

**MPhil and MST in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology**  
**External Examiner's Report: Professor Louisa Sadler (Essex)**

I report on the examination session of June 2007, for which the examiner's meeting was held on Monday 2nd July 2007.

**Academic Standard of Programmes:** From what I have seen, the academic standards set for candidates on these two degree programmes are appropriately high and consistent with the standards required at other institutions with postgraduate Linguistics programmes.

**Assessment Processes:** The assessment procedures were rigorous and based on well articulated descriptors. There was evidence of careful marking of examination scripts and dissertations and I was satisfied by the procedures adopted to deal with queries and disagreements amongst markers. Communication with the Department were unproblematic and the Departmental administrator was an extremely efficient and helpful point of contact.

**Standard of Student Performance:** The examiners considered a relatively small cohort of candidates (6 Masters and 7 MPhil candidates, including one MPhil candidate who was resitting). Both the sample of examination scripts and the dissertations which I read demonstrated that overall, the standards achieved by the students are satisfactory, with some students producing outstanding work. 4 MST candidates and 1 MPhil candidate were recommended for the award of a Distinction.

**Issues for Committees in Department, Faculty or University:** None.

**Good Practice:** The Department has a good system in place for providing feedback to students after the Examination Board.

August 3, 2007

## Report of Examiners

### MPhil and MSt in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology, 2007

#### 1. Examination Arrangements

There were 6 MSt and 7 MPhil candidates (including 1 MPhil candidate who was resitting the MPhil exam). The final examiners' meeting was held on 2 July 2007. For medical reasons, one candidate was permitted an extra 10 minutes per hour on each of his papers, and the same candidate was permitted to sit the examinations in the candidate's college. One other student was allowed by the Proctors to use a bilingual dictionary during the examinations.

#### *Examiners*

Prof. Andreas Willi (Worcester College) (Chairman)  
Dr John Coleman (Wolfson College)  
Dr David Cram (Jesus College)  
Prof. Louisa Sadler (Essex University, External)

#### *Assessors*

Prof. Mary Dalrymple (Linacre)  
Prof. Martin Maiden (Trinity)  
Prof. Deborah Cameron (Worcester)  
Dr Daniel Kölligan (Wolfson)  
Mr J. C. Smith (St Catherine's)  
Dr John Penney (Wolfson)  
Prof. Lynda Mugglestone (Pembroke)  
Prof. Suzanne Romaine (Merton)  
Dr Sandra Paoli (Balliol)  
Prof. Stephen Pulman (Somerville)  
Dr Bjarke Frellesvig (Oriental Institute)  
Dr Elizabeth Tucker (Oriental Institute)  
Dr Ian Watson (Christ Church)  
Dr Sarah Ekdawi (Modern Languages)  
Mr Terry Hoad (St Peter's)

#### *Papers*

Paper	MPhil/MSt
Paper A: Linguistic Theory	7/6
B(i) Phonetics and Phonology	2/3
B(ii) Syntax (essay)	3/1
B(iii) Semantics	2/0
B(iv) Historical and Comparative Linguistics	1/0
B(v) Theory of Translation	2/1
B(vi) History and Structure of English	1/0
B(viii) Sociolinguistics	1/2
B(ix) Computational Linguistics	1/0

B(x) Pragmatics	(1 candidate in Politics)
B(x) Psycholinguistics	2/0
C(i) Comp. Gramm. Indo-Iranian and Greek	1/0
C(ii) Hist. Gramm. Indo-Iranian and Greek	1/0
C(iii) Trans./comm. texts in Indo-Iranian and Greek	1/0
D(i) History of French and Italian	0/1
D(ii) Structure of French and Italian	0/1
D(ii) Structure of Romanian	0/1
D(i) History of Italian	1/0
D(ii) Structure of Italian	1/0
D(iii) Trans./comm. texts in Italian	1/0

### ***Theses***

#### **1. MPhil**

The ghost in the machine: passive constructions in Japanese and losses/gains in translation
Paippalada-Samhita 10.10-16: text, translation and commentary
Old English relative clauses
Second verb morphology in the dialects of Central Italy
Dialect choice in Fiji: a variationist approach to language change in the South Pacific
From <i>Logos</i> to <i>Ln</i> : a perspective on machine translation for military applications
The expression of spatial, temporal and personal deixis: a comparison of English and Urdu (assessed last year)

#### **2. MSt (optional)**

The acquisition of the C-layer in German
Metaphors in Modern Greek

## **2. Results**

All MSt candidates and all MPhil candidates passed. 4 MSt candidates and 1 MPhil candidate were awarded a distinction. The George Wolf Prize in Linguistics and Philology was awarded to the best MPhil candidate.

Marking was unproblematic, and no script had to be third-marked. In two cases the examiners decided, after reconsidering the relevant scripts, to award a slightly higher mark than that agreed by the assessors, but in both cases the final mark was still within the range of marks proposed by the assessors.

The external examiner looked at a sample of scripts and dissertations and found no reason to change the original marks. As in previous years, markers were provided with mark sheets for dissertations and papers, and their comments were available for the external examiner. Distinctions were awarded according to the same criterion as in previous years.

## **3. Examination Schools**



Unlike in 2006, this year's examination timetables were produced in good time, and all the examination arrangements made by Examination Schools were entirely satisfactory. In one case, two scripts were mixed up and sent to the wrong assessor, but this was easily rectified.

Prof. A. J. Willi (Chair)  
Dr J. Coleman  
Dr D. Cram  
Prof. L. Sadler (External)

3 July 2007