



Introduction

1. Multilingualism and language variation in English across genres and registers

A Festschrift by its nature reflects the career, accomplishments and legacy of the recipient. In the case of such a versatile researcher as Päivi Pahta, this creates a plethora of options. Her work on the history of English alone has provided many landmark studies, starting from her doctoral dissertation *Medieval Embryology in the Vernacular: The Case of De spermate* (Pahta 1998). The range from manuscript studies to corpus linguistics shows the kind of adaptability that few possess, and through participation in many projects, the focus of Pahta's research has moved from the history of English to more contemporary linguistic patterns of use and their social context. The chapters in the Festschrift are written to honour Pahta's work in the areas of multilingualism and multilingual practices, scientific and medical writing, and corpus approaches to genres and registers.

Pahta's key areas of interest are related to how language works in meaning-making practices in various social and communicative contexts, with a specific focus on multilingualism; specialised languages, especially scientific writing; and digitally enhanced methodologies, especially corpus linguistics. Characteristic of her research is a historical or long-term diachronic view on language practices, which is evident in her most important publications. Recent international co-publications, showing Pahta's broad area of competence, include *The Cambridge Handbook of English Historical Linguistics* (Kytö & Pahta 2016), *Multilingual Practices in Language History: English and Beyond* (Pahta, Skaffari, & Wright 2018), *Challenging the Myth of Monolingual Corpora* (Nurmi, Rütten, & Pahta 2018) and *Corpus Approaches into World Englishes and Language Contrasts* (Parviainen, Kaunisto, & Pahta 2019).

In particular, Pahta has advanced the study of multilingualism as one of the pioneers in the field of code-switching in Middle English (Pahta 2004) and in that of Early Modern English medical writing (Pahta 2011). For Middle English, her work has also highlighted the role of translation in a multilingual society and in the way it impacts linguistic usage (Pahta 1998; Pahta & Carillo

Linares 2006). Beyond that, Pahta has expanded on the study of multilingualism over the course of the history of English from Old English to Late Modern English, covering a variety of genres and social contexts, such as early correspondence and literature (Nurmi & Pahta 2004; Pahta & Nurmi 2006; Nurmi, Tyrkkö, Petäjaniemi, & Pahta 2018).

Pahta's work on multilingualism on a societal level has also reached contemporary usage through her work towards implementing a major survey of English in Finland (Leppänen, Pitkänen-Huhta, Nikula, Kytölä, Törmäkangas, Nissinen, Käántä, Räisänen, Laitinen, Pahta, Koskela, Lähdesmäki, & Jousmäki 2011). Her other scholarly contributions in this area include an exploration into language ideological stances (Leppänen & Pahta 2012) and a pioneering appraisal of the global and local meanings of English in the Finnish context (Taavitsainen & Pahta 2008).

A big bulk of Pahta's research has focused on the study of scientific and medical language, starting from editing a Middle English manuscript on embryology for her doctoral dissertation, accompanied with a comprehensive scholarly commentary and elucidation of its transmission of history (Pahta 1998). This area of her studies has also paved the way for an ambitious corpus compilation project, culminating in the publication of three corpora in collaboration with the Scientific Thought-styles team: *Middle English Medical Texts (MEMT)* (Taavitsainen, Pahta, & Mäkinen 2005), *Early Modern English Medical Texts (EMEMT)* (Taavitsainen, Pahta, Hiltunen, Mäkinen, Marttila, Ratia, Suhr, & Tyrkkö 2010) and *Late Modern English Medical Texts (LMEMT)* (Taavitsainen, Hiltunen, Lehto, Marttila, Pahta, Ratia, Suhr, & Tyrkkö 2019). Along with having an instrumental role in the overall design of the corpora and the thoroughgoing documentation of the compilation principles, Pahta's main contribution in the project was to draw up the text categories representing mid-wifery (Ratia & Pahta 2010; Pahta 2019).

Building on her expertise in medical language, genres and registers have provided one of the throughlines in Pahta's work. This includes exploring the emerging conventions of particular medical genres (Taavitsainen & Pahta 2000; Pahta 2001) and specific features in medical language, such as intensifiers in medical language (Mendéz-Naya & Pahta 2010) and circumstantial adverbials in a variety of genres (Meurman-Solin & Pahta 2006). In much of her work on multilingualism, Pahta has shown a keen awareness of the social context, but there are also specific studies where this aspect has been brought

to the fore. These focus, for example, on the construction of the social roles different individuals take on in the course of interaction (Pahta, Palander-Collin, Nevala, & Nurmi 2010) and on the ways in which the process of vernacularisation in the scientific and medical fields proceeds (Pahta & Taavitsainen 2004). While much of her research is typically carried out using electronic corpora, Pahta's understanding of manuscripts and their many characteristics has always provided a depth of understanding in historical research (Pahta & Jucker 2011).

Much of Pahta's research has taken place under the auspices of projects she has led. The scope and quality of her research is indicated by the fact that several of these projects were successful in gaining highly competed funding from the Research Council of Finland. Her two most recent projects are Multi-lingual Practices in the History of Written English (2012–2016) and the research consortium Democratization, Mediatization and Language Practices in Britain, 1700–1950 (2016–2020). Pahta's projects have provided funding for many of her postgraduate students, including a few of the editors of this volume. Sociocultural Reality and Language Practices (2005–2007), in particular, was a significant early project led by Pahta that provided a springboard for new project ideas and funding opportunities for younger researchers and set us an example of cooperative leadership.

Most recently, Pahta has taken up leadership roles in university administration and research administration. She was the Dean of the Faculty of Education and Culture at Tampere University (2019–2023). Prior to that, she was Dean of the Faculty of Communication Sciences, and Dean of the School of Language, Translation and Literary Studies at the former University of Tampere. Pahta also shares her expertise as a member of the editorial board or advisory editorial board of several scholarly publications, such as *European Journal of English Studies*, *English Language & Linguistics*, and *ESP Across Cultures*, and publication series such as the *Mémoires de la Société Néophilologique*. She is currently Editor-in-Chief of the *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* and was instrumental in turning the journal into an Open Access electronic journal. Pahta's dedication to furthering research and publishing research has been recognised in 2015 in the invitation to join the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, where she is currently a Board Member and Secretary of the Section of Humanities. She was also recently elected a board member of the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA) to

represent the Council of Finnish Academies. Finally, Pahta has been the President of the Modern Language Society of Helsinki (Uusfilologinen yhdistys) since 2015.

Last, but not the least, we want to mention Pahta's role in mentoring and guiding young researchers. Pahta has supervised a number of doctoral dissertations and provided her supervisees not only help in completing their dissertations but also in navigating the academic world. Pahta's experience in research and administration, combined with her active role in various academic associations, has provided her with wide-ranging academic expertise, making her an excellent mentor for young as well as more experienced scholars.

2. Studies in the volume

The studies in this volume cover various aspects of the study of multilingualism and language variation in English across genres and registers – as well as across centuries. The studies relate to Pahta's work and build upon it in a variety of ways.

In the first article of the volume, Anna Havinga, Delia Schipor and Laura Wright provide an overview of research on medieval multilingualism carried out over the past decades. They show how the field has grown into maturity as new insights have developed from an increasingly broad perspective. Both multilingual practices and the process of vernacularisation have been extensively studied over the past decades, bringing to light varying practices across genres and topic domains, involving a variety of languages and purposes, and covering not only multilingual texts but also multilingual individuals and communities.

Continuing the theme of multilingualism, Hanna Limatius studies multilingual practices among social media influencers, particularly related to the choice between Finnish and English. Her work is in the field of discourse-centred online ethnography, focusing on attitudes and multilingual practices. Beyond multilingualism, another relevant concept in Limatius's work is genre, as influencers communicate across various genres; this interaction includes, for example, stylistic and community-specific practices as well as terminology-related cases. Limatius pays particular attention to the motives of her informants, as language choice can be based on financial gain rather than just per-

sonal identity. Beyond that, there is also tailoring of language to make it accessible to a specific audience and the ever-present choice of multilingual practices as creative language play.

Looking at a wide range of manuscripts from the long twelfth century, Janne Skaffari explores the various ways code-switching has been flagged, that is, made visible or notable through means beyond merely switching languages. He outlines the variety of both visual and metalinguistic means through which the scribes of medieval manuscripts highlighted the changes between Latin and English. Skaffari produces a typology of the instances of flagging observed in the data, and ties that in with both the potential perceived differences between the languages used in the manuscripts, and the textual functions of the switched passages in, for example, organising the different levels of discourse.

Irma Taavitsainen and Andreas H. Jucker explore medical discourse from the Late Middle Ages using the MEMT corpus. Their focus is on instructional texts and particularly on the speech act of giving advice. They use two metalinguistic expressions, *rede* and *counsel*, to identify locations of particularly rich advice giving and track these through three different traditions of writing: surgical texts, specialised texts and remedy books. Their analysis shows that giving advice was tied to general interpersonal aspects of the texts studied, and the speech act even extends to advice on how to interact with patients and colleagues in terms of courteous behaviour.

Juhani Norri presents findings on the lexis of a specific aspect of medicine, dentistry, in the late medieval period in England, which was an important period for shaping English medical vocabulary in general. Norri's treatment of the topic comprises a variety of perspectives, starting with how practitioners of dentistry are described in medieval medical writings and going on to discuss the different treatments available, before focusing on the specific vocabulary related to teeth, the related ailments and treating them. Norri notes on the role of influential medical writers, such as Guy de Chauliac, on the formation of the vocabulary and points out the central role of translations in this field.

Another contribution exploring medical terminology is by Alpo Honkapihja and Carla Suhr. Their focus is on human reproduction in Late Medieval and Early Modern English, and their study is based on selections from the MEMT and EMEMT corpora. Here, too, vernacularisation emerges as a key

determinant of linguistic usage, as many synonymous terms were introduced in an effort to discuss medicine in English. Honkapohja and Suhr specifically focus on references to the womb, genitalia and afterbirth, paying special attention to the varying contexts of use of different terms. They identify a trend of the terms having a broader meaning in Middle English and becoming more specific by the early modern texts. There is also an influx of new terms throughout the period under study.

Martti Mäkinen and Turo Hiltunen discuss modal auxiliaries in Late Modern English medical writing, relying on a tagged version of the LMEMT corpus. They apply phraseological register analysis to the data, looking specifically at the combinations of modal auxiliary and main verb. Their data is formed by recipes, surgical texts and medical periodicals, allowing them to observe generic variation in the different branches of medical writing, and combining both text-linguistic and variationist perspectives. They identify central textual functions for each modal auxiliary in connection with specific verbs in particular categories of writing, teasing out typical usages of individual modals in each of them, using the metrics of attraction and reliance.

Introducing yet another genre of texts to this volume, María José López-Couso and Belén Méndez-Naya look at contemporary American English using the COCA corpus. Their focus is on parentheticals featuring a noun phrase subject with the noun *study*, and they identify two different patterns for these constructions, as well as change over the past thirty decades. A key finding of the study is closely related to the notion of genre: these constructions are particularly typical of journalistic texts, and especially popular scientific writing. López-Couso and Méndez-Naya make explicit the evidential function of the parentheticals, which they take to be indicative of a potential path of grammaticalisation in evidence.

The volume is concluded by Terttu Nevalainen's chapter, which explores linguistic variation in terms of social practices. Her main focus is on register variation, whether related to a particular context of communication, the topic domain or the writer–recipient relationship. Nevalainen explores specific linguistic features, the varied uses and implications of chosen terms of address in the correspondence of Elizabeth Stuart, and involvement features, such as the choice of pronouns or nouns, in the letters and public writings of

Thomas Browne, showing how linguistic differences between registers are often subtle and not immediately obvious.

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