

Diachronicity in Literary Studies and Linguistics

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While historical linguistics has traditionally focused on sound shifts and developments in morphology, syntax and the lexicon, the study of literary developments in the field of *Literaturwissenschaft* has on the whole focused on *genre* and on the influence of history on literary production and form. This panel is meant to mediate between the insights acquired in historical linguistics in the area of historical pragmatics and analyses of literary texts from a diachronic perspective which focus on the linguistic and textual properties of literary texts. Historical pragmatics has analyzed issues such as the changes in the use of second-person pronouns, the changing forms and functions of politeness markers and strategies (of politeness), or the evolving forms of greetings and apologies. Such developments lend themselves to a comparison with literary texts and the manner in which they acquire new ways of doing certain things, or how they continue to employ particular textual strategies, whose function has become obsolete, and repurpose these for more up-to-date uses. Questions regarding long-term developments in the pool and deployment of textual and linguistic elements are already being studied in diachronic narratology, but could be equally fruitful for drama or poetry. The following are a few speculative topics which could provide the material for MA theses or PhD theses, and may equally serve as stimulation for ideas for prospective contributors to the session:

- epistolary forms through the centuries: how the protocol and lexicon change, pronouns and forms of address;
- are epistolary fictions and email fictions structured in correspondence with the shift from letter writing to email exchanges?
- contexts of cursing in the written language (best focused on one particular genre or text type);
- the history of the forms and functions of apostrophe in English poetry;
- the change in the use of the past perfect in the 17th century;
- the collocation of *here* and *now* with the past tense between the 17th and 18th centuries – do narrative passages that employ this conjunction provide early instances of free indirect discourse (as Sylvia Adamson claims)?
- functional changes in the dialogue of plays between the late medieval and late modern, e.g. from 1400 to 1700 or 1700 to 1900.

Applications for joining the panel to be directed to monika.fludernik@anglistik.uni-freiburg.de and olga.timofeeva@es.uzh.ch