybin (j.maybin@open.ac.uk) Dr Vally Lytra (vally.lytra@pobox.com)

### 3. Email list and membership

Our email list is counted as our membership, and members are asked every year if they want to continue on the list. Membership currently stands at 146, compared with 129 in July 2003.

### 4. Web-site

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

### 5. Finance

Our balance currently stands at £841.14, and auditable accounts for 2003-2004 have been submitted to the BAAL Treasurer.

### 6. Events 2003-2004:

During the period July 2003 to September 2004, we have organised three events:

8. A half-day colloquium at the 2003 BAAL Annual Meeting (4-6 Sept) in Leeds on 'Linguistic Ethnography at the Interface with Education'. Papers were presented by Richard Barwell, Janet Maybin, Kate Pahl and Ben Rampton, and Rachel Hodge and Karin Tusting organised a workshop on issues in research training in linguistic ethnography. A number of these contributions can now be found on our website.
9. A two-day seminar on 19-20 April 2004 on 'The Relationship between Linguistic and Post-structuralist Feminist Ethnography', held at King's College London. The invited speakers were Val Hey (Brunel University), Shereen Benjamin (Birmingham University) and Don Kulick (New York University). 27 people attended, and two reports of the event, by Rosie Flewitt and Joan Swann, have been published in *BAAL News* no 77.
10. A colloquium at the 2004 BAAL Annual Meeting in London (9-11 September), covering two linked themes: 'Time, the global and the local: Theoretical and methodological

explorations' (with papers by 5 researchers mainly based in the UK), and 'Ethnographies of communication in multilingual spaces' (papers by 5 researchers in Europe & the US).

This will be the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting we have organised since April 2001.

Events for 2005 are currently under discussion.

## **7. Discussion**

Discussion at the 2004 AGM and within the Coordinating Committee has centred on a number of issues:

8. *Diversifying the format of LEF meetings*: Since the outset in 2001, we have held a 2-day seminar in the spring and colloquium at the September BAAL Annual Meetings every year. But until it was shifted to London at the last moment, there was only poor recruitment for the 2004 Spring Seminar scheduled at Gregynog in Wales, and both at our 2004 AGM and subsequently, we have been discussing possible reasons and responses to this (competing events; weekday timing; choice of topic). One of the ideas to emerge from this is that we could develop a third kind of LEF meeting: relatively small one day events for the discussion of ongoing research, held perhaps twice a year. We will be exploring the possibilities in coming months.
9. *A publication to reflect the work of UK LEF*: With a significant track-record of events and a quite a substantial body of discussion archived on our website, we are currently discussing the timeliness and possibility of a publication on 'what linguistic ethnography has to offer', reflecting some of this work.
10. *A larger international conference on linguistic ethnography*: We have also been giving some very preliminary thought to the pros & cons of holding a larger conference in 2007.

## **8. BAAL**

Our identity as a BAAL Special Interest Group continues to be of enormous value to us, and we have held several very productive discussions with the BAAL SIGs Coordinator and other members of the BAAL EC.

Ben Rampton

on behalf of

UK LEF Coordinating Committee

(Richard Barwell, Angela Creese, Vally Lytra, Janet Maybin, Ben Rampton, Karin Tusting)

13<sup>th</sup> July 2004