Editorial

Brian Nolan

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I am delighted to introduce the **19th edition of the ITB Journal**, the academic journal of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown.

In the first paper, Dr. Zari Saeedi T. examines Event Structure of Prepositional Nuclear Junctures in Persian. This paper analyzes one group of complex predicates or nuclear junctures (NJs) in Persian (as an Indo-European language) in terms of its event attribute within the framework of Role and Reference Grammar. These complex predicates fuse with prepositional phrases and the impoverished forms of the verb referred to as light verbs.

The second paper, by Judith Gottschalk of the Heinrich-Heine-Univerität Düsseldorf, in Germany on 'Storage of linguistic knowledge in the mental lexicon also employs the RRG linguistic model. This paper aims to give an account of a theory of a mental lexicon for German verbs of motion. The issue under analysis here is how Aktionsarten in general and particularly verbs of motion, with their various alternations, are structured and how they are stored in an RRG-compatible lexicon. A time line model for RRG-Aktionsarten based on Reichenbach (1947) is developed to give a description of the structure of events assumed. Human knowledge is often represented in terms of inheritance networks and therefore this paper uses a model of inheritance networks to modify the present version of the lexicon in RRG.

This paper by Gudny Bjork Thorvaldsdottir, of ITB, entitled 'The Beginnings of Phonetic and Phonological Coding in the Signs of Ireland Digital Corpus: The Representation of Handshapes' discusses some of the research that has been done on phonetics and phonology in signed languages, and makes an important contribution to our knowledge of the handshapes employed within Irish Sign language. She discusses aspects of a few phonological models in relation to two particular parameters that have been proposed for signed languages, that is: hand configuration and local movement.

Importantly, her discussion addresses a range of issues with respect to expanding the annotation of the Signs of Ireland (SOI) corpus to incorporate phonetic and phonological coding. This forms part of ongoing Irish Government SIF Cycle-2 research work that explores the phonology-morphology interface in Irish Sign Language (ISL), in a collaboration project between ITB and TCD. This research uses the TCD-based Signs of Ireland sign language corpus which includes data from Deaf ISL users across Ireland in digital form. It contains glossed lexical signs, classifier constructions and non-manual features. Classifier handshapes have also been annotated. It is my intention to identify the phonemes and the allophones of ISL using the corpus and it is thus neccessary to incorporate a detailed annotation at the phonetic level.

Aiden Carthy, Celesta McCann and Sinead McGilloway, all of ITB have a paper on 'Exploring the differences in emotional competency across subject domains for Irish first year undergraduate students' This study generated composite emotional competency profiles for Irish first year undergraduate students in four separate subject areas and tested for statistical significance between student groups. Within this study, social care students had statistically higher scores than computing and engineering students, and additionally, business students also had statistically higher scores than

computing students. Reference is made to issues relating to curriculum design, student support services and the design of interventions for at-risk students.

An interesting paper on 'Mobile Phone Game Localisation', based on recent research at ITB is presented by Leonie Troy, Matt Smith, Richard Gallery, all of ITB. This paper explores localisation issues in the development of games for mobile phones. Because of the additional work and complexity that localisation requires, such games are frequently produced without localisation in mind. Mobile phone game localisation involves various types of language transfer on a small scale, which challenges the localisation process carried out on a game. This work investigated the workflow for the localisation of a mobile phone game into Spanish and German using a LISA Standard TMX (Term Base Memory Exchange) and the Oasis standard XLIFF (XML Localisation Interchange File Format). Using Unicode the game was also localised into one Altaic language (Korean) and one Semitic language (Arabic).

The sixth paper, from Kieran Harkin, Kevin Curran, Eoghan Furey , a group of researchers at the University of Ulster, in Northern Ireland looks at 'Voice Enabled Indoor Localisation'. This paper examines the ability to track objects in real time using location based systems that incorporate a voice control function into to solve interaction problems that are sometimes to be found with location based systems. This paper provides an overview of integrating voiceXML with an indoor location positioning system to locate objects through voice commands.

The seventh and final paper by Pat O'Connor of ITB looks at 'Effective Teaching and Learning in Higher Education'. In this he examines the perspective on HE within the United Kingdom. Specifically, he examined in great detail the current teaching and learning environment in higher education in the UK, concentrating on England, and asked some very significant questions about how we do out business as educators within higher education. He asks: Is there a positive and supportive environment for learning and teaching in the UK? As part of his study, the conceptual and theoretical foundations underpinning practice in higher education teaching and learning are examined as is the support and impetus provided by government and policy. The nature of academic identities and the structure and engagement in academic development is also assessed. The answers to these questions are of major importance to Irish higher education particularly in the light of the soon to be delivered Irish Government strategic plan for Higher Education in Ireland.

We hope that you enjoy the papers in this issue of the ITB Journal.

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