Early Modern English:
Emerging Voices, 1500–1800

SoSe 2019

Syllabus

ORIGINAL COURSE DESCRIPTION
The Early Modern period sees an explosion of new voices represented in the textual record: women, people of colour, and writers from outside Britain are all robustly represented for the first time in this period. In this seminar we will take a sociolinguistic perspective on these new voices and the linguistic period, using corpus-linguistic methods and constructing new resources to investigate selected individuals and how their linguistic usage compares with others of their time.

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. George Walkden
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G116
Office hours: Mondays 15:15–16:15, Tuesdays 10:00–11:00

The course will take place in the department's computer room (G 209), since some sessions are hands-on tutorial-style introductions to corpus linguistics.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
Knowledge of the history of the English language at least equivalent to SHE II (Introduction to the History of the English Language). If you need a refresher, you can watch my recorded lectures from SHE II online. Some background in sociolinguistics is useful, but not necessary.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
- Active participation
- Completion of corpus exercises
- Reading and presenting a chapter of the course textbook
- Sociolinguistic study of an Early Modern individual's usage, presented in the form of an academic poster (to be discussed in the final session of the course).

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

COURSE STRUCTURE

1. **Introduction to the course and to Early Modern English**
2. **Corpus linguistics**
3. **Building corpora**
4. **Using corpora**
5. **Corpus annotation**
6. **Using corpus annotation**
7. **Variation and change in Early Modern English**
    • Presentations: Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg chapters 1–3
8. **Analysing corpus evidence**
    • Presentations: McEnery & Wilson (2001) chapter 3
9. **Real time, apparent time, and gender**
    • Presentations: Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg chapters 4–6
10. **Social, regional, and historical variation**
    • Presentations: Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg chapters 7–9
11. **Language change in Early Modern English**
    • Presentations: Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg chapters 10–12
12. **Closing poster session**

COURSE READINGS
There is no set textbook for the course. Suggested readings will be highlighted in each class. Three books will, however, be particularly important: • For general background (Session 1 and beyond): Nevalainen, Terttu. 2006. *An introduction to Early Modern English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. • On corpus linguistics (Sessions 2–6 and 8): McEnery, Tony, & Andrew Wilson. 2001. *Corpus linguistics: an introduction*. 2nd edition. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. • On variation and change in Early Modern English (Sessions 7 and 9–11): Nevalainen, Terttu, & Helena Raumolin-Brunberg. 2017. *Historical sociolinguistics: Language change in Tudor and Stuart England*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge.

ASSESSMENT
Much assessment at universities has a short shelf life: once an exam or a term paper is marked, it is thrown away, or packed into a folder and never looked at again. By contrast, this course relies significantly on *meaningful assessment*: the work you do as part of the course will help to advance future research on Early Modern English. Each course participant will help to prepare 2,000 words of English by an author from the period 1500–1800, for inclusion in a linguistic corpus (a collection of texts) that will be made publicly available. This involves: • Picking and 'adopting' an author (from the list available) • Preparing the raw text for automatic annotation (by correcting OCR errors, separating out clitics and punctuation, etc.) • Correcting the results of the automatic annotation (lemmas and part of speech) As a final stage, assessment will involve presentation of a small poster on an aspect of Early Modern English using the corpus you have constructed. This presentation will take place in the last session of the semester.

OTHER
• Find out more about the corpus that was constructed by 2019's students here: http://walkden.space/voices/