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 (BLOOMMAERT & RAMPTON 2011), CALLING FOR A RE-SHAPING OF THE CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL APPARATA THAT HAD INSOFAR CHARACTERISED THE FIELD.
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 much 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 from Tilburg University, the Netherlands, provide us with an acute analysis on the topic of Sociolinguistics. By claiming in favor of a paradigm shift in which language would have to consider elements hitherto neglected by traditional language theory, the authors' pioneering publications and local initiatives open up the terrain for reinvention of language studies, policies, and practices.

Keywords
Superdiversity – Sociolinguistics – Language – Mobility – Online communication

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INFRASTRUCTURES OF GLOBALISATION

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

Massimiliano Spotti

Introduction

This paper—part of a larger ethnographic enquiry aimed at uncovering and understanding the process of doing asylum seeking in the context of globalization—deals with the process of identity (mis)recognition that led to the rejection of an asylum seeking application. More specifically, the paper examines the discrepancy between the narrative told by the asylum seeker and the one constructed by those who operate in the asylum context. The case documented here, as well as pointing at the problem of discretion in the asylum seeking procedure, also serves the metonymic function of laying bare some of the terrain around the asylum system. It encapsulates how migratory experiences are registered into administrative processes and prescriptive accounts of what someone should say and how someone should name things in order to give proof of identity.

Spotti (2019)

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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 online dimensions of life have been thoroughly integrated into one novel and complex nexus of socio-technical mobility (or lack thereof).
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.