2 July 2008 BAAL LLT SIG Annual Meeting
University of Greenwich

Present: Martin Bygate, Emma Marsden, Gin Samuda, Christopher Hall, Adela Ganem, Gill Szutenberg, Adela Ganem, Karen Roehr, Alan Fortune, Alessandro Benati, Muhammad Abdel Latif, Paul Booth, & …

Apologies: Richard Kiely; Mike Grenfell, Gee Macrory, Ros Mitchell.

At the start of the meeting, Martin Bygate gave a brief history of the SIG, and reminded the meeting that he had taken over as Convenor from Co-convenors Ros Mitchell and Emma Marsden in July 2007. Emma Marsden became Communications Officer in July 2007.

1) Committee & formalities
1.1 All members of the committee are willing to continue in their current roles.

1.2 Thanks were given to Alessandro and Karen for organising this year’s conference.

Alessandro Benati & Karen Roehr will handover to Gee Macrory as the ‘rolling’ conference organiser members of the BAAL SIG committee. The 2009 conference will be at Manchester Metropolitan University.

1.3 MB, as Convenor, to find out if any reports are needed for the BAAL EC, and by when.

1.4 It was noted that to date no BAAL SIG conference has made a profit. If such profits did arise, it was discussed whether they would remain with the host institution, or contribute to a SIG pot that could be used for funding postgraduate places.

2) Discussion about theme for next year, and the format

2.1 Theme
MB encouraged the meeting to communicate with him about ideas for themes & events, and if anyone is interested in hosting the 2010 conference.

The following ideas for conference themes were put forward:
Socio cultural and cognitive approaches – Jennifer Jenkins? = English As a Lingua Franca;
Notion of norms?
Research methodologies?
Measuring development? (Is this repeating the Newcastle conference? Too similar to this year’s BAAL themes?)
Corpora in language learning and teaching
Interfaces between language learning research and teaching (too similar to last year?). Interfaces between applied linguistics researchers and the national educational scheme.
If the format (2 day) is to be the same as this year, the general consensus was that a broad theme would be needed in order to attract sufficient participants.

It was suggested that a 2 day event might be needed to break even to cover the cost of room hire.

2.2 Format
It was agreed that the 2009 conference would be held at the same time of year (early July).

The importance of good plenary speakers was mentioned, to attract good participants.

The possibility of a poster session was discussed.

The possibility of a panel of the plenary speakers at the end of the event was discussed.