

BABYLON

UNVEILING THE ONLINE – OFFLINE NEXUS IN SUPERDIVERSITY



BABYLON AND ITS PAST



SUPER-DIVERSITY

A TERM THAT WAS BORN WITHIN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF TRANSNATIONALISM. DESPITE ITS CLEAR PERTINENCE TO THAT FIELD, IT IS IN 2009 THAT SOCIOLINGUISTICS HAS APPROACHED TO THIS TERM (BLOMMAERT & RAMPTON 2011), CALLING FOR A RE-SHAPING OF THE CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL *APPARATA* THAT HAD INsofar CHARACTERISED THE FIELD.

BABYLON



InCoLaS
International Consortium on Language
and Super-diversity

SECTION: INTERVIEW

Superdiversity, language and society: issues on the move. An interview with Prof. Jan Blommaert and Dr. Massimiliano Spotti (Tilburg University)

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Abstract

Contemporary societies are strongly marked by a new complex web of relations, regulations and practices such as a response to new globalization processes along with the advent of digital media technologies. Human mobility, in particular, becomes a key element in the understanding of recent times as it has brought an unprecedented diversification of diversity that came to be known as superdiversity. As languages are a fundamental element in human relations, the emerging complexities in social interactions taken into account in current research on meaning making processes in both offline communication. In this interview, Jan Blommaert and Massimiliano Spotti, Tilburg University, the Netherlands, provide us with an acute analysis on the trends of Sociolinguistics. By claiming in favor of a paradigm shift in which language would have to consider elements hitherto neglected by traditional language studies, the authors' pioneering publications and local initiatives open up the terrain for the reinvention of language studies, policies, and practices.

Keywords

Superdiversity – Sociolinguistics – Language – Mobility – Online communication – communication.

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INFRASTRUCTURES OF GLOBALISATION

‘PARIS NORD AND «[T]HE WEST AFRICANS» [...] REDEFINE A COMPLEX ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND LINGUISTIC ARRAY OF PROCESSES THAT CONVERGE UPON THE STATION [A COMBINATORIAL SPACE OF POIETICAL PRAXIS: KA & MS, 2017].

INFRASTRUCTURES OF GLOBALISATION (2)

ACCUMULATED OVER THE LAST DECADES, THESE PROCESSES CARVE OUT A PLACE IN A MARGINALISING URBAN ENVIRONMENT, CREATING NOT A STATIC CORNER OF 'LITTLE AFRICA' BUT A HUB THAT IS FULL OF POTENTIAL PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE MULTIPLE TRAJECTORIES OF GLOBALISATION-LED MOBILITY.

(SEE ALSO KLEINMAN 2014:20)

EMERGENT KEY WORDS IN OUR WORK

PRACTICES

NORMATIVITIES

CATEGORISATION

IDENTIFICATION

GROUP FORMATION



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“It’s All About Naming Things Right”: The Paradox of Web Truths in the Belgian Asylum-Seeking Procedure

Massimiliano Spotti

Introduction

The present paper—part of a larger ethnographic enquiry aimed at documenting and understanding the process of doing asylum seeking in the context of globalisation—deals with the process of identity (mis)recognition that led to the rejection of an asylum-seeking application. More specifically, the paper documents two things. First, it documents the discrepancy between the narrative narrated by the poorly educated asylum-seeking applicant (see Danström and Whyte, this volume, for a discussion of the role of narrative in asylum determination) and the type of factual knowledge sought by the officials judging the truthfulness of his identity claim. Second, it documents how the lack of factual knowledge is a product of a discrepancy in naming practices, i.e., a discrepancy between the official naming of things and places of interest known by the authorities from the internet—and the locally based naming of things used by the applicant. The case documented here, as well as pointing at the politics of suspicion in the asylum-seeking procedure, also serves the methodic function of laying bare some of the torn ligaments around the bones of globalisation. It encapsulates how migratory experiences are registered into administrative prescriptive accounts of what someone should say and how someone should name things in order to give proof of identity.

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NEXUS



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Paper 223

Invisible Lines in the Online-Offline Linguistic Landscape

by

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Professor
Jan Blommaert

Foucault
the int

NEXUS

- JUST A LINKAGE?

ACTUALLY, NO!

AS WE LEARN FROM BOURDIEU AND AGHA, WE CAN TALK OF 'NEXUS CONCEPTS' LIKE:
HABITUS AND ENREGISTERMENT

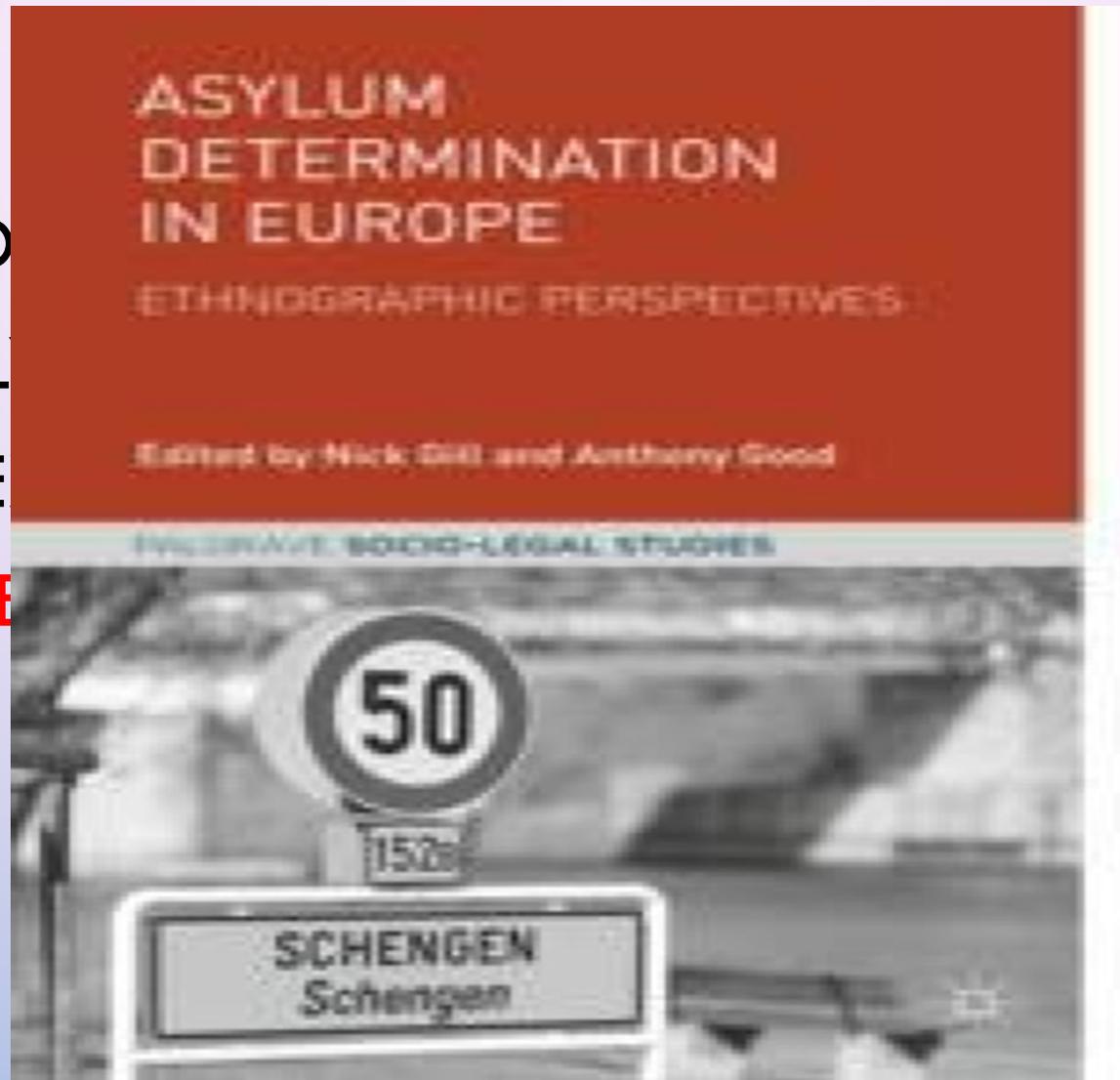
THESE CONCEPTS ARE 'NEXUS' IN THAT THEY HELP US MOVING BEYOND THE MACRO-
MICRO DIVIDE LEADING US TO GAIN ANALYTIC INSIGHT OF 'THE BIG IN THE
(ETHNOGRAPHIC) SMALL'

ONLINE-OFFLINE NEXUS

A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE FUSION OF ONLINE AND OFFLINE DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL LIFE IN ACTUAL EVERYDAY (SOCIOLINGUISTIC AND SOCIO-SEMIOTIC) PRACTICES.

THE TERM POINTS TO THE CURRENT STAGE OF GLOBALIZATION IN WHICH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES HAVE ACQUIRED SUBSTANTIAL FUNCTIONS IN ORGANIZING EVERYDAY "OFFLINE" PRACTICES, TAKE THE CASE OF TEACHING.

OFFLINE AND
THOROUGHLY
COMPLEX NEEDS
(OR LACK THEREOF)



HAVE BEEN
AND
L MOBILITY

ONLINE IMMOBILITY OF OFFLINE SUBJECTS

ASYLUM SEEKING SEES AN OFFLINE REGISTER OF NAMING THINGS USED BY INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS IN ORDER TO PROVE THEIR IDENTITY.

ASYLUM SEEKING SEES AN OFFLINE INSTITUTION ASSESSING WHETHER THE NAMING OF THINGS IS CORRECT.

ASYLUM SEEKING SEES OFFLINE INSTITUTIONS CALLING UPON 'WEB-TRUTHS' DISMISSING THE NAMING OF THINGS FROM THE SIDE OF THE APPLICANT WHO IS ACTUALLY ORIGINATING FROM THERE.