THE 58ᵀᴴ ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETAS LINGUISTICA EUROPAEA

The Societas Linguistica Europaea and Université Bordeaux Montaigne jointly organised the 58th Annual Meeting, which took place in Bordeaux from 26 to 29 August 2025.

Four plenary speakers delivered presentations at the conference: Livio G a e t a (Università di Torino) "Handle with care: the dangerous relations between language contact and linguistic theory", Dagmar D i v j a k and Petar M i l i n (University of Birmingham) "Top-down wisdom versus bottom-up noise: can data (ever) replace linguistic expertise?", Carmelo Alessandro B a - s i l e (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle), winner of the Best Postdoc Paper at SLE 2024, "Charting modal change in Singapore English: evidence from contemporary corpus and survey data" and Sandra C r o n h a m n and Anna H j o r t - d a l (Lund University), winners of the Best PhD Paper at SLE 2024, "To have or not to have a nominal classification system: trade-offs between speaker and listener needs".

There were 619 registered participants at the conference. They came from different continents, including Europe (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Ice-land, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine), Asia (Azerbaijan, China, Hong Kong, Israel, India, Japan, South Korea, Qatar, Thailand, Taiwan), North America (Canada, the United States, Mexico, Jamaica), South America (Brazil), Oceania (Australia) and Africa (South Africa, Mauritius).

General Session talks covered 14 topics: areal linguistics, historical linguistics, language acquisition, language contact, language variation, morphology, morphosyntax, phonetics and phonology, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, semantics, sociolinguistics, syntax and typology. The poster session took place over two days and featured 30 poster presentations. The conference included 26 workshop talks covering a wide range of topics in linguistics, including but not limited to word-formation, syntax and semantics. There was also a special panel session on communicating linguistics research.

Only linguistics studies related to the Baltic languages will be described in this conference review. Axel H o l v o e t (Vilnius University) focused on residual lability in the Baltic languages. He examined the lexical domain in which lability has remained resistant, taking into account not only a verb's position on

Haspelmath's (2016) spontaneity scale but also all other potentially relevant factors and the types of alternations that occur between labile verbs and those with formal markings.

Daria Alfimova (University of Potsdam) investigated valency (mis)matches in Baltic languages, testing three hypotheses. Her findings sparked discussion on the complex interaction between intra- and cross-linguistic factors that shape valency distribution in authentic conversational contexts. She emphasized that adopting a usage-based perspective is crucial for understanding the distribution of valency classes and uncovering key language-specific features.

Anna Daugavet and Danguolė Kotryna Kapkan (Vilnius University) investigated the use of the Latvian perfect in Facebook comments. Their aim was to offer a detailed account of the different functions of the Latvian perfect in this informal, naturalistic context, allowing for a meaningful comparison of the Baltic perfects, informed by a similar study on Lithuanian.

Andra Kalnača, Tatjana Pakalne and Ilze Lokmane (University of Latvia, Riga) investigated the distinction between derivation and compounding in complex Latvian nouns, focusing on prefixes versus compounding constituents. The objective of their study was to determine whether it is possible to formulate consistent criteria for differentiating between prefixes and compounding constituents, that is, between prefixation and [P + N]N/A compounding as distinct types of word-formation processes in Latvian.

Lina Inčiuraitė-Noreikienė and Erika Rimkutė (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania) employed a synchronic approach to investigate neoclassical compounds featuring -*skopas* '-scope' as the second constituent in contemporary Lithuanian from a word-formation perspective. Based on the compounds' internal morphological structure, they categorized the neoclassical compounds into four groups: 1) compounds consisting of two bound stems, 2) compounds consisting of a free and a bound stem, 3) compounds consisting of a bound and a free stem, and 4) compounds consisting of two free stems.

The conference featured a round table discussion, "How to do linguistics with AI; how to do AI with linguistics". Keynote speakers were Emily M. Bender (University of Washington), Claire Larsonneur (University Paris 8), Benoît Le Blanc (École nationale supérieure de cognitique – INP Bordeaux) and Christian Ludwig (Free University of Berlin).

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