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Newsletter of the Esperantic Studies Foundation

Incorporated in
Washington, DC, USA

W: www.esperantic.org
E: admin@esperantic.org

Contact c/o the office of the
Executive Director (below)

Board of Directors

Humphrey Tonkin
University of Hartford

Jonathan Pool
Centerplex

David Jordan
UC San Diego

Grant Goodall
UC San Diego

Ian Richmond
Université Sainte-Anne

Mark Fettes
Simon Fraser University

Administration

Jason M. Clark
Editor/Executive Assistant
admin@esperantic.org

Executive Director
(Research & Grants)
Mark Fettes, Ph.D.

Faculty of Education
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Way
Burnaby, B.C.
Canada V5A 1S6
mfettes@esperantic.org

Esperantic Studies Foundation: Annual Report 2003

SUMMARY

In 2003, ESF's impact on the field of interlingual studies and the teaching and learning of Esperanto grew appreciably. The Foundation was active in lending guidance and/or financial support to a diverse range of projects. Noteworthy projects for 2003 included the development of innovative websites to support different forms of interlingual learning and teaching; a pilot electronic corpus of two million words of Esperanto texts; feasibility studies related to intercultural learning and to the maintenance of accessible interlinguistic archives and libraries; and a comprehensive re-design and update of the foundation's website and online publication offerings. Overall, ESF was very successful in meeting its goals for the year. We look forward to setting an equally ambitious and diverse agenda for 2004. Already, work is progressing on a number of interesting and exciting projects.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION

lernu! (www.lernu.net)

The free, web-based learning environment "lernu!", whose development was initiated by ESF, came online in December 2002, and by December 2003 had attracted 4,440 registered users, while extending the range of courses, support tools, and other materials available. "Lernu" was profiled in Issue 14 of our Esperantic Studies newsletter. Essentially, it is a multi-faceted and multi-lingual web-based platform designed to teach Esperanto to the uninitiated as well as intermediate

Registered Users	4440
# of User Logins	3737
User Levels	
First Time	2062
Basic	1307
Intermediate	371
Advanced	179

*as of December, 2003

level speakers. The site is unique for its engaging, interactive, multimedia courses; its worldwide, "live" virtual group lessons and for matching students with

Course & Level	1 st Module	2 nd Module	3 rd Module
Ana Pana (1)	1349	549	180
Ana renkontas (2)	143	75	37
Jen nia IJK (3)	478	173	84
Gerda Malaperis! (4)	501	95	32

* Completion rates for all courses

personal tutors. It also functions as a gateway to a global, online Esperanto community. Lernu's evolution for 2003 focused primarily on the continued development and

integration of its educational assets. The site was formally presented at the CALICO and EuroCALL conferences in Ottawa, Canada and Limerick, Ireland and received favorable reviews from the expert public at these events. The 3rd phase of Lernu's development was recently approved by the ESF Board of Directors. This phase will focus on improving the end-user experience, adding new learning content and options, and redesigning the website architecture to accommodate a truly global audience of tens or hundreds of thousands of registered users.

edukado.net (www.edukado.net)

The teaching support site "edukado.net", also a result of ESF's initiative, increased both its range of materials and its community of users over the course of the year. It now reviews over 160 published textbooks and other teaching materials, and offers over 200 exercises, games, tests and other classroom materials formerly unavailable to Esperanto teachers. For 2004, plans have been made to prepare the site to accommodate an increasing user base, to continue with the review and integration of new materials, and to develop tools to encourage greater interactivity amongst its user population. The edukado.net team will also seek to increase Asian usage of the site at the 2004 World Esperanto Congress in Beijing, China.

Lingva Prismo (www.lingvo.info)

Lingva Prismo is an introductory-level website on multilingualism. The chief purpose of the site is to introduce viewers to the complexities of the world language situation and the variety of ways peoples of the world undertake to manage or cope with these issues.

Interlingual Education Network

In November 2003, ESF convened a meeting of educators from the global Esperanto community to discuss new educational initiatives for 2004. ESF remains committed to playing a proactive role in encouraging dialogue amongst Esperanto educators around the globe.

Continued over...

Interviews With Interlinguists: Professor Haitao Liu, Beijing, China

The Chinese interlinguist Haitao Liu has, for more than a decade inside and outside of China, published a considerable amount on interlinguistics and the scientific treatment of Esperanto (see www.liuhaitao.net/eniro.html). He has edited (with Sabine Fiedler) many books on interlinguistics and he is a member of the editorial committee of the journal Esperantologio – Esperanto Studies. In this issue, we present excerpts from an interview published in Issue 42 of the Esperanto journal IpI. This interview is translated from the original Esperanto by J. M. Clark.

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Annual Report con't

Interkulturo (www.interkulturo.net)

Interkulturo was initially conceived to support intercultural learning among classrooms in different countries and continents using Esperanto as a bridge language. In its initial phase, the project established 97 classes in 28 countries around the world and has brought together more than 2000 students between the ages of 4 and 18. In 2003, ESF supported the piloting of a new phase of the program, involving the redesign of its web-based "virtual school" environment and its expansion into less formal educational settings. The project was presented at international conferences on intercultural learning in Finland and Italy and has received support from a variety of organizations including the Council of Europe and European Commission as well as ESF.

Summer Esperanto Institute (NASK) (www.esperanto.org/nask)

The 34th North America Summer Esperanto Institute (NASK) was held in July at the School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro, Vermont. This year's instructors included Paul Gubbins (UK), Lee Miller (USA) and S. Stemec (CR). The NASK curriculum features a three level program of study which emphasizes the active use of Esperanto in intercultural communication, and the creative application of the language in literature, theatre and song. The 2004 Institute will be held

from July 5 - 23. A special seminar for Esperanto teachers featuring the most modern instructional methods in teaching languages will be offered. Individuals interested in learning more about NASK or enrolling for the 2004 session are invited to visit the NASK website.

Berkeley Student Program

ESF completed its fifth year of support for the student-taught Esperanto course at the University of California at Berkeley. This year marked the graduation of one of its original teachers: Stelet Mina Kim. She has been replaced by another Berkeley student: Josh Brandt-Young. ESF support provides funds for teaching materials as well as a modest scholarship for the teachers.

Interlinguistics Certificate Program

ESF continued to provide scholarship support for students enrolled in the Interlinguistics certificate program at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Awardees come from Russia, Germany, Lithuania, France and Iran.

INTERLINGUISTIC RESEARCH

Amsterdam Symposium & Meetings

In 2003, ESF provided funding for the second interlinguistics colloquium at the University of Amsterdam, and for international meetings in

Continued on page 4

Haitao Liu con't

DB: How did you come to interlinguistics, and when did it become a major interest for you?

HTL: I became interested in languages around 1980. At that time, I was studying information science in university. In China, it is very difficult to change one's specialization as one would like; therefore, I completed my program in information science in 1983. I began studying Esperanto in 1982 around the same time that I became acquainted with interlinguistics. I have studied the problems of interlinguistics systematically since 1985. As I understand it, interlinguistics is the science of communication across language barriers and one can study this from a variety of viewpoints.

DB: At present, it seems to me that you are the most active interlinguist in China. You published several important studies and many reviews in a variety of languages, as well as co-edited many books. On what subjects have you written and in what languages?

HTL: Thank you. It is my opinion that interlinguistics is not just a science about planned languages. I wish to study its set of problems from

many perspectives. I believe that interlinguists must respond to all questions about interlinguistic communication, not just those about interpersonal issues, but also about communication between people and computers. I try to investigate the roots of interlinguistics in many sciences and explore the significance of interlinguistics for other sciences. I can read documentation in Esperanto, English, German, French, Russian and in other planned languages. Unfortunately, I have only a passive command of these languages. Usually, if the intended audience is Chinese, I will write in Chinese. For most other readers, I ordinarily use Esperanto. I also write in English, if requested by an editor on the basis that the study would be of interest to specialists outside of the Esperanto community. These are a few of the issues that I have dealt with: fundamental questions of interlinguistics and planned languages; interlinguistics and computational linguistics in many applications; planned languages and terminology; planned languages and the structure of Chinese language; interlinguistics and intercultural communication; interlinguistics and cybernetics; planned languages and language planning; interlinguistics and linguistic human rights.

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Interlinguistic Events

September 19 – 21, 2003 Languages and Cultures in the 21st Century: Problems and Perspectives

Where: Republic of Dagestan, Russia. Organized by the Moskva Helsinki Grupo, Rusia Esperantista Unio and the Rakurs organization.

October 02 – 04, 2003 International Conference On Language In The Era of Globalization

Where: Baruch College (CUNY), New York, NY, USA. For more information see: www.linguistlist.org/

December 2003

10th Amsterdam Interlinguistic Symposium

Where: University of Amsterdam
For more information contact Wim Jansen (Jansenwimh@cs.com).

March 21 – 27, 2004

Pan-American Esperanto Congress

Where: Havana, Cuba

For information see:

www.gratisweb.com/diaznorberto/aatekstoj/bu1eno6take.htm

July 08 – 10, 2004

Language and the Future of Europe: Ideologies, Policies and Practices

Where: Southampton, England. For more information see:

www.lang.soton.ac.uk/lipp/

Research News

Esperanto Corpus Available Online To Researchers

ESF, together with Bertilo Wennergren, are pleased to announce the online posting of a research corpus for Esperanto. In this first phase of development, a corpus of approximately 2 million words has been produced, including the major part of Zamenhof's work and a selection of literary and journalistic texts. Plans are also presently underway to expand the corpus significantly and incorporate a wider range of genres and authors. Feedback from interested individuals is welcome.

To access the corpus, go to:

www.ikso.net/%7EBertilo/tekstaro/

For more information, contact ESF: admin@esperantic.org



Haitao Liu con't

DB: What is the status of interlinguistics in China? What role should it play?

HTL: As is the case in other countries, interlinguistics hardly plays a significant scientific role in China. By my estimate, people will, nevertheless, be ready to accept it if we can demonstrate more scientific results. Presently, many sociolinguists are interested in linguistic human rights and language ecology. It will be difficult for them to find adequate solutions. Interlinguistics is capable of playing a serious and effective role in that field. This is not only true for China, but, to an even greater degree, for the world.

DB: Does the Esperanto movement in China support your interlinguistic activities?

HTL: Since I previously lived in an isolated region of China, I did not have much contact with the Chinese Esperanto League. I nevertheless have the impression that CEL is not very interested in the scientific side of planned languages or about interlinguistics. Hopefully, communication between CEL and myself will become better in the future.

DB: With which other aspects of interlinguistics are you interested or occupied?

HTL: I am, in addition, interested in information science, computational linguistics, language planning, dependent syntax and some other branches of linguistics.

DB: How did you come to obtain your post as a university professor?

HTL: Last year, colleagues recommended to BBI (Beijing Broadcasting Institute) that I be given the position of professor of applied and computational linguistics. It is very difficult to obtain work in Beijing, but now with this posting everything is in order. In China, almost all professorial titles are of a technical nature. The title of university professor is only used in universities. In other professions, there are titles which are of a similar rank to university professor. Two years earlier, I was named an 'outstanding superior engineer.' I was, therefore, able to carry this title to the university which accepted it and offered me the equivalent rank of professor.

DB: What is your status in the university and in which departments do you teach students?

HTL: I am now chief instructor in computational linguistics. Every semester I teach information science for linguists and 'automated language processing in Prolog' for second and third year students. I have also participated in other research in the department, chiefly with projects concerning computational linguistics. In the first and second years, my students will learn the basic information about information science and linguistics. From the third year, they will study subjects compatible with their interests in planned languages and computational linguistics. I am still unable to teach interlinguistics. However, I have discussed the possibility of including interlinguistics as a field of study with the department head. Actually, BBI and Esperanto have a very good relationship. In 1964,

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New Releases

Books

La Nova Plena Ilustrita Vortaro.

Editor: Michel Duc-Goninaz
Published: Paris: SAT. 2002.
Languages: Esperanto. pp. 1265

Extensively revised edition of the definitive illustrated dictionary of Esperanto.

Languages In A Globalising World [orig. *Géostratégies des Langues*]

Editors: J. Maurais & M.A. Morris
Published: Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2003. Languages: English, French. ISBN 0521821738 pp. 345

This book considers the effects of present-day trends in global politics on the relative status of languages, and the directions in which the linguistic hierarchy might develop in the future.

MLA International Bibliography.

Published: New York: Modern Language Association of America. ISSN: 0024-8215

The *MLA International Bibliography* is a bibliography of journal articles, books, and dissertations. It contains the most extensive annual bibliography of interlinguistic publications.

De Latino Sine Flexione Centenario [Ein Jahrhundert Latino Sine Flexione].

Author: Barandovska-Frank, Vera.
Published: San Marino: Akademia Libroservo. 2003. Languages: Esperanto, German.

A short monograph on the history of the simplified Latin invented by mathematician Giuseppe Peano.

Language In The 21st Century

Editors: Humphrey Tonkin & Timothy Reagan. Published: Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 2003. ISBN: 1588113841

Features selected papers of the millennial conferences of the Center for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems.

Journal Feature:

Language Problems & Language Planning



ISSN: 0272-2690

Language Problems & Language Planning

Language Problems and Language Planning is published in cooperation with the Center for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems. This international multi-lingual journal publishes articles primarily on political, sociological, and economic aspects of language and language use. The journal also features sections on Interlinguistics and publication reviews.

Featured Articles in Issue 27(3)

- Recent foreign language education policies in Palestine. *Muhammad Hasan Amara*
- Miscommunication between pilots and air traffic control. *R. Kent Jones*
- Communication as source and motivator of language evolution. *Vilmos Benczik*

For more information see: www.benjamins.com



Annual Report con't

Copenhagen and Gothenburg on interlinguistic issues. ESF expects to continue supporting the colloquium event in 2004.

Esperanto Corpus

(<http://www.ikso.net/%7Ebertilo/tekstaro/>)

The first trial phase of the Esperanto research corpus, initiated by ESF and compiled by Bertilo Wennergren, reached completion in 2003. The trial corpus contains two million words, encoded following the guidelines of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI). This year, work began on an expansion of the corpus to ten million words, with input from an international Advisory Committee of experienced linguists and corpus users.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Hodler Library

ESF assisted the Universal Esperanto Association to develop a comprehensive plan for the safeguarding of the invaluable holdings of the Hodler Library

and for ways to make them more readily available to researchers. The Hodler Library is one of the foremost sources for documentary research on Esperanto and planned languages.

New ESF Website & Publications

(www.esperantic.org)

ESF's website, [esperantic.org](http://www.esperantic.org), was thoroughly revised and updated in 2003. In addition to a new design, the site was updated with new information pertaining to educational projects and interlinguistic research activities. In addition to making its newly redesigned newsletter available online, the ESF site now offers an HTML version of Informilo por Interlingvistoj (the leading Interlinguistics newsletter) and links to the peer-reviewed, academic journal Language Problems and Language Planning (LPLP).

By Mark Fettes, Executive Director
(mfettes@esperantic.org)

Haitao Liu con't

BBI offered the first class on Esperanto in a Chinese university. Many Esperanto speakers on Radio-Beijing at one time were students of BBI's Esperanto courses. In a way, BBI is a cradle for professional Esperantists in China.

DB: Is there anything more that you can tell us about your research?

HTL: At this time, I am not engaged in a lot of interlinguistic research. Most of my work at the moment pertains to computational linguistics. Of course, I may pursue other research aligned with my interests, but to do that I hope to receive financial support from the university. I will need to carefully plan any interlinguistic research endeavors. The university will likely not refuse to support interlinguistic projects provided that one can deliver a good program.

Professor Haitao Liu is a university professor of applied and computational linguistics at the Beijing Broadcasting Institute (BBI). BBI is the only university in China that has become uniquely focused on communication studies. It now has 70 departments and 12,000 students. It is also one of the 100 most important universities in China.

Haitao Liu can be reached c/o the following:
Applied Linguistics Department
School of Presentation Art
Beijing Broadcasting Institute
No. 1 Dingfuzhuang Dongjie, Chaoyang District
Beijing, CN-100024 P.R. China
htliu@bbi.edu.cn

By Detlev Blanke (dblanke.gil@snafu.de)
Esperanto translation by Jason M. Clark

Interlingual Links

Around the Globe

Esperantic Studies Foundation

www.esperantic.org

Lernu.net

www.lernu.net

Linguist List

www.linguistlist.org

Comprehensive linguistics resource

Ĝangalo

<http://gxangalo.com>

Impressive Brazilian Esperanto portal

Le Monde Diplomatique (Esperanto version)

<http://eo.mondediplo.com>

International news site

Brusela Komunikadcentro

(articles password = saluton)

<http://www.lingvo.org>

Site devoted to language equality, multilingualism & Esperanto

Linguasphere

www.linguasphere.org

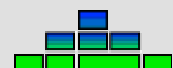
Site devoted to world languages & multilingualism

We are interested in receiving information about interesting websites, new books, articles, courses or other media pertaining to Esperanto & Interlinguistics. Send us your latest discoveries.

All contributions and reactions to the newsletter are welcome at newsletter@esperantic.org

Previous editions of Esperantic Studies are now available online at www.esperantic.org

To request additional free print copies, write to admin@esperantic.org



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Journal Feature



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ipi journal

Informilo Por Interlingvistoj

Updates for Interlinguists

Informilo por Interlingvistoj is published four times a year by The Center for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems (CED). IPI seeks to keep Interlinguists up-to-date on research and events occurring in the field.

Featured in Issue 45(2)

1. Bibliography of Occidental-Interlinguistic publications
2. Review of Interlinguistic periodicals
3. New books about European language politics
4. Interlinguistics in Italy

Contact IPI c/o:

Detlev Blanke
P: ++49-30-54 12 633
E: dblanke.gil@snafu.de
W: www.esperantic.org/publications